

BATTERY SPARKS RESIDENT ANGER

The recent testing program for the new Powercor battery installation on the Mt Mercer Road has caused some local residents to become angry about noise levels coming from the site and other problems there.

Neighbouring resident **Val Brown** has been reported as saying that when the battery was being tested on 9 May the noise at her home was like that of a “jet engine”.

Powercor spokesperson, **Avi Tan**, said that the testing involved use of ‘load banks’ which are temporary instruments used to “simulate the grid environment when the battery is connected to the grid.” The major noise complained about came from the cooling fans for the load banks. She said these will be removed from the site once testing is completed.

Ms Tan also said that the “buzzing and humming noise” complained about came from a transformer also used for testing, and which has now been disconnected.

Powercor has said that testing also involved the taking of acoustic measurements to enable the company “to assess and implement noise controls.”

Not happy

Neighbouring residents who continue to meet with Powercor staff are still upset and angry. Among their claims are that

- even after the testing there is a continuous audible buzzing noise from the site
- there are several, not the promised one, ‘container’-size structures’ on the site
- in the event of a power failure, the back-up electricity from the battery will assist very few homes in the Buninyong village, with power flowing back along the line in a southerly direction

Residents say that they are also still concerned about the residue and after effects from the explosion of the battery’s fire-suppression system which occurred on 15 April.

While Powercor has said that the chemicals were “potassium salts” which are “non-carcinogenic and non-toxic,” residents say that it is “alarming” that they were warned not to drink tank water or swim in backyard pools for quite some time after the explosion.

September 2015



April 2016



June 2016





BDCA Traffic & Road Safety Convenor Robert Elshaug looks over the new location of the 60kph speed zone signs near the Golf Club with grandchildren Hamish 4, and Austin Stepnell 2, of Buninyong.

Speed zone move at last

The 60kph speed zone signs at the entry to Buninyong along the Midland Highway were moved by VicRoads from Winter Street to a location near the golf clubhouse on 28 May after a commitment given to the Buninyong & District Community Association (BDCA) by VicRoad's Regional Director, Ewen Nevett.

As reported in the June issue of the *Buninyong and District Community News*, Mr Nevett agreed at a meeting with the BDCA on 24 April to have the signs relocated.

Location

While the BDCA would have much preferred the 60kph speed zone to start in the vicinity of the Tandarra Estate, **Robert Elshaug** (Convenor, BDCA Traffic and Road Safety) said that the new location meant that the threat of rear end collisions and other problems at Winter Street and at other turn-offs was "greatly reduced".

He said that residents along Learmonth Street were also grateful for the reduction in road noise with heavy vehicles now forced to reduce speed back at the golf club.

Small business dinner and support advice



The first dinner meeting for 2016 of members of the Buninyong Business Network and other local small business owners will be held at the Crown Hotel on Monday 11 July.

The meeting has been organised by BDCA's Tourism and Business Development Convenor **Barry Fitzgerald** who said that the meeting would involve a brief presentation and discussion about the support available for local small businesses through Regional Development, Victoria (RDV), and Small Business, Victoria (SBV).

Guests from RDV will be **Tamara van Noort** (Investment and Trade Officer, Small Business) – pictured left – and **Marc Amos** (Manager, Investment and Trade).

Small Business, Victoria develops policy and offers programs and assistance to small businesses throughout the State. It provides practical information, advice and support on how to plan, start and grow a small business. SBV's services include low-cost workshops, on topics such as business planning, finance, marketing, on-line strategies, and employment issues in addition to mentoring services.

There is no fee for the dinner/presentation, and will involve a pay-your-own meals and drinks arrangement. Start is at 6.45pm for 7.00pm. All involved in local small businesses are invited and welcome. Enquiries 5341 2844.

Another great Film Festival

SELL OUT SUCCESS



When the green banners go up and the Movies on the Move van parks in front of the Town Hall, it can mean only one thing - the movies are back in town!

The Buninyong Film Festival's annual screening of top films from around the world attracted big audiences again this year. The three night sessions were booked out, and the new online booking system worked flawlessly.

Special guests **Trefor** and **Belinda Prest**, pictured below right, introduced the opening night film, Paul Cox's *Force of Destiny*, with a talk about their involvement in the making of the film. Trefor's evocative sculptures and bush studio at Strangways featured throughout the film, as the central character played by **David Wenham**, was a sculptor.

Trefor and Belinda stayed on for a lively Q&A session with the audience following the screening. Trefor said he'd been quite moved to see his work so sensitively portrayed in the film.

Calls to Paris

The delayed arrival of the late-night film for Friday, *Summer of Sangaille*, caused organisers some anxiety and several phone calls to Paris. But it appeared with one day to spare and was admired by many for its sensuous beauty.

The delightful French-Chinese film, *The Nightingale* was perhaps the overall

audience favourite, while many were gripped by the German thriller *Phoenix* and moved by the Oscar-winning documentary on Amy Winehouse.

The food was great too. From the mulled wine which welcomed guests on the opening night, to the late night supper, the Steiner School's lunch, and the Festival Dinner at The Pig & Goose, audiences were well looked after between sessions.

So the Film Festival is over for another year but next year's will be special as it's the 25th and the Film Festival Committee has big plans. Remember the dates: the last weekend in May – 26-27 May 2017.

For more photos and news of next year's festival see the Film Festival website- www.filmfestival.buninyong.vic.au

Liz Lumsdon



MARKET REVIEW STALLS

Since the final Village Market organised by the Good Life Festival Committee was held in February, the Buninyong & District Community Association (BDCA) has attempted to involve other community groups and members in a review of future possibilities.

Two community meetings have been held. The first, with fourteen people present, considered whether it was important to continue some form of village market or similar event, and if so, possible forms it might take.

The second meeting, involving a working party of six, considered questions such as

- whether the market should be a profitable, fund-raising activity or a community event or both
- the timing, regularity and venue of the market
- the organisational and staffing requirements
- costs involved (marketing, insurance, venue hire etc)
- possible key partners who might be involved (local/professional organisers)
- possible 'non-market' forms of community activity

However, the group reported to the BDCA that it "was not progressing" and that it was "raising more questions than answers".

The meeting did note that the possible re-start of the market carried the support of **Cr Innes** who indicated that some possible Council assistance might be available through its community impact grants, and also that a local businessman had volunteered time to provide some organisational support and facilities.

The working party submitted a report to the 23 June meeting of the BDCA. A further report will be in the next edition of the News.

Plans for new cemetery gardens but Two old trees face the axe

At its May meeting, the Buninyong Cemetery Trust noted an arborist's report that two large gum trees in the memorial section of the cemetery posed a danger to visitors because of the risk of falling limbs. One of the trees is seriously termite infested.

In accord with its OH&S responsibilities, the Trust reluctantly agreed that the two trees should be removed.

Trust Chairman, **John Bedggood**, said that Trust members were well aware that some persons with relatives buried in the immediate vicinity may be upset by this decision, "but the Trust has a clear obligation to ensure that persons using this section of the cemetery would not be killed or injured by falling tree limbs."

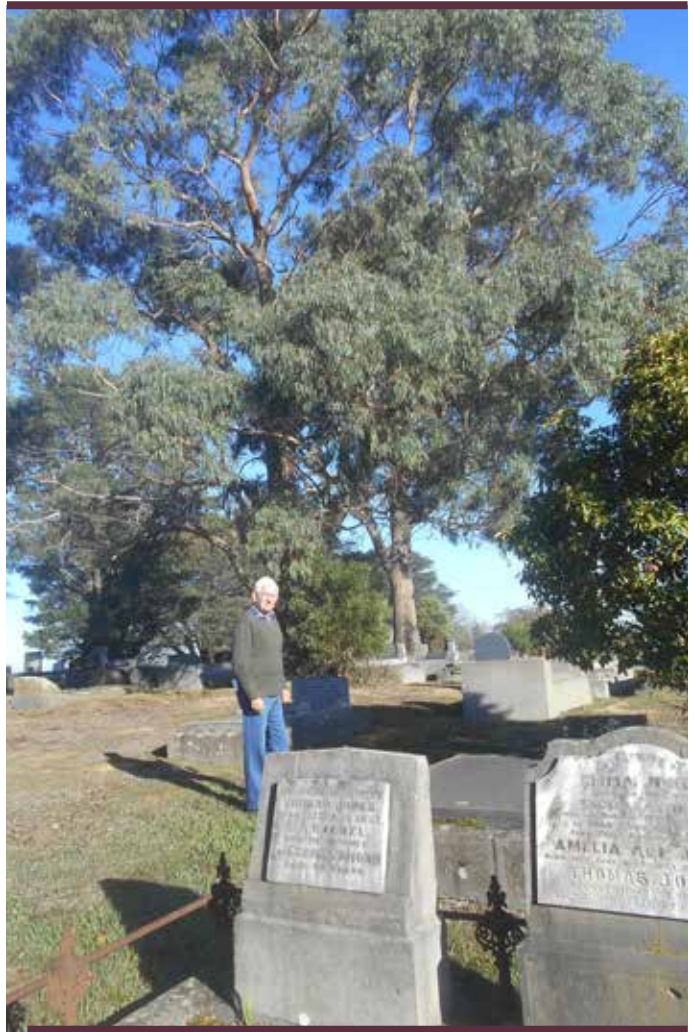
New project

However, the Trust is now considering a landscape improvement project which may result in two areas of the cemetery being significantly improved.

Development of a 'reflective' area with seating, planting, rockery work and possibly a water feature in the south-eastern corner of the grounds in the vicinity of the Union Jack Creek is one element of the project.

The other area being looked at is in the central undeveloped part of the Lawn section where plans for a landscaped feature involving a semi-formal garden with hedging, lawn, ponds and a new avenue of trees with a pergola entry to a walkway/driveway is under consideration.

This feature is designed to provide a new focal point for the Lawn section of the cemetery which presently is open and



Cemetery Trust Chairman, John Bedggood, inspects the two large gum trees which have been assessed as "dangerous"

lacking any "softening" feature for the hundreds of plinths and plaques in this section.

Draft designs for these projects are being developed by local landscape architect **David Turley**, and it is hoped that volunteer groups such as the Green Army may be involved in construction work.

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Plenty of 'Show and Tell' but no Listen

The first session of many school days is taken up with a Show and Tell session. Kids love it, and teachers get it easy for fifteen minutes or so. Now it seems that show and tell is back at the civic level.

In a notice in *The Courier* of 4 June the City of Ballarat invited us all to "participate in the public exhibition phase" concerning a proposed Amendment to the Ballarat Planning Scheme – Amendment 170 for the Ballarat Western Link Road Stage 2 project. This public "exhibition" also included two information sessions, "to provide opportunity to view the proposal and ask questions."

All very good, and consultative-looking. Or is it?

Falls short

Being informed about, looking at, and asking questions about plans that are already tightly locked-in, falls far short of legitimate community consultation. Rather, it's little more than an expensive show and tell exercise. So far as Buninyong is concerned, it's about time there was some listening involved!

For years now, the Buninyong & District Community Association (BDCA) has been submitting, lobbying, haranguing and pleading about the need for some forward planning concerning the future impact of the Link Road project on Buninyong.

Traffic, particularly heavy vehicles, will feed onto the Midland Highway at Magpie

in much greater numbers, with the blindingly obvious flow-on effect on the traffic situation in the village.

This concern has been re-stated many times, to many people, and in many forums...but still no sign of listening.

Response

Little more response than a wink and a nod has come back from Council, VicRoads or local politicians. In the final Council 2040 planning document published in April 2015, there was passing reference to "consideration of a potential Buninyong by-pass", but no real commitment.

Some people in Buninyong probably couldn't care less at the moment about amendments to Council Planning Schemes – especially ones that seem to concern some new roads miles away up around the Lucas development and the airport areas.

But, stand by for the next 'show and tell' about Stage 3 of the Link Road. Then the penny will drop for such Buninyong residents. We all have a responsibility now for those who will be living in or concerned about Buninyong in fifteen or twenty years' time when the Midland Highway will be a traffic mess.

Take every opportunity to make sure that our State, Federal and local politicians know that we do care about that now. It's all very well to put on a 'show and tell' session, but let them know that it's about time they started to listen!!



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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 Management 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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More grant funds and Avenue action is near

The Buninyong RSL has recently been advised that it has been successful in obtaining two more grants to assist in its work of restoring Buninyong's World War I Avenue of Honour.

The first, a *Saluting their Service* grant was for the sum of \$3636 to be used for avenue "restoration works".

The most recent grant announced by the Victorian Veterans Council was for the sum of \$8536. This grant is for seating and interpretative signage along the avenue's Community Memorial Walk. This grant was obtained with the assistance of the Buninyong Community Association which agreed to "auspice" the application.

Funding

RSL Secretary **Bob Bennett** said that the grants were in addition to other funding obtained in 2015 from Council's Engaging Communities Fund and from the State Government's Restoring Avenues of Honour fund which enabled work to start on the removal of self-sown trees and shrubbery, the construction of concrete plinths and the casting of bronze plaques in memory of the 164 local servicemen who gave their lives in World War I.

After withdrawal by the small number of objectors, the City of Ballarat has now issued permits that have cleared the way for work to start on removal of most of the larger self-sown trees that



Bob Bennett (RSL) watches as BDCA President Linda Zibell signs off the grant agreement

are presently crowding out the memorial trees in some sections of the avenue.

In a compromise agreement, several native trees will be permitted to remain for a period on the southern side of Learmonth Street and, on the northern side, two eucalypts will be incorporated into the Avenue.

"While we believe that all trees other than the trees dedicated to local servicemen killed in World War I should be removed to preserve the integrity of the Avenue, the RSL has agreed to this compromise so that the Avenue can be restored in time for the centenary of its original planting next year," RSL Secretary Bob Bennett said.

Major works, by tree removal contractor **Tony Coxall**, are expected to start in early July.

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Maggie & Kate is coming The 'Fig' to turn over a new leaf

Over the past three years or so, a Warrenheip Street shop left vacant after B Gentle Soaps moved on, had been turned by Adam Hook into a popular coffee shop named *The Fig Leaf Cafe*.

Now *The Fig Leaf* seems set for a bright new future with the business having recently been purchased by **Katrine Taylor**, who has plans to give the place a new name and a new look, while keeping much of *The Fig Leaf's* present light meals menu and AllPress quality coffee.

Katrine, 35, is a Buninyong girl whose family's links to the village go back several generations. Her mother **Margaret Sutherland** (nee McKenzie) was born here. Katrine went to the local primary school, and her two daughters **Ella** 9, and **Evie** 6, now attend that school. Her father Bill, however, was born in Caithness, in the far north of Scotland.

New name

Prior to the purchase of the cafe, Katrine ran a mobile coffee and catering business called *Maggie & Kate*. The inspiration for this name came from her mother Margaret from whom she inherited her love of baking. "She encouraged me to follow my dreams and choose to do what I love," she said. Katrine plans to soon rename the cafe *Maggie & Kate* and really make it her own.

Her life journey has been an interesting one. In 2004 she headed off to Scotland

'for a few months' to catch up with relatives. There she met future husband **Andrew**, and spent eight of the next ten years in that country. Daughter Ella was born in Scotland, before the family returned to Australia to settle in 2013.

Given the influence of mother Margaret, and Katrine's own career experience in various management and marketing positions in the hospitality industry, it is no surprise that she bought *The Fig Leaf* business.

"I have wanted a café of my own for a long time," she said, "but that plan had to be shelved while the girls were little."

She said that she "really wanted to open a business in Buninyong," and when she noticed that the *Fig Leaf* was for sale she "really had to have a good look at it."

While the essence of the present business will continue, in addition to changing the name to *Maggie & Kate*, Katrine plans to redecorate the coffee shop in "warm and



New owner, Katrine Taylor.

inviting" colours, extend the seating, and to add more in-house baking of cakes and biscuits. Present staff members **Michelle** and **Mandy** will stay on.

She said that she "could hardly wait" for the Council to undertake an upgrade of the streetscape in front of her shop so that she could also provide an al fresco coffee and light meal service.

*Footnote: Former owner **Adam Hook** has headed off into a new career as a landscape gardener!*



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Car park fix-up good for business



Kathy Cartledge (UFS Pharmacy) and Alison and Trevor Rickard (Foodworks) on a recent inspection of the car park

The City of Ballarat has acted to increase car parking capacity in central Buninyong by undertaking grading and drainage works on the Council-owned block of land off Forest Street at the rear of the newsagency.

With provision for parking for some twenty cars on that site, the options for longer-term commuter parking, and for local business employee parking, should greatly free up parking in restricted areas along Learmonth and Warrenheip Streets.

Buninyong Foodworks owners, **Alison** and **Trevor Rickard**, said that while some “cosmetic” work had been carried out there last year, without drainage provisions the area became “swampy and unusable” after any rainfall.

“While the car park must be sealed properly in the longer term, local businesses should benefit greatly from the recent development,” Ms Rickard said. “We appreciate the action of local Councillors to get these works finished before winter.”

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Written & Authorised by Catherine King MP, 5 Lydiard Street North, Ballarat 3350.



Kindergarten pupils (L to R) Lily, Claire and Sophie having fun at the Scotsburn campus

KINDER KIDS VISIT SCOTSBURN SCHOOL

The students and teachers of the Scotsburn school campus recently played host to then four year olds from the Buninyong Kindergarten. The Scotsburn students enjoyed the three hours they spent showing the visitors around the school rooms, playground and the school's animals.

Prep/1 teacher, Mrs **Beth Murphy**, organised the visit and the fun activities enjoyed by all the children. Mrs Murphy will be leaving the school at the start of term 3 as she and husband Steve prepare for the arrival of their first child.

Campus leader **Shaun O'Loughlin** said that Mrs Murphy had been a "wonderful teacher" and said she will be missed "enormously." However, it seems that she is on notice to bring the new baby in for

several sessions of Show and Tell later in the year.

Science

Scotsburn students went on their own excursion in early June when they travelled to Melbourne to visit the Quantum centre where they had some great experiences learning about many aspects of science. Some of the pictures from the day can be seen on **Mrs Morris' Grade 4-6** blog at scotsburnsenior2016.blogspot.com.au

The school is also proud of those Scotsburn students who have been competing in cross country events. Three – **Alice Lepair, Felix Moore** and **Campbell Palmer** – qualified for the inter-school event held at Warrnambool and performed very well.

streettalk

THE FIELD of likely candidates seems to be growing for the South Ward in the Council elections to be held in October. Word is that that a former Councillor is thinking about again throwing his hat into the ring, and that another local identity who has expressed concern about some recent Council decisions, is likely to have her hand up also. With two Councillors looking pretty set, there could be an interesting battle for the third spot.

MORE CHANGES looming on Warrenheip Street with another retail business just on the market – not in hospitality this time.

WHILE THERE is general support in the community for a pedestrian crossing to be constructed in Warrenheip Street, conflicting views are evident on the need for traffic lights to be part of the project. Extra safety for disabled persons is the case being put on one side, major impact on village streetscape and character is advanced by the other.

A COUPLE OF WEEKS ago two elderly local ladies managed to get themselves lost in the Buninyong bush. They said they had "been wandering in circles for over two hours and were completely bushed." To the rescue came a "lovely tradie" who was asked for help with directions. Instead, "he scooped us and drove us back to our front door in Buninyong, even though he was probably busy." Unknown tradie, take a bow!!

FORGET ABOUT the polls, there are two sure-bet indications that a political seat is in the doubtful category. Smiling head signage all over the place and polliies inviting themselves to stop by. Judging by the absence of any visits to Buninyong (or to Ballarat for that matter) by existing or erstwhile polliies, and the sparcity of the red, blue or green signs, the result for the Federal seat up here seems all over!!

THERE IT WAS in black and white in *The Courier* on 4 June. Stage 2 of the Western Link Road is much closer to action. Land acquisition is now under way. Once Council and VicRoads start moving on to Stage 3, you had better believe it will have a scary impact on Buninyong.

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Clifton Villa renovations

Winter Street's grand old dame gets facelift

The distinctive bargeboards and twist chimneys of one of Buninyong's most important buildings, Clifton Villa in Eyre Street, have recently undergone extensive restoration work. The house was built in 1866 for Edward Newman, a chemist from Bristol, and his wife Ann.

Newman had established a chemist shop in Warrenheip Street in 1862 beside the Eagle Hotel. Seemingly, he was a man of many talents, advertising 'Teeth extracted, Leeches, Horse and Cattle medicines, Perfumery, Patent Medicines etc. etc.'

Buninyong historian, **Bill Thorpe**, suggests that the house was named after Clifton Manor near Bristol, the ancestral home of Ann Newman's family, and it was built by **Thomas House** of Scotchman's Lead.

Pub meals

Reputedly, the original house had no kitchen, with Edward and Ann ordering their meals from the nearby Crown Hotel.

After Ann's death, Edward married again the following year to 25-year-old **Annie Herbert**. They had nine children, but five did not survive early childhood. The Newman family continued to live in the house until it was sold in 1878 to **William Creswell**, a Scotsburn farmer, and then to local grocer **George Whykes** in 1881.

George Whykes had a large family of six daughters and five sons, and added a ballroom onto the house for entertaining

purposes. After George's death in 1919, his daughter **Mary Jane** and her husband **Warren Speak** lived in the house, together with her unmarried brother **Edwin**, who took over his father's grocery business. The ballroom was dismantled and removed to Mount Clear, where it was used by the Church of England. After Edwin Whykes died in 1952, the property was sold to **Charles Taylor**, and then in 1968 to **Ian Smith**, an architect, who sold the property in 2012.

Distinctive

Clifton Villa is a distinctive house, described by the Coleman-Sutherland Heritage Study of 1983 as 'an unusual and highly intact residence in Buninyong and a fine example of pattern book Gothic architecture.' The study commended particularly the decorative timber barge boards and the distinctive brick twist chimneys, which are spiral-grooved and had been carved in position.

The property has concrete gate posts made by former Buninyong Shire Engineer **C.C. P Wilson**, and the gates



Jemma Holcombe with Llewellyn and Coco in the gardens at Clifton Villa.

came from the former Queen's Church of England Girls' Grammar School, now the Ballarat (Aquinas) Campus of the Australian Catholic University.

In early 2013, the property was purchased by Mt Mercer Wind Farm Manager **Gus Holcombe**, and his wife **Jemma** who live there with children **Coco** 4, and **Llewellyn** 2. In 2015 they successfully applied to the City of Ballarat's Heritage Grants Program for a grant to repair the chimneys.

Work has now been completed, and Buninyong's grand old dame seems set for another hundred years of looking over the village down the Eyre Street hill.

Anne Beggs-Sunter

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Max passed the test

Perhaps you have seen a white golf cart which often crosses the Midland Highway near the golf club with a little brown and white Jack Russell terrier sitting on the lap of the driver. The driver's name is Alan, the dog's name is Max.

While details of Alan's early home life are not known, Max's early life was not a happy one. He was from a 'broken' home and had been badly treated, resulting in him becoming a frightened, nervous and growling little dog. Because of this behaviour a vet recommended that Max should be put down.

But after having lost their own beloved Jack Russell, Buninyong residents Alan and Verlie decided to give Max a home 'just for one night.'

Cunningly, on that first evening Max settled on the couch next to Verlie, then

edged a little bit closer. After getting past that first day, Max moved even closer on the couch on the second evening. You might guess the rest.

Now Max has his own couch and TV and biscuits in his own room under the house where he spends each night. During the day, he guards his garden and happily watches the world go by. While still wary of strangers, Max loves the family grandchildren, not letting them out of sight when they visit.

If Max, on a lead, is not happily trotting alongside Alan's golf cart (or sitting on his lap when crossing the highway), he will be trotting alongside Verlie's 'gopher' around town. Since joining his new family, Max has been a happy little terrier.

After his rough start in life, Max has definitely now landed on his own four feet.

Cassandra Carland



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CATHCART CLEAN UP

Fifteen local residents undertook one of their twice yearly working bees in Cathcart Street Reserve recently. Fallen debris was removed to roadside verges for collection by Council and noxious weeds dug out by the residents.



Shown at the working bee are Jill Hurley, Tim Boshier, Nancye Sullivan with grandchildren Charlotte and Marley, and Ray Sullivan.

IN THE marketplace

Harcourts' Bernie Massey's occasional review of the local real estate scene

The local market currently offers both buyers and vendors some very attractive opportunities. While a severe shortage of listings coincides with high buyer demand, any properties that do hit the market are attracting a high level of buyer interest and, as a result, faster selling times and some good prices.

Properties priced below \$400,000 are in particularly high demand. Vendors may wish to act quickly – and perhaps before the colder winter months set in.

Buyers now have an opportunity to get finance at historically low interest rates. I remember the days when we were borrowing money at 16 or 17 per cent. They can't stay this low forever!

Recent local sales results

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| 14 Scott St, Buninyong | \$455,000 |
| 704 Lal Lal St, Buninyong | \$340,000 |
| 4a Allan St, Buninyong | \$580,000 |
| 304 Herriott St, Buninyong | \$265,000 |
| 5 Clubhouse Cl, Buninyong | \$500,000 |
| 22 Shakespeare Av, Mt Helen | \$347,000 |
| 214 Eddy Ave, Mt Helen | \$388,000 |
| 10 Boak Ave, Mt Helen | \$335,000 |
| 3 Skewes Ct, Buninyong | \$625,000 |
| 505 Eyre St, Buninyong | \$578,000 |

Some interesting data comparing the real estate scene in the Buninyong, Mt Helen and Ballarat Central areas have also been published recently.

| | Buninyong | Mt Helen | Ballarat |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Median prices | \$359,000 | \$335,000 | \$377,500 |
| Annual growth | 3.7% | 3.3% | 5.49% |
| No. house sales | 58 | 44 | 89 |
| Median rent pw | \$310 | \$360 | \$278 |
| Gross rent yield | 4.48% | 5.59% | 3.82% |

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Arts and crafts festival

Locals feature in district CWA event



Buninyong CWA members Lyn Fleming, June Henderson and Jessie Brown pictured with their Black and White prize winning entry in the Handicraft section.

Members of the Buninyong Branch of the CWA won several sections and awards at the Ballarat District CWA Art & Crafts Festival held at the Ballan Mechanics' Institute in May

The festival was supported by a community grant from the Shire of Moorabool, and was opened by the Mayor, **Cr Allan Comrie**.

Entries were received from most of the district's eighteen CWA branches, and some 300 people visited the festival.

Awards

Major awards went to Bacchus Marsh branch, winning the aggregate for a large branch, and the small branch aggregate was won by the Spa Centre Branch.

Buninyong branch members had a very successful Festival. The most successful exhibitor was Buninyong's **Heather Gardiner**, who also received the *Best Piece of Canvas Work* trophy.

The *Janet LeMarshall Perpetual Trophy for the Preserves Aggregate* went to **Lyn Fleming**, Buninyong. Lyn also won the Home Industries aggregate. The trophy for the best piece of Handwork was won by **Jenny Bridgewater**, Buninyong, and

the *One Woman's Work* of five handicrafts was won by **Jessie Brown** from Buninyong.

Theme

Black and white was the theme for the branch *Table Settings* awards. In the Handicraft section the winner was Buninyong branch, the *Home Industries* section was taken out by Ballarat, and Webbcona branch won the *Dinner* and *From a B/W Movie* sections

Ballarat District Group President Lyn Fleming said that the Group entries for the State Creative Arts Exhibition in Yarrowonga during July would be drawn from the top entries at this festival.

It was the first exhibition staged outside Ballarat since 2000.



Jessie Brown and Dorothy Poynton of Buninyong shown assisting handicrafts judge Susan Campbell-Wright from Lara CWA during judging of the dressed dolls entries.

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:

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UNITING CHURCH

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Rev Lindell Gibson 5341 3200

Services:

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

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ANGLICAN CHURCH

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www.buninyonganglican.org.au
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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

TUSSOCK RISK HIGH HERE AFTER FIRES

After bushfires or grassfires, soil conditions are ideal for the growth of one of the State's serious weeds – serrated tussock.

This comes about for two reasons. Firstly because the tussock likes open spaces and reduced competition from other grasses, and also because the heat from fires greatly assists in germination of their seeds.

In the aftermath of the December 2015 fires in this district, landholders and residents are urged to keep a close look out for this serious plant pest known to exist in the Lal Lal and Buninyong areas.

In response to community concern about serrated tussock, a Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party (VSTWP) was formed in 1995, and over the past two decades, has provided information and education services to thousands of landowners both here and interstate.

Invasive

For those not familiar with the plant, it is a tussock-forming grass native to South America that was first recorded in Victoria in 1954. It is highly invasive and quickly becomes established, dominating landscapes, reducing agricultural productivity and decreasing biodiversity in native grasslands.

The plant is most obvious in summer when other grasses die off or dry, while the serrated tussock remains green due to its ability to adapt to dry conditions.

It is estimated that it has infested over 130,000 hectares of land in Victoria



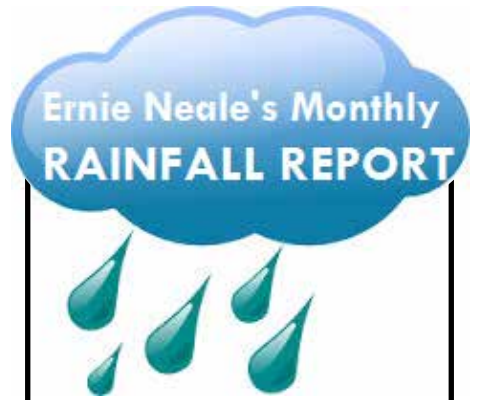
Serrated tussock can dominate grasslands and pastures and is very drought tolerant – remaining green during the summer months and bleached yellow/white in the colder months.

alone, and once it takes hold, large infestations require ongoing management and can be expensive to treat.

Distinctive leaf

Its leaves are up to 50cm long, are thin and roll smoothly between your thumb and index finger. Most native species leaves are folded and feel as though they have flat edges, so don't roll easily. Serrated tussock leaves have fine serrations that can be felt if the finger and thumb are carefully drawn from the tip of the leaf towards the base of the plant.

Identifying serrated tussock from other similar grasses can be difficult, but the VSTWP has developed a photographic brochure that will greatly assist. The brochure can be viewed or downloaded from their website. For further information, please visit www.serratedtussock.com, or call the VSTWP on (03) 5366 0000.



Winter nominally starts on the calendar on 1 June. This year winter announced its arrival with a pipe-bursting frost (at least at our place) at the start of June, bringing to an end one of the wettest Mays we've had in a decade.

In last month's column I expressed a hope for 30mm of rain in the first half of May. Good rains did arrive in time to produce some pasture growth and quite a few field mushrooms. Not only that, but May then proceeded to deliver a total of 80.9mm, spread nicely across the month.

It seems that the much anticipated end of El Nino conditions is coming to pass, so hopefully this winter we will receive good seasonal rain to restore water reserves and to provide substantial flows in our waterways.

Our rainfall so far this year has been 195.9mm, down on our recent average for the same period of 226.2mm. Hopefully the pattern of weekly rain fronts moving across Victoria from the Southern Ocean that we experienced in May will continue. Soil moisture reserves are still playing catch up.

Welcome winter; bring on the rain, and some pest eradicating frosts!

| MAY 2016 | | | |
|--------------|------|------|---------|
| Date | Rain | Date | Rain |
| 1 | 16.9 | 13 | 1.2 |
| 3 | 2.3 | 17 | 1.2 |
| 4 | 0.2 | 20 | 5.6 |
| 9 | 13.4 | 24 | 8.7 |
| 10 | 14.3 | 27 | 12.4 |
| 11 | 0.5 | 30 | 0.5 |
| 12 | 3.7 | | |
| Total | | | 80.9mm |
| Year to date | | | 195.9mm |

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Brett's hard work brings awards

Some five years ago, Buninyong resident Brett Weinberg started to hunt the records of a poor, distant relation. Then he certainly didn't think that it would lead to him spending many hundreds of hours working with the handwritten records of inmates or patients of the Ballarat District Benevolent Asylum.

Benevolent asylums or infirmaries for the Destitute were common throughout the colony during the nineteenth century to house or support the "less fortunate" in a community. The local asylum, built in 1859, was on the site now occupied by the QEH/ Ballarat Health Services on the corner of Ascot and Dana Streets, Ballarat.

For the past four years Brett has been working through hand-written admission records contained in huge leather-bound ledgers, previously only accessible after a Freedom of Information application.

To date, as a volunteer, he has compiled detailed records from 1860 to 1908 of some 10,000 persons who had been assisted by the asylum or its associated "lying-in" hospital. Up to eighteen pieces of information about individuals whose records have been computerised by Brett are now available to the public through the websites of the Ballarat Historical Society and of the Public Record Office.

See the records online at www.ballarathistoricalsociety.com/index.php/the-collection/bbsr

Buzz

"Just one day after the records were posted online I got a real buzz to receive a call from a person in New Jersey (USA) who had found, online, details of a relative he had spent years trying to research," Brett said.



Brett's painstaking work was recognised in 2014 as a significant piece of local history by the Victorian Community History Awards.

Brett presently divides his time between continuing to work on the Benevolent Asylum records project and maintaining the family property on the slopes of Mt Buninyong.

Career

Away from these interests, the unassuming Brett Weinberg has had an interesting career. Following graduation with a Law/Commerce degree from the University of Melbourne, he spent a short stint as a suburban solicitor before taking on roles in television marketing with the Seven Network (where he was Sales Director for Sport), and with Foxtel and Channel Nine.

One major sporting event he recalls

having to market was the skins golf game at Port Douglas in 1989 involving **Greg Norman, Jack Nicklaus, Curtis Strange** and **'Jumbo' Osaki**. "There were massive sums involved in getting that group out here and for the prizemoney," he said. Ironically the-then huge 'pot' of \$675,000 was won by the outsider Osaki.

With parents **Ray** and **Shirley** each being Australian athletics champions and/or Olympians, it is not surprising that Brett himself was the Australian Junior sprint champion in 1971-1972, and can claim to have run a close second to megastar Olympic champion **John Carlos** in a 60m event at Melbourne's Olympic Park.

Incidentally, Brett didn't find any records of his distant relation in the records of the Benevolent Asylum. "In fact, he had been a patient of the Ballarat Lunatic Asylum in Gillies Street," he said.

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

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Where in NSW is it ?



The News weather correspondent **Ernie Neale** is an avid ABC listener. On the Queen's Birthday holiday, he reports that the ABC's Classic 100 Voice program was counting down the most popular music for the year. A Buninyong listener sent in a text congratulating the program.

The two Sydney-based presenters then proceeded to ask themselves 'where on earth is Buninyong?'... finally deciding that it was 'somewhere in NSW'. After the next track was played the presenters came back on full of profuse apologies having received two pages of texts from all over Australia (including Darwin) putting them straight.

It changed the direction of the show. The next track was dedicated to Buninyong, and the red-faced presenters then proceeded to invite listeners in other rural communities to nominate their country town to which the final tracks of the program would be dedicated.

Serpent signs

It's a constant battle to get Council to erect needed signage around the town. But just recently two Council workers were spotted busily erecting signs down in Desoza Park. No, not signs pointing out the location of the old tannery or information about the Crown Mine, but signs telling park users to watch out for snakes!!



Up go the 'Watch out for Snakes' signs. Now joggers and cyclists and walkers will have to watch out for the watch out for snakes signs.

Another Master Mason admitted

As the year rolls by, members of the local Masonic Lodge, the Buninyong Sturt Lodge, continue to reach various milestones.

The latest was **Len Tyzack** who was admitted as a Master Mason after having achieved twelve months' membership and having attended a series of lodge education programs.

Below (L to R): Alan Glasson, Len Tyzack, Doug Williams and Kas Bitans following the presentation of the Master Mason's apron to Len .



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From the Team at Harcourts Buninyong

You will have noticed the new branding that Harcourts Australia proudly rolled out in recent months. The modern logo and colour palette of dark blue and bright blue reflects Harcourts' ongoing investment into marketing, technology and training initiatives, as well as their continued expansion overseas.

Harcourts International's Managing Director, Mike Green, has a vision that the new 'H' with bright blue underscore might one day be as recognisable as McDonalds' golden arches!

On the local front, our Buninyong office has also swung into action, with a wide range of new marketing materials making a bright, bold statement on the local landscape and across broader digital horizons. We're excited!



Bernie Massey and Graeme Paizis

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Bernie Massey: 0438 396 877
Graeme Paizis: 0418 503 747

Harcourts

Ray Sullivan's
SPORTS NEWS

FLYING HIGH

The Buninyong Bombers are still flying near the top of the ladder with seven wins. Only percentage separates the top six sides. The signing of **Mitch Phelps** from Redan has added further strength to the side which was expected to have another strong win against lower team Smythesdale when the competition resumes on June 18 after the bye.

The Reserves are on top of the ladder. A strong showing against Rokewood in their last encounter took them to eight straight wins and no losses.

CHAMP

Young Buninyong golfer **Amy Leeson** played solid golf over 27 holes to win the Ballarat District Women's Championship. Amy shot a scratch score of 117 to beat **Kate McMahon** of Ballarat by three shots. Other Buninyong golfers to perform well in the championships were **Helen Pascoe** who won the 'A' Grade 18-hole title, **Betty McGuinness** who was runner-up in the 'A' Grade 18 hole Handicap and **Cheryl Antonio** who was runner-up in the 'C' Grade Handicap.

MEDAL

On the home scene, congratulations to **John McFetridge** who won the Buninyong Golf Club, June Monthly medal with a net 66.

ON TRACK

Buninyong netball ladies are still on track for finals participation, holding down sixth spot on the ladder after a recent narrow, 42-36 goal home victory against Rokewood-Corindhap. The away game against bottom team, Smythesdale after the bye should have set them up for what was a big test against higher placed Dunnstown the following week.

FUND RAISER

The Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Institute Charity day was conducted by Buninyong Golf Club Ladies on a very wet Tuesday 7 June. Congratulations to all who braved the terrible weather. Winners were Buninyong threesome, **Val Oswald, Rita Lightfoot** and **Helen Hovey** with 78pts.



During the thriving fitness culture of the 1980s and 90s, gym memberships boomed. Pump, aerobic and step classes were at capacity. Then Yoga and Pilates were not mainstream fitness options. However, in the last fifteen years, greatly buoyed by an increased focus on the importance of healthy lifestyles, body awareness and well-being, the popularity of both disciplines has gained significant momentum.

In Buninyong, classes run by **Karen McFetridge** and **Stephanie Neal** are now providing ready access to both Yoga and Pilates. Karen runs Equilibrium Well Being Yoga at Royal Park and Stephanie has recently opened Pilates HQ in Warrenheip Street.

India visit

Karen (right) has been practising yoga since 2000, taking classes in different styles of yoga. She visited India to further develop her knowledge of the discipline. She completed her diploma in Yogic Training in 2012, and soon after, began teaching in Buninyong and Ballarat.

Karen attributes the current interest in yoga to the increased need for people to attain a level of well-being and to find a way to reach a state of inner peace, improve health and and deal with stress.

Stephanie (pictured above), a qualified local physiotherapist, previously worked in the Geelong area and at Lake Health in Ballarat. For a number of years now she has been specializing in Pilates and worked from a room in her own home prior to taking over the current premises at 509 Warrenheip Street in Buninyong.

New studio

The newly renovated studio is welcoming, bright and well-equipped. Stephanie says she would not have been able to take this step without the support of her local clients and hopes the new facility will provide access to Pilates for a wider range of people from the community.

Stephanie believes Pilates is not just for rehabilitation from injury, but conditions the whole body, and has the potential for long term gains in the areas of body awareness, general strength and conditioning, balance, and improved posture.

Karen and Stephanie both believe that the future of Yoga and Pilates in Buninyong is bright.

Check out the Pilates timetable at pilates-hq.com. Yoga at Royal Park has classes on Monday (9.30am) and Thursday (5.30pm). Email Karen at karenequilibriumwellbeing@gmail.com

Ray Sullivan



Uncertain future for community cottage



The future of Buninyong’s Community House, a 2015 project of the Buninyong Community Bank, is unclear after significant movement of some exterior and internal walls have resulted in its partial and temporary closure for safety reasons.

After significant cracks appeared in load-bearing internal walls of the cottage, members of the Bank Board have consulted with engineers, Council and insurance representatives to clarify what options exist.

Bank Board spokesman, **Ron Delaland**, said that the Board was considering a range of options including partial or complete demolition. “Whatever is decided, the Board is committed to making sure that this or a similar venue is available for community use,” he said. “The structural issues have not altered our determination that the Community House is a beneficial community strengthening strategy”.

Since its opening in December 2015, the Community House has been used extensively by a wide range of community groups such as Landcare, the Buninyong News and the BDCA and for meetings of various groups. City of Ballarat will continue to use the rear of the House for Saturday mobile library, and Carers Victoria will continue to operate its Carers Lounge from the rear of the House.

In the aftermath of the December 2015 bushfires both the Moorabool and Ballarat Councils and a number of bushfire relief agencies and charities used the community house as an important Relief and Recovery Centre for fire affected community members.

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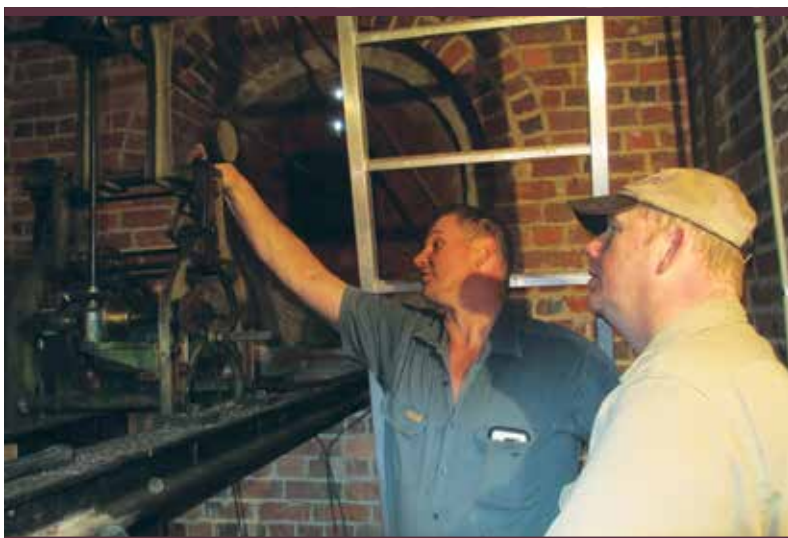
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The first stage is for Frank and Chris to access the manhole above the veranda.



Then comes the climb up one of several near-vertical ladders.



Finally, the big wind up of the clock mechanism.

Up 72 steps each week to keep OUR TOWN HALL CLOCK TICKING

Without question the most prominent feature in the Buninyong village centre is the clock in the tower of the 1886 Town Hall building. But very few locals or visitors would have any clue as to how the clock manages to keep such good time for most of the year.

The efforts and dedication of two local men – Frank and Chris Nicholls – is the answer. The clock must be wound every week by these Buninyong brothers who have been winding and adjusting it weekly for the past 35 years.

The clock winding task is not an easy one. The mechanism is behind the four clock faces, atop the tower of the building and to reach it involves climbing five very steep ladders and negotiating some 72 steps.

Fathers and sons

Frank and Chris took over from their dad Ron who had repaired the 87 year old clock in time for the Back to Buninyong celebrations in 1973 which marked the centenary of the opening of the State School. Prior

to that, the clock had been out of action for more than five years.

Back then Allan Bath was the 'clock winder', having inherited the job in turn from his father Don Bath. The Baths had been responsible for the clock job for some 25 years.

By the time Ron Nicholls was brought in to repair it, it was said that the old clock was then being held together "with nails, hayband and wire, and the back face hadn't worked for twenty years."

Nowadays the clock mechanism incorporates a drum with a cable attached to a counter weight, which will only keep the clock running for seven days. Over a week it generally loses or gains a couple of minutes, depending on the air density.

Listeners

But Chris and Frank are so attuned to its ticking that they can even tell by listening if it is running fast or slow and needs to be adjusted.

A couple of years ago some more major maintenance was required because of a worn escapement, which slowed it down until it finally stopped. This time, the brothers repaired the worn parts, oiled it, and gave it a general clean-up.

Winding the clock is not a job for anyone who is afraid of heights, however, as your intrepid reporter can testify. Being shepherded up and down five almost-vertical, slippery metal ladders in the gloomy interior of the tower was indeed an interesting experience. But the view from the top was fantastic!

Cassandra Carland