

Village stars help to lift the darkness

Following a visit to Buninyong in mid-June by anti-violence campaigner and 2015 Australian of the Year, Rosie Batty, Ballarat Mayor Des Hudson also visited the village a few weeks later to look at the display of over 5500 stars in 50 different locations all over the village.

The story of the stars started back in September 2012 following the horrific murder of **Jill Meagher** in Brunswick. After the murder, floral tributes by the hundred were left outside of the Brunswick Baptist Church in Sydney Road.

On one of these tributes was a card containing an extract from the writings of Martin Luther King Jr. In part it read – “returning hate for hate only multiplies hate, adding more darkness to a night already devoid of stars.”

Moved

A member of the congregation of that church, **Maryann Talia Pau**, was deeply moved by the message on that card. At the time Maryann started the *One Million Stars to End Violence* project. She was invited to M.A.D.E in Ballarat East to conduct star-weaving classes from ribbon fabric.

One of the members of those classes was Buninyong resident **Lidia Aitken**, then also President of the Rotary Club

of Ballarat West. For each member she made a Christmas star with a card carrying the words of Martin Luther King. Several women from that group then wanted to learn how to make the stars.

Lidia was attending a *History of Buninyong* class for the University of the Third Age at the Old Buninyong Court House. Members of that class also became interested in making stars.

Display

This interest led Lidia to start star-making classes which contributed many stars to the display of the 33,000 stars at Stockland, Wendouree in late 2015. These were part of the Million Stars program which had been started by Maryann Talia Pau in 2012.

In Ballarat, the next step came in 2015 with the display of some 20,000 stars at the Back Space gallery in Camp Street as part of *White Ribbon Day*.



Photo-Liz Lumsdon

Des Hudson, Mayor of the City of Ballarat, and project organiser Lidia Aitken inspect some of the stars on display in Buninyong.

Then, in early 2016 following a suggestion from the ABC's **Jon Faine** to aim to get stars in the whole village, Lidia enlisted the help of **Joan Goldsmith** (one of the star makers) to approach Buninyong businesses to display stars as a statement of support for the anti-violence-against-women campaign. Initially, sixteen businesses agreed and stars began to appear. Later this number grew to fifty.

Eventually, all the Buninyong stars will be packed up and sent to Brisbane, where stars from all around Australia will be in a huge display as part of the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

Launch of new visitor guide

The third edition of the *Buninyong Visitor Guide* was launched by **Anita Donnelly**, General Manager (Events and Business Services) of **Ballarat Regional Tourism (BRT)**, at a casual function held at the **Red Door Pizzeria** on 8 July.

This new 32 page brochure follows earlier editions produced by the Buninyong & District Community Association (BDCA). The 2014 edition was of 24 pages, and of 20 pages in 2012.

Funded by a grant from BRT the publication used the work of local photographers and historians, and was edited and co-ordinated by BDCA's **Barry Fitzgerald**.

Not much

He said that up to 2010, Buninyong was allocated just a couple of paragraphs in the overall visitor guide for Ballarat and surrounding areas. Buninyong information was virtually non-existent.

"In 2011, we managed to up that to four pages in the Ballarat brochure, but that depended on us selling advertisements to local businesses," he said. Then, after considerable lobbying, Ballarat Regional Tourism agreed to fund the past three editions of the Buninyong brochure.



Shown at the launch of the 2016 *Buninyong Visitor Guide* are (L to R) **Barry Fitzgerald**, **Anita Donnelly**, **Cr Peter Innes**, and host **Trevor Whitworth**. (Photo- **Russell Luckock**)

Buninyong Visitor Centre Co-ordinator, **Frances Winnell**, said the *Buninyong Visitor Guide* was "an invaluable resource" for volunteers who staff the centre at the Old Library six days a week. "It has so much information about things in Buninyong that visitors want to know about. Local residents can also pick up a free copy at the Information Centre. It's great for sending to friends or relatives who live elsewhere in Australia or overseas," she said.

Quality

Among those in attendance at the launch were **Cr Peter Innes**, photographers and others who contributed to the publication, visitor centre volunteers, BDCA executive members, local business people, and representatives of the printers, Sovereign Press.

Speaking at the launch, BRT Events and Business Services General Manager **Anita Donnelly** said that the *Buninyong Visitor Guide* was a quality publication which seems sure to prove popular not only locally, but also at the Ballarat Visitor Information Centre at the Town Hall, at local accommodation providers, at the railway station, and at various expos attended by the BRT.

Previous editions of the guide have also been used in publicity packs handed out at the annual cycling championships, to overseas and other visitors to the Marmalade Festival and other events, and in handouts given away across Australia in Variety Club 'bashes' and the like. Locals can pick up a copy at local cafes or at the Visitor Information Centre.

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SCULPTURE SET IN NEW HOME

Arts Buninyong Chair Micheal Ford speaking at the 'opening' ceremony flanked by MC, Cr Peter Innes (left), and Council's Julie Collins.

The new sculpture, commissioned by the City of Ballarat and Arts Buninyong, located at the roundabout in Buninyong was finally installed in early July under the watchful eyes of the sculptor Cliff Burttt and City's Public Art Coordinator, Julie Collins. Funding came from Council and the Engaging Communities program.

Trucked in from Cliff Burttt's studio at Richmond, the sculpture consists of five separate graduated panels of fabricated steel, each weighing from between 160 kg and 300kg. Technically, the material is described as sandblasted coreton steel.

After locking it into place, the sculptor brushed the grey steel with a weak acid wash to bring on the rust-coloured appearance.

Cross roads

The sculptor has given it the name of *Buninyong Bivium* – the latter word, he said, is Latin for cross roads or a meeting place. The profile of the various pieces of the sculpture is said to depict the shape of the landscape surrounding Buninyong,

while the gaps between the elements of the sculpture represent the shafts sunk by the district's early gold-miners.

Burttt has examples of his work in a range of outdoor areas including Alistair Knox Park in Eltham, in the Edgewater development in Maribyrnong, and in Deloraine in Tasmania.

The sculpture was "opened" at a brief ceremony on 8 July by **Mayor Des Hudson** who gave credit for the project to the Arts Buninyong Group that proposed and directed the project, Council's **Julie Collins** who was finishing in the public art role on that day, and to the Buninyong Engaging Communities Committee.



Sculptor Cliff Burttt (left) watches as a section of the sculpture is unloaded and lowered to the base.



Buninyong Beauty Therapy

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 [/buninyongbeautytherapy](https://www.facebook.com/buninyongbeautytherapy)

Interest high for business dinner



Chatting before dinner are (L to R) Katrine Taylor (Maggie & Kate), Robert Taylor (Mt Buninyong Winery), Robert Moorehouse (Buninyong Fish & Chips), Trevor Whitworth (Red Door Pizzeria), Trent Johnston (Dynamite Cycles)

Two senior staff from Regional Development Victoria (RDV) were guest speakers at a Buninyong small business dinner meeting held at the Crown Hotel a few weeks ago. Twenty four local business owners/operators attended the function.

Buninyong Business Network spokesperson, **Gael Fennell**, said that this was the best response from the local business community for many years. "Over the recent years we would have been lucky to get five or six people along to talk about business issues in the town," she said.

Speakers

Speakers were RDV's **Tamara van Noort** and **Marc Amos** who discussed various issues affecting small business operations, and provided examples of

assistance that could be available from government agencies.

Mr Amos said that agencies such as Regional Development Victoria are the 'front door' to the Government. He said that RDV could "help you open doors that you wouldn't get through by yourselves." Ms van Noort detailed various programs and opportunities that could be accessed by local businesses through RDV and Small Business Victoria.

Businesses were invited to come

back to RDV with three or four proposals for activities or workshops. "We'll respond to you with a plan and facilitate the activities for you," Mr Amos said

Co-owner of Dynamite Cycles, **Cass Johnston**, said that she had found the function useful both in terms of the information provided and also providing a chance to chat with other small business owners from the district.

The function was arranged by the Buninyong & District Community Association (BDCA) and the Buninyong Business Network. Organiser, **Barry Fitzgerald**, said that another 'working' dinner along the same lines was planned for later in the year.

"With the town's business activity growing and diversifying rapidly over the past few years, it's important that business people come together occasionally to compare notes, and to look at local issues affecting them or to discuss opportunities or problems," he said.



RDV's Tamara van Noort and Marc Amos with Gael Fennell (Sew Special) at the dinner

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CYCLING FUTURE NEEDS STRONG COUNCIL ACTION

As anyone who drives a car would have noticed, the number of cyclists on local roads has sky-rocketed in the past decade.

These days, the average household has 1.5 bicycles in working order and over a third of our children ride a bike weekly.

In the warmer months at the Buninyong primary school, there is a brimful bike shed with many students riding to school – some from outlying areas which means negotiating busy highway traffic. A safer, more amenable cycling environment around Buninyong would certainly encourage more parents to allow their children to ride to school... and the need for an expanded bike shed!

Strategy

The City of Ballarat currently is preparing its long term traffic strategy. The hope is that Buninyong will receive due consideration and direct involvement in planning both for recreational and commuter cycling on local roads and, importantly, cycling safety. As the hub of cycling, Buninyong has received wide exposure through the annual Cycling Australia Road National Championships (CARNC) but getting the village a place in the planning of this event has been a struggle.

The January 2017 CARNC event will be the last to be conducted under terms of the current contract for the City of

Ballarat as host of the annual contest. Mayor, **Cr Des Hudson** has stated that he would like to see CARNC negotiated for a further five years in Ballarat and Buninyong (2018-2022), but that Council will need State Government support with funding to underwrite a bid for the future. Competition from other aspiring host regions seems likely to push-up the ante!

On the outer

Over the course of several years, the community association (BDCA) and local traders have submitted suggestions for greater community participation in planning for the CARNC in Buninyong. To date, organisers have chosen to virtually go it alone whilst, for several days each January, receiving the hospitality of our community and changing the rhythm of the village.

A delegation from the BDCA met with Mayor Hudson and Councillor Innes in April to discuss the status of negotiations concerning renewal of the CARNC contract, but were not given any sense of assurance that Ballarat and Buninyong will be hosting the event beyond the current term. It would be a disappointment to many locals for Buninyong to lose the CARNC after hosting the lion's share of this major event for fourteen years.

It is to be hoped that Council will continue to lobby strongly with the State Government to keep this major event in the city and in Buninyong.

Buninyong & district
COMMUNITY NEWS

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

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Newsletter Design: Jodi Beale

Editorial Co-ordinator: Barry Fitzgerald

Reporters: Cassandra Carland, Ray Sullivan, Russell Luckock

All contributions (copy, letters or advertising) must be submitted **before the twelfth of each month to buninyongnews@gmail.com.** 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 (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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Beth Ritchie – a lifetime of voluntary work

Soulmate of the village



A 2015 photo of Beth with grandsons Alexander and Nicholas, and husband Frank who died in May of that year

As the open spaces in Buninyong now fill relentlessly with houses, coffee shops and cars, it is hard to imagine the languor which prevailed over sixty years ago, when in 1954, Beth and Frank Ritchie came to Buninyong.

Recently Beth said that “as a young 24 year old, Buninyong seemed to have been in a long deep sleep for over 60 years.” Their new house on the town outskirts in Mt Buninyong Road had few neighbours, but it was blessed with fertile soil and lovely views to the west. To the east behind them, the tree-clad slope of Mt Buninyong could be approached along a grassy track (Blackberry Lane) where cows were tethered. They established a large garden, and learnt to be self-sufficient with water and winter fuel.

Projects

With two young sons, **David** and **Stephen**, Beth not only had energy, but was possessed of two attributes which came to the fore – a steadfastness when she was onto something, and an attention to detail. Beth remembers **Ailsa Thornton** ringing her one day about the need for a kindergarten. A committee

was established, Beth became President and they set about raising money.

A trained kindergarten teacher herself, she marshalled local support and successfully obtained two-for-one funding from the State Government. The new Centre opened in 1963, built on former railway land which was then managed by the Shire of Buninyong. With the Committee unable to secure a teacher in that first year, Beth took the job on herself.

In the mid -1970s **Derick Leather** asked Beth if she would join the primary school committee. Numbers had dipped to below 100 pupils and the building was largely unchanged from opening save for the replacement of the original gothic windows with larger ones around 1930. Among other tasks, Derick and Beth painted the inside of the school.

Saved

In 1973 she was involved in saving a historic building on the school site threatened with demolition. The old Police Station was re-roofed by volunteers, rotting windows were replaced and the interior made habitable

for the school as a pottery. History has a habit of repeating itself. In April 2016, Beth was among the guests at the “Official Opening” of a newly re-furbished Old Police Station, a joint project with the Buninyong School and the Friends of the Buninyong Botanic Gardens.

Beth’s involvement in the decade of the 1970s extended to the new pool which was largely run on a volunteer basis, and to special things like the Back to Buninyong celebrations in 1972 and later, the Gold King festivals.

Gardens

By the late sixties Buninyong’s Botanic Gardens were somewhat neglected. Some Shire Councillors were seeking other uses and one notable suggestion, Beth says, was to turn it into a Caravan Park! (There was no such thing as heritage registration so in effect no impediment).

In 1971 Beth and long-time resident, **Mavis Bath**, called a public meeting in the Queen Victoria Rotunda to form a group to save the gardens. Hardly anyone turned up, Beth recalled. However a small group was formed called the Buninyong Gardens Restoration Committee.

Beth Ritchie (cont.)

Frank was co-opted to the work force which included **Dawn Whykes**, **Eddie O'Lachlan**, and Derick Leather, and once regular working bees were publicised, other helpers turned up.

Turn up

Beth reflected the other day that "it's surprising what you could get done just by turning up." And turn up they did over a number of years. The group re-engineered the water linkage with the Gong and did a lot of ornamental rock work some of which remains. Ten years later, Beth, Dawn and Derick were the inspiration behind the conversion of the old blue-stone baths to an enclosed garden. This time, the Shire of Buninyong had the carriage of this major work.

Many years later, following a public meeting at the Town Hall in 2009, a Friends of Buninyong Botanic Gardens group was formed. The principal objective was to mark the sesqui-centenary of the gardens in 2011 in a lasting way. The focus was on two projects. The first was a "gateway" to the Gong. Its form referred to the rock walls so prevalent in the district in earlier days. The second was a water reticulation system. I remember talking to Beth about them. Frank Ritchie and Derick Leather, then both in their late eighties, were honoured guests at the official opening. Sadly Beth was not well at that time.

History

Finally there was the Historical Society. This was formed in 1982 around the same time that Beth and Derick Leather were putting research effort into the restoration of the Old Library. Indeed between them they had a lot of material on the early history. The Old Library became the first meeting place of the Historical Society and Beth succeeded **Peter Hiscock** as President. She recently expressed her delight that the Historical Society was still going. That owes much to many people, Derick, Beth, **Mary Akers**, but most of all to **Anne Beggs-Sunter**, a remarkable secretary with a professional touch.

There are many lasting testimonies – street trees, eucalypts and the interpretive panels on the mount, buildings and other causes. As she would say "It's amazing what can be done just by turning up."

Peter Hiscock

AROUND THE CHURCHES

Schedules of the services and happenings at local churches.

ST PETER & PAUL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

Mass times:

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

UNITING CHURCH

Learmonth Street Buninyong.
Rev Lindell Gibson 5341 3200

Services:

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

HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor **Tom Buscombe**
0457 106 938
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

streettalk

COUNCIL DID A GOOD JOB

levelling and planting grass along the nature strip on the west side of the Warrenheip business strip. Pity that the clowns who drove their car across it, leaving deep ruts, aren't put on public display and made to do a repair job on it.

WHILE ON SKID MARKS...the heavy coating of black ice on many local roads on Saturday 25 June caused a spate of incidents. A lucky one involved a vehicle that was heading up the Learmonth Street hill opposite the Uniting Church, which slid sideways, across both lanes, knocked out a road sign and flattened the shelter of the school crossing supervisor.

IN LAST MONTH'S News there was the feel-good story of a little Jack Russell terrier called *Max*, saved by a local family from an early death at the hands of a vet. A casual mention of this story to a local identity, owner of another little Jack Russell – called *Russell* – brought the spirited response "Not that bloody little mongrel, *Max*, is it?" Apparently at an initial 'chat' between the two terriers, *Max* grabbed the other dog's snout and drew blood. You win some... you lose some!!

SOUNDS OF COWBELLS have been heard ringing in local streets lately. In shades of by-gone days a Mr Whippy-copy truck with *Home Ice Cream* livery was plying its wares in local streets. Maybe just a cameo appearance while school holidays were on.

PUSH FOR A LOCAL BY PASS

may have received an unintended boost recently when the two South Ward councillors speaking at the 'opening' of the sculpture event were repeatedly drowned out by the roar of large passing trucks.

SHOULD BE PLENTY OF INTEREST

in the latest local business to come onto the market – the Old Bluestone Café. Maybe that chatty group of locals who gather there daily for an hour or so might pool their resources – would result in a big reduction in their weekly coffee bills.

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Teamwork gets nest boxes up



Buninyong Mens' Shed members Bill Jolly (left) and Jeff Douglas with some nest box kits which will be assembled by students at the Napoleons Primary School.

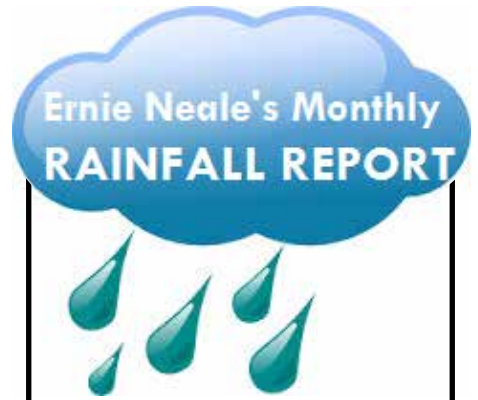
Two community groups together with pupils from the Napoleons Primary School have again combined in a project to make and erect more nest box kits for district wildlife whose survival depends on finding a home in the hollows of the decreasing numbers of old trees in local areas.

Last year the Buninyong Men's Shed responded to a call from the Napoleons/Enfield Landcare Group to make the nest box kits, which were then assembled and painted by the students, and erected by the Landcare group in places where they

were likely to be used by up to five or six species of birds and mammals.

As for last year, the three groups will again be involved in the preparation of thirty boxes. Some of these will be sold by students to cover costs, with the rest being sold or erected by the Landcare group.

If you are keen to have wildlife such as sugar gliders, rosellas or wood duck on your property call and discuss your interest with **Jenny Ryle** (0409 400 520). While there are no guarantees as to what might occupy your nest box, it will be fun to find out.



In last month's column we thought a cold wet winter might be coming. On cue, there was wonderful rainfall, cleansing frosts and even some snow in June.

A pattern of weekly rain fronts delivered falls totalling 89.2mm across the month. Rain came on fifteen of the thirty days in June, and we also had maximum temperatures below 10 for almost half of the days.

At the end of June our progressive rainfall for the year stands at 285.1mm, a little below the 300+mm usually expected by mid-year.

May and June were wet – the soil is now damp but is still absorbing water. Hopefully in July the seasonal rain will continue to the point where run-off will start to bring our waterways back to life, and get some water in our dams.

Weather highlight for the month was the lovely snow that fell on Friday 24 June. How nice it is to have a touch of traditional winter! Hopefully rain will continue now for some time to set the scene for unbridled growth come Springtime.

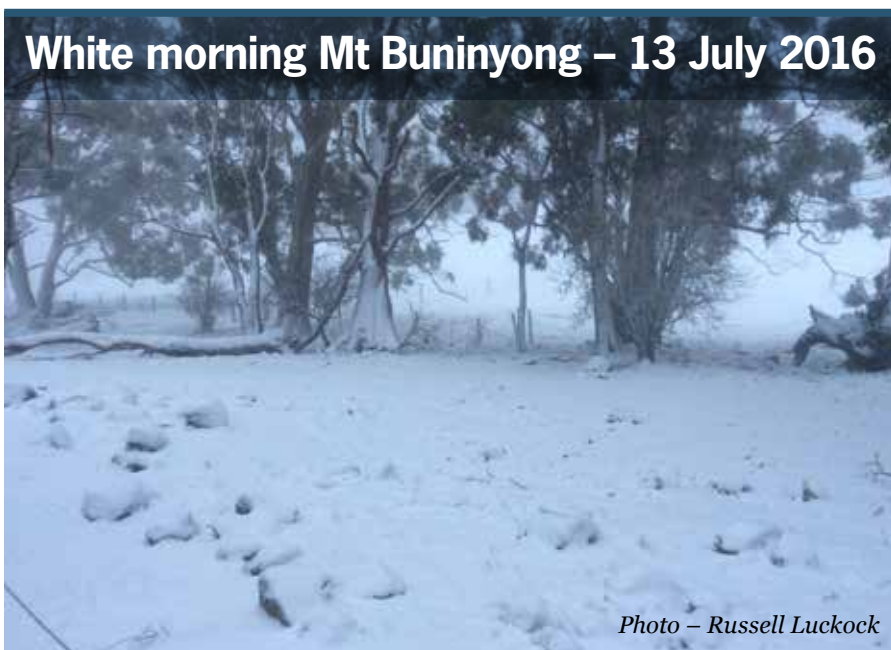
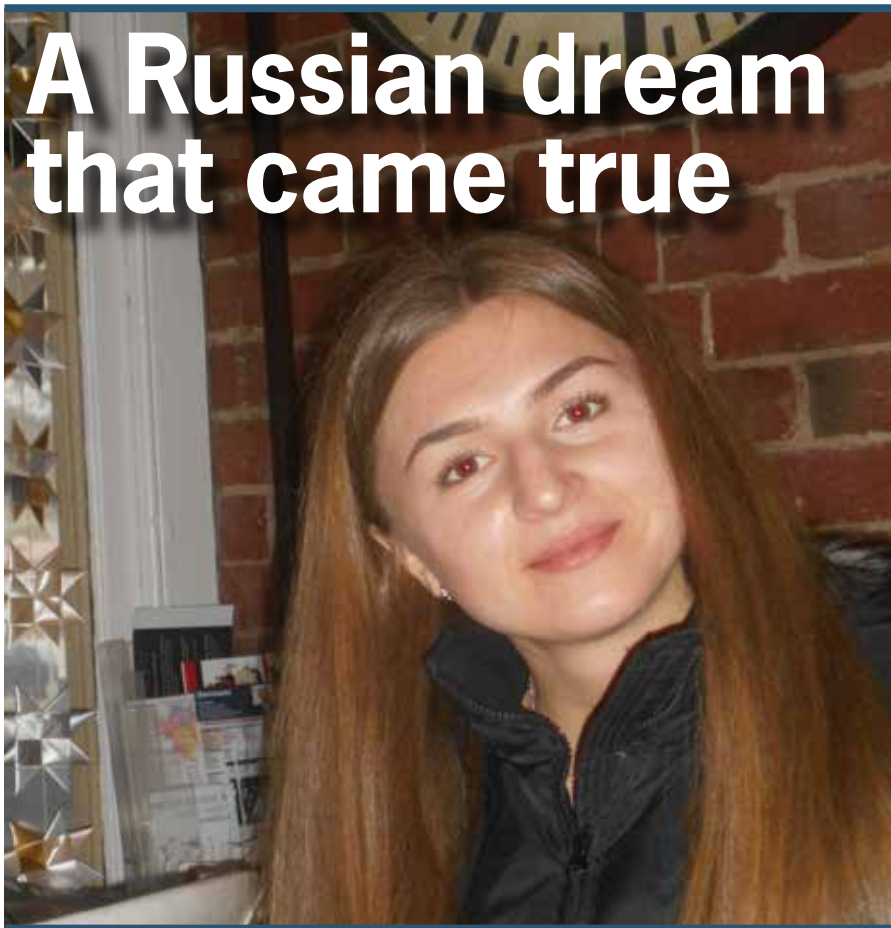


Photo – Russell Luckock

JUNE 2016			
Date	Rain	Date	Rain
5	2.3	17	3.0
6	4.2	19	6.7
7	6.0	20	6.1
8	6.6	23	12.1
9	5.5	24	12.7
11	11.3	29	1.7
13	0.3	30	9.7
16	1.0		
TOTAL		89.2mm	
Year to date		285.1mm	

A Russian dream that came true



Pictured at Espresso Depot, Violetta Makarova is having a great range of experiences in Buninyong and Ballarat

Many years ago a Russian couple on vacation in Thailand met several other Russians holidaying there who had emigrated to Australia some years before. After hearing about their new 'wonderful country, full of promise and exotic plants,' the couple began to dream that, one day, their child also might visit Australia.

A few weeks ago that dream came true when their daughter, **Violetta Makarova**, stepped off a plane in Melbourne.

Violetta is here for several weeks as part of a Rotary Youth Exchange Program between Australia and Russia, organized by Ballarat West Rotary Club. Youth exchange programs are an important part of Rotary activities.

Home

Her home is in the historic old city of Irkutsk in Eastern Siberia, said to be the most popular stop on the Trans-Siberian railway. It is a mind-boggling 4200 km east of Moscow, with Vladivostok just a further 3970km to the east. It has a population of about 600,000 and its December temperatures range from an average High of -10.6°C to an average Low of -19.1°C.

Violetta is a student at the Baikral International Business School of Irkutsk State University and, while here, she will see how 'democratic corporations' and volunteer organizations operate.

During her visit she also hopes to develop a social media marketing project in co-operation with Federation University's Business School, working alongside FU's Marketing Officer **Veronica Boast**. Pleasingly, several Ballarat businesses have also offered to host a visit for Violetta during her stay.

Links

In her role as Violetta's official host, Buninyong resident and Rotary Past President **Lidia Aiken** says she is giving her guest "as much exposure as possible to the richness of Ballarat's history, culture, local Government and various businesses."

Lidia, herself, came to Australia from Russia as a four year old, and now her area of interest is in Marketing and Sovereign Hill. She is also the driving force behind the successful *Stars Against Violence* campaign, very evident in the windows of Buninyong businesses. (see front page).

Helping to make Violetta feel even more 'at home', Natasha, also formerly from Russia and now a Buninyong resident, popped in during our interview to help prepare some of the evening meal.

While part of host Lidia's role is to encourage Violetta to converse in English, **Natasha** - who still travels back to Siberia fairly regularly - was very happy to chat in Russian.

And the resident house cat?... the cat was happy with a cuddle in any language!

Cassandra Carland



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Seven defibrillators around town...but there's a **BIG PROBLEM GETTING ACCESS TO ONE OUTSIDE OF BUSINESS HOURS**

Way back in 1990, super-wealthy Kerry Packer had a heart attack while playing polo. As luck would have it (not uncommon for Kerry) the ambulance that came was one of the few in New South Wales that, at that time, was equipped with a defibrillator. Its use contributed greatly to saving Packer's life.

He was so grateful that he made a huge donation so that every ambulance in NSW would carry a defibrillator. The instrument delivers an electrical current to the heart and stabilises the heart's rhythms and ventricular fibrillation.

That story came to mind recently when a brief article in the daily press carried some quotes from the St John's Ambulance Training Team Manager, **Anthony Haspall**.

Better chance

A sobering statistic quoted by Mr Haspall was that in the case of a cardiac arrest "without early defibrillation only about five per cent of persons having a cardiac arrest pull through, while some 70 per cent

survive with early use of a defibrillator."

Senior Team Manager at the Sebastopol Ambulance Station, Buninyong's **Mel Buckingham** added that it is also absolutely critical that CPR be applied as quickly as possible and continued while a defibrillator is found.

Locations

A *Buninyong & District Community News* investigation has found that there are seven defibrillators at various locations around the Buninyong village. They are at

- UFS Medical Centre, Learmonth Street. 5341 3970
- Buninyong Medical Centre, Learmonth Street. 5341 3155
- CFA Station, Learmonth Street.
- Buninyong Golf Club, Learmonth Street. 5341 3217
- Buninyong Bowling Club, Inglis Street 5341 3577
- Buninyong Football/Netball Club. Forest Street. 5341 3746
- The Men's Shed, Forest Street.

Having defibrillators at these locations is great should a cardiac arrest occur during an event at the bowling, football or golf clubs, or at the Men's Shed while it is open, or down the street in business hours.

Access problem

But should one be needed by a person who has a cardiac arrest while jogging in Desoza Park at 7.00am, or walking along a village street at 6.00pm, or dining in a local restaurant at 8.00pm, there is an obvious problem – how to access a defibrillator at those times

The defibrillators at the football, golf or bowling clubs will almost certainly be locked away with no-one present, the ones at the doctors' surgeries wouldn't be accessible until 8.30 or 9.00am, and the ones at the Men's Shed or at the CFA station would involve finding out the contact details of someone living close-by who had a key.

Solution

The *BCN* has suggested a solution that may provide some greatly-extended 'out-of-hours' defibrillator coverage – purchase a good quality machine, and have it readily and centrally available at the Newsagency/BP service station (which is usually open between 5.30am and 9.30pm). Availability across such hours (16 hours per day) would be at least double that currently existing.

Owner **Ron Delaland** has readily agreed to this, and advises that several staff there are already trained in the use of the machine. Funding for this project is now being sought from local community and service groups.

These days, the cost of a basic defibrillator-ranges between \$1500 and \$2000. Procedures are relatively simple, and even untrained users are 'talked through' procedures by a computer voice from the machine once the lid is opened.

These things save lives... maybe the life of someone you know or love! See our next issue for an update.



A recent defibrillator training session at the Buninyong Golf Club was conducted by Richard Eriksson from the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. Among those present were (L to R) Sue Tatt, Brigitta Stubbs, Helen Hovey, Nikki Prado, and Fiona Delaland.

Vale Pam Nam

Pam touched many lives

A loved, admired, respected, and now very much missed community member, Pam Nam was farewelled on Monday 4 July.

The room was packed as **Anne Gleeson**, her longtime friend and former teaching colleague, introduced the service, some of which had been requested by Pam. It was not to be mournful or traditional but was to include warmth, affection, music and humour. And it did.

At times the room was filled with giggling and laughter. We enjoyed the music played by the woodwind members of the U3A band. We smiled as we heard about Pam's travels in her early twenties. Later, back in Australia, she became a committed teacher.

We felt for her family as her children: **Kylie, Michael and Ben**, briefly outlined her life story: how she and Roly met, fell in love and married and the work and determination which transformed their property from something neglected when they first purchased it, into the nature reserve it now is.

We heard about her contribution to the community through the Landcare Groups and the Buninyong Probus Club and how, in her 'retirement' Pam became a Committee member of U3A, a student and teacher of French, and a musician in the recorder groups and the Celtic Band.



Finally, we nodded in agreement that, because of her many and varied interests and her genuine commitment to whatever she undertook, Pam had touched the lives and will be missed by many people.

Cassandra Carland



POLICE BEAT

TEN VEHICLES were entered in Buninyong and surrounds in the month of June. These were in Delaland Avenue, Pepper Lane, Cathcart Street, Wattleree Drive, Cartledge Avenue, Henry Avenue and Recreation Road. Unfortunately, it comes as no surprise that the majority of the vehicles entered were unlocked or unsecured. Among things stolen were wallets, gift vouchers, computer tablets, jewellery, power tools, and a demolition saw worth \$2000. It beggars belief that people continue to leave their vehicles unlocked or with valuables sitting in plain view. Police continue to push this message to you... Lock it, remove it or lose it!

A BLACK FORD FALCON sedan was stolen from an address in Winter Street, Buninyong on 25 June. The vehicle was parked and locked in the driveway of the property. It is not known how the offender gained access or started the vehicle. Investigations are continuing.

TWO NUMBER PLATES were stolen from a vehicle in Cathcart Street Buninyong on 10 June. With the assistance of police from Geelong, a 24 year old Ballarat man was arrested in a vehicle in Bell Post Hill in Geelong. Along with the stolen number plates, police also recovered a large number of stolen clothes, a mobile phone, and food items stolen from Woolworths. The male was transported to the Ballarat Police Station and was later charged and remanded to appear at the Ballarat Magistrates Court in September.

A RESIDENT in Webbs Hill Road came home to discover that an unknown offender had gained access to a shed on the property. A 4WD tyre was taken, along with a Honda Trail Bike valued in the thousands. Unfortunately the shed was not locked or secured at the time of the theft. If any residents in the Webbs Hill Road area saw anything suspicious on or around 7 June, please call Buninyong Police Station on 5341 3431.

150 years since proclamation...but HOW HIGH IS THE MOUNT?

A few weeks ago a small group from the Buninyong & District Historical Society (BDHS) headed up to the summit of Mount Buninyong across the slush of the snow which had fallen on the previous day. Their trek was to mark 150 years since the Buninyong Reserve was proclaimed by the Government on 25 June 1866.

In the 1860s, the land around the mount was rapidly being sold into private hands, and thus the crater and peak would soon be lost to the public unless government agencies took action.

One of the group, BDHS President **Simon Dennis** remarked, "Our village should be most appreciative of the foresight of our forebears in preserving such an important landscape for future generations."

Saved

According to authors **Jaimie Watson** and **Ian Clark**, some 247 acres were preserved for the public in what was a peremptory legislative move that followed official concerns about the deforestation of this area. Land surrounding the mount was then being sold in 10 or 20 acre allotments, some of which were amalgamated into more sizeable farms.

The Reserve is now managed by the Mt Buninyong Reserve Advisory Committee, appointed by the City

of Ballarat. This superseded an earlier management committee established by the Shire of Buninyong.

Over the years there have been many tree planting programs carried out by funded projects and volunteer groups.

In the 1970s the Rover Scouts upgraded the zig-zag track to the summit, while active volunteers up there for the past 30 years have included **Peter Hiscock, Roly Nam, Janine Lucato** and the late **Frank Ritchie**.

Problem

Mt Buninyong is listed as being of regional significance especially as it is the only breached scoria cone in Victoria that has not been mined. But, it has one intriguing problem.

This concerns the variation in the published heights for Mt Buninyong. These can range from 719 to 756 metres

above sea level. For example, the 1988 Bicentennial cairn on the peak refers to 719 metres, but 745 metres is a more commonly quoted height.

The discrepancy may only be 25 metres or so – but every vertical metre commands respect from puffing climbers!

Russell Luckock



Buninyong & District Historical Society President, Simon Dennis, is joined by members, Janette Skrokov, Anne Beggs-Sunter and Bob Skewes at the Mount Buninyong Reserve to mark the 150th anniversary of its being gazetted.

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Historic AGM at new home of gardens group

An historic Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Buninyong Botanic Gardens (FBBG) was held in late June in their new clubhouse in the Old Police Station in the grounds of the primary school. This was the first AGM to be held there.

The retiring President, **Anne King**, reported on a variety of projects including securing funds to assist the school repair and reopen the Old Police Station, guided tours for groups such as U3A, and the trips to superb private and public gardens in the Dandenong Ranges in April, and at Geelong in May.

Speaker

Guest speaker at the meeting was **Roger Thomas**, a field naturalist, bird observer and the writer of *Nature Notes* which appears weekly in the Friday edition of *The Courier*.

Roger's theme was *Bushland Corridors and the Scotsburn Fires* and was illustrated with many fine photographs of plants and animals of this area. His main message was that for nature, the area is not gone, only burnt. Many of the plants are coming back though regrowth is slow, and some of the birds have moved back in.

Other projects

At the Old Police Station, the FBBG now has a regular 'potting group' which meets on Monday afternoons. This group is currently collecting and propagating plants for the people who lost their gardens in the Scotsburn fires last year.

A nursery is also being developed and there are now plants available for sale,

generating funds for improvements the police station and for the village's lovely Botanic Gardens. Come along for a browse on Mondays and on the last Sunday of the month (3.00pm). Second-hand clean plant pots would be most welcome.

Another current project being developed, together with the City of Ballarat and the Buninyong Men's Shed, is the installation of benches in the old 'Copper Shed' near the rotunda.

The newly elected FBBG Committee is

- President: Roger Permezel
- Vice President: Judith Bailey
- Secretary: Karen Hulston
- Treasurer: Chris Hindhaugh
- Ordinary members: Anne King, Peter Hiscock, Russell Luckock, Lorraine Powell, Ian Salathiel, Merle Hathaway

FBBG Meetings are open to all community members and are held at 3pm on the first Monday of the month at the Old Police Station. Email is buninyongbotanicgardensfriends.org.au



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Coming Events

Saturday 13 August
Community planting morning along Union Jack Creek. Start at Fraser Reserve, 10.00am

Thursday 18 August
Guest speaker Greg Young ('Spiritualism') at Buninyong & District Historical Society, Old Court House, 7.30pm

Friday 26 August
Daffodil Day, outside Foodworks. Proceeds to Cancer Council. 9.00am-5.00pm

Sunday 28 August
Open Day, BBQ and fun activities at the Elaine Tennis Club. Noon.

Thursday 1 September
First training session for Elaine junior (U 14) cricketers

Saturday 29 October
Spring Fair, Uniting Church 10.30am-3.30pm



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Kids kick in \$800 for CFA

Four students from the Buninyong Primary school recently made a substantial donation of \$800 to the Buninyong Fire Brigade to recognise the brigade's efforts in the December 2015 Scotsburn fires.

The four students – Rylie, Connor, Chelsea and Tyla raised money by selling drinks out of the canteen. The brigade members, Captain Marc Cannan and firefighters Matt O'Brien and Frank Cato, visited the school to personally thank the students. They gave them a special tour and demonstration of the brigade's pumper vehicle to show their appreciation of the children's hard work.

Pictured are brigade members Matt O'Brien and Marc Cannan with students (L to R) Rylie, Connor and Chelsea.

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Arts lovers bus tours Napoleons studios

On a cold weekend recently some 56 arts lovers and members of Ballarat Arts Alive filled the chartered ArtsBus to visit the private studios of some of Ballarat's major artists living and working in the Napoleons district.

The tour had a Napoleonic theme, and the appropriately-attired tour guide, actor/singer **Susan Mitchell** took the group to the Napoleons bushland home and studio of **Julie Collins** and **Derek John**.

Derek is a highly skilled metal fabricator working for architects and artists while Julie, until recently, was Public Art Coordinator for the City of Ballarat. Together they make sculptures in many materials.

Steel in the bush

Large-scale sculptures dot the bush around their workshops and home. There are elegant steel works that house living native plants, and their latest work is a forest of brightly coloured dead trees, which wave their roots in the air.

But Julie and Derek now have a new mission, planning a major, national arts festival for Ballarat in 2018. BOAA (Biennale of Australian Art) will feature over 150 of Australia's most innovative artists in over 50 locations across Ballarat. It will include an education program and the opportunity for local artists to participate.

After visiting Julie and Derek, the Artsbus called in to *The Lost Ones Gallery* to meet another Napoleons-

based artist, **Rosalind Lawson**, and were entertained by a group Ros plays with, the *USA Celtic Band*. Anakie Gorge inspired Ros' current exhibition, and it includes paper sculptures, paintings and drawings.

Meeting

The ArtsBus party also met the new Director of Ballarat International Foto Biennale, **Fiona Sweet**, as well as **Claire Schreenan** and **Melinda Muscat** at the *Clasch Design Studio*.

Ballarat Arts Alive is the major body for practising artists and arts enthusiasts. Through programs such as the ArtsBus and the earlier Art Sparks, it aims to promote the arts of the Ballarat region, build audiences and arts networks.

For more information, visit Ballarat Arts Alive on Facebook or their website www.ballaratartsalive.org



Julie Collins and Derek John welcome the visitors to their studio at Napoleons.

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Gunpoint arrest at golf club

An intruder got more than he bargained for following a break-in at the Buninyong Golf Club on the night of 10 July. He triggered the silent alarms at the club and was still on the premises when confronted in the upper area by Club President, **Ron Delaland**, and police. The intruder attempted to escape by crashing through heavy glass doors, but was arrested at gunpoint. He was in possession of a small amount of cash in a golf club envelope.

Dodgy \$50 notes about

Buninyong Community Bank's Business Development Manager, **Greg Veal**, has warned local businesses and residents that the bank has recently detected a number of counterfeit \$50 notes. He said that the notes were of a slightly faded colour, but that the best way to detect a forgery was to look at the hologram (the clear circle area) on the lower corner of the note. In genuine notes there are the stars of the Southern Cross shown embedded there. In the counterfeit notes, the stars are painted on.

Spring fair set

A Spring Fair will be held at the Buninyong Uniting Church on Saturday 29 October

between 10.30am and 3.30pm. There will be stalls, crafts and games for children, a Teddy Bears' Picnic and lots of other fun activities. More details in the next edition of the News. Keep that date free.

Creek planting day

Community members are invited to join in the Union Jack Creek Revitalisation project by coming along to James Reserve (end of Inglis Street) on Saturday 13 August between 10.00am and 12.00pm.

Bring gloves, sturdy footwear and warm clothes. Tools and a free lunch will be provided by the Leigh Catchment Group. Enquiries to **Jane Bevelander** at 0426 873 202

Elaine sports get kids off computers

Over the next few weeks there's lots happening on the sport grounds at Elaine. The first is an Open Day at the Tennis Club's two new blue acrylic courts on Sunday 28 August starting at 12.00pm. This day has now been running for six years.

There will be a free BBQ, radar speed gun, prizes and smaller nets for younger children. Racquets will be available. Families and children of any age are invited. All current and new players should attend. No experience necessary. Enquiries to **Brady** on 0476 129 520.

Junior cricket

Starting on Thursday 1 September, training for the U14 cricket team will commence. This season, there may

be two U14 teams so players and their mates are invited along. Children should be older than nine years of age for the hard ball competition.

Enquiries and more information from **Shane Dunne** on 0448 291 074

Daffodils soon on the Street

Friday 26 August is Daffodil Day 2016. Each year Daffodil Day raises funds for the Cancer Council. **Helen Stephens** and her band of helpers will be located at Foodworks, Buninyong, from 9.00am until 5.00pm on that day. Donations of fresh daffodils would be very much appreciated. Helen can be contacted on 0403 011 430.

Ghostly talk

Buninyong & District Historical Society will meet on Thursday 18 August at 7.30pm in the old Court House History centre. Guest speaker will be **Greg Young** who will talk about his research into Spiritualism in nineteenth century Ballarat and district. Visitors are always welcome.

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Council's workshop for community newspapers

In late-June, eighteen volunteers from several community newspapers in the Ballarat area participated in a workshop at the Ballarat Town Hall arranged by Sandra Kennedy, a member of City of Ballarat's Engaging Communities staff team. President of the Community Newspaper Association of Victoria (CNAV), John Ellis, conducted the workshop.

The Miners Rest community which is now planning a local newsletter was well-represented with three attendees. Also present were people from Brown Hill (which has just recently produced its first community newsletter), from Cardigan Village, from Wendouree (having an excellent paper called *Local Buzz*), from the Ballarat North Neighbourhood House, from Learmonth (*Learmonth Thunderer*) and Ray Wallace

who is involved in a joint churches newsletter.

Gayle Adams and **Barry Fitzgerald** from the *Buninyong & District Community News* also took part in the workshop.

In introducing John Ellis, Sandra Kennedy referred to the new-look *Buninyong Community News* as an example of a "fantastic" local newspaper, which was playing an important role in the local community after its start in April 2015.

In addition to answering questions, John Ellis gave details of the 70 or so community newspapers which were members of the CNAV, spoke of the benefits of such publications, their role in developing community spirit, and gave other information on advertising, publishing details, variations in the content and attitudes to commentary,

volunteer and paid staffing, and displayed many examples of community newspapers being produced in Victoria.

Following the workshop Sandra Kennedy said, "The way that participants shared their experiences and ideas was impressive." She added that community newspapers were certainly valued in our community.



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Campus head is also top coach

One of the regular contributors to the *Buninyong Community News* is Shaun O'Loughlin, Campus Head and Grade 2-3 teacher at Buninyong Primary School's Scotsburn campus.

Shaun is a Buninyong boy from way back, having attended Buninyong Primary School and growing up in the town. He eventually returned to the school as a teacher and was there for eight years before taking on his current role.

An accomplished sportsman, he recently made sporting headlines in local circles with his appointment as coach of the Ballarat senior interleague side.

Bad break

Shaun's junior and senior football playing career was cut short when he broke his leg playing with the Wendouree Lakers in 2001. His ambition to coach football someday, was sparked when he watched master-coach **John Northey** take his Ballarat team through a pre-season practice session in 2006.

As Northey walked from the ground Shaun introduced himself and expressed his desire to become involved in coaching. A few days later Northey offered him an assistant coaching role at Ballarat.

He says his years at Ballarat Football Club alongside Northey have been the highlight of his coaching career. He was part of a successful era for the club with Northey from 2006 to 2010. Winning the 2008 premiership against favourites Darley with the last kick of the game remains a great memory.

He took over the senior coaching role in 2008 and coached the team to the 2010 grand final where they were beaten by the Wendouree Lakers.

Impressive

He is now highly qualified as a Level 3 AFL-accredited coach and possesses an impressive list of coaching credits. The development of women's football recently has been a focus. He trained North Ballarat Rebels Girls Academy



Scotsburn Grade 3 student Lily Menhenett gets help from teacher Shaun O'Loughlin

squads and coached the Youth Girls Victorian Country Squad for three years.

He joined the coaching panel of the Melbourne Football Club women's team where he worked with **Michelle Cowan**, the recently appointed coach of Fremantle in the new national women's football competition. Shaun is likely to continue his involvement in the competition next year with the Melbourne F.C.

Rebels

Shaun has also been part of the coaching panel of the North Ballarat Rebels for four years and he is currently head coach of the AFL Goldfields Junior Academy where he is responsible for overseeing elite junior footballers and coaches across the Goldfields District.

Shaun emphasised that he could not have done what he has done in football circles without the strong support he has received from his wife **Kate**, their two children **Sophie** and **Sam** and from his parents.

Shaun is keen to build on his coaching experiences and has an ambition when the time is right to get back into a senior coaching role. In the meantime, read his monthly news about the Scotsburn campus somewhere in this paper.

Ray Sullivan

Ray Sullivan's SPORTS NEWS

Bombers flying high

After a huge comeback one point win over Hepburn in the local mud a couple of weeks ago, the Bombers had a good 29 point win over Creswick on 23 July. They now sit alone on top of the ladder with a 13-1 record, just one game clear of Bungaree and Springbank. A season-defining game comes up on 30 July against Bungaree.

The Reserves also are on a hot winning streak with a 14-0 record and a whopping percentage of 443 per cent. However, Bungaree Reserves are hot on their heels also with an undefeated season so far.

Netballers on move

Buninyong's A Grade netball team is also on the move up the ladder following a strong 40-23 win over Creswick last week. They now sit fifth on the ladder with a 10-3 record and can jump another spot by beating fourth-placed Bungaree in another big match in 30 July.

Wayne heads bowls again

The Buninyong Lawn Bowls Club recently held their Annual meeting. Current president **Wayne Morgan** will continue to head the Club for the 2016-2017 season. Potential new members can contact **Bill Bridges** on 0408 413 659.

With one round to go in the indoor bowls season, Buninyong's Division 3 and 4 sides will both be playing in finals.

Monthly Medal Winners

Congratulations to youngster **Bridget Angee** who recently won her first ladies monthly medal at Buninyong Golf Club. The July men's medalist was **Trent Beames**.

The Ballarat District Golf Women's Foursomes was recently held at Buninyong. The Buninyong team of **Helen Pascoe** and **Amy Leeson** won the overall scratch title.

Nancy recalls her 1930s schooldays

Memories of her time at the Scotsburn School during the 1930s were recalled by Mrs Nancy Trigg when she visited the campus at the end of Term 2 to officially open the school's new multi-purpose 'shed'. Students and guests were fascinated as she told of the fun times she had at the small rural school when she was young.

The transformation of the shed into an important school facility came about through the contributions of many people over the past year or so. It is now being used for daily activities such as spelling mastery, assemblies, music, sport, dance, small group work and much more.

Thanks to **Howard Williams**, the school now has a display of historic photographs in the shed – many of them dating back to the late 1800s. Any past students or interested people are welcome to drop into the Scotsburn campus to view the photos and to take a tour of the school. **Shaun O'Loughlin** (5341 3496) will happily make arrangements.



Grade Six Campus leaders (L to R) Campbell Palmer, Nathan Hicks, Amelia Plier, Dylan Lyons escort Nancy Trigg around the school grounds.



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The hills came alive with the music of Wales

Not too many Welsh miners joined in the rush to the Buninyong goldfields in the mid-to late-nineteenth century. That was not surprising as the coal miners of Wales then were busy in the pits helping to drive the industrial revolution in England.

But on a chilly but sunny Sunday last month, the foothills of Buninyong echoed with the rousing choral music of the Victoria Welsh Male Choir. A choir of 40 male singers, under the musical direction of acclaimed Welsh-born **Faleiry Koczkar** stirred an appreciative audience of some 210 people in the intimate and acoustically-excellent setting of St Peter & Pauls Church in Fiskien Street.

Popular

The choir was brought to Buninyong by local resident **John White**, himself a member of the choir. The Victoria Male



Musical Director Faleiry Koczkar conducts the audience in the singing of The Battle Hymn of the Republic

Welsh Choir has performed in prestigious venues such as the Sydney Opera House and before some 50,000 fans at the Docklands Stadium during the Rugby World Cup. It has also taken part in several overseas tours.

For its Buninyong concert the choir's program included some beautiful and gentle sacred and traditional Welsh songs (such as the *Bells of Aberdovey*), but was highlighted by well-known music including *You'll Never Walk Alone*, *The Rose*, and songs from *Les Miserables*

including the rousing *Do You Hear the People Sing?*

Stirring

The Welsh battle song – *Men of Harlech* – generated great audience participation with the Welsh flag being waved in the background by the choir. Another similarly-stirring song performed by the choir, with audience assistance, was the well-known American Civil War song, *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*.

Perhaps the most poignant song of all, was the classic folk-song *Working Man* which the choir dedicated to miners, some as young as sixteen years, who worked the Welsh coal mines in atrocious, unhealthy conditions. The lyrics of the song include “.. where you age before your time.. and the coal dust lies heavy on your lungs.” This was a song especially dedicated to the miners of the Black Vein Colliery where 142 miners were killed by an explosion in that pit in 1860.

Rare

With singing that was powerful yet moving and beautiful, this was a brilliant concert, the likes of which has rarely been seen in Buninyong. The choir voted the venue as “perfect” for an intimate concert.

There is a small Welsh Male Choir now being put together in Ballarat. Male singers of any age ‘able to sing in tune’ are invited. Contact John White (0402 808 299) or email thewhites25@bigpond.com.



Buninyong's Geraldine and John White with Gerald Davey welcoming guests to the concert.