

Film festival's gala 25 year event



Having fun at the festival are (L to R) Helen Tonk, Luke Grimes, Tania Brown, Lisa Green and Joan Goldsmith

Silver festival turns to gold

This year's Buninyong Film Festival was a one out of the box with many special features to celebrate both its 25th anniversary and the work of retiring President, Joan Goldsmith, the Festival's mainstay for so many years.

On the opening night the festival's Guest Speaker, **Bentley Dean**, co-director of *Tanna*, enthralled the audience with his stories of living and filming on location in Vanuatu for six months.

Authentic

During the Q&A session, he responded to a comment about the performers' remarkably authentic performances, saying this was partly because the people from the village were playing themselves in a story that was close to their hearts.

Audiences enjoyed a wonderful range of films, with perhaps the beauty of *Tanna*,

the brilliant intensity of *The Salesman* and the imaginative flair of *Girl Asleep* making them the standouts.

Supper, lunch and dinner upheld the festival's reputation for excellent catering and, for this year's gold-coin extra screening, *Girl Asleep*, the audience was treated to popcorn and mini choc-tops as well.

Many people added to the festive atmosphere by dressing with a silver theme for the occasion, some raiding the racks of costumes, wigs and masks set up in "the director's room" for fun selfies.

Film queen

The festival ended on a high note when the spectacular 25th birthday cake was brought in and retiring president, Joan Goldsmith, was crowned Queen to a standing ovation. Joan was presented with several tributes to thank her for

starting the festival back in 1993 and guiding it so capably for 25 years. The cake was then shared with the Saturday night audience along with a take-home memento in the form of an engraved glass.

All the memorabilia of past festivals have been packed away, but the Festival Committee has promised that the Buninyong Film Festival will continue and incoming co-Presidents, Jamie Brown and Luke Grimes, are planning to introduce some interesting new ideas.

Visit the Festival's Facebook page www.facebook.com/BuninyongFilmFestival/ to make a comment on the festival or to congratulate Joan on her achievement.

Programs and photographs from the last sixteen years are on the Festival's website: www.buninyong.vic.au/filmfestival/

- Liz Lumsdon



Ron Gilchrist is assisted by Outreach Librarian Kerry Taylor

Ex-farmer Ron loves Saturday library visit

Mobile libraries have been a constant source of inspiration for one Buninyong resident. Ron Gilchrist, who joined the local community in 2016, said mobile libraries have played an important part in his life.

Growing up in the 1960s in the Latrobe Valley he had access to a library at Yallourn, a place no longer on the map. "My sister and I would catch the bus every Saturday, and exchange our books for the next week's supply," Ron said.

"We always looked forward to it because there was often a film showing. It might be a nature study, anything really. We looked forward to it – these were pre-television days."

Riverina

As an adult, with his wife, Deborah, this love of mobile libraries has continued during several moves. Owning a merino wool and crop farm in the Riverina from 1992-2013, they relied on the regional library in Wagga Wagga to deliver books every fortnight.

After selling the farm, he lived in Sandy Point for a stint, and relied on the mobile library from West Gippsland. And now, he says he has the pleasure of using the Buninyong service every Saturday morning.

"It's a vital source in the community, and obviously here, people use it in a steady manner. If people are accommodated, then they come back. The important thing is the staff – if they are amenable and can talk about a range of books, then it encourages people to come back," he said.

Historian

Ron, who initially earned a degree in History, retrained later as an archivist and worked as a curator for nearly fourteen years at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

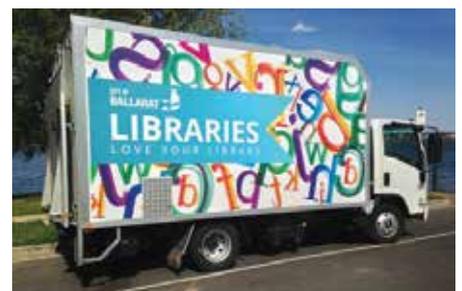
"Part of my work included checking the obituaries of ex-service people for the potential inclusion of private papers into the national collection," Ron said. He was involved in public relations, and communicating with the media.

The local mobile library truck has thirteen roll-off shelving units, featuring a variety of adult and children's resources including books, magazines, audio visual material and DVDs. It visits Buninyong at 407 Warrenheip Street each Saturday between 9.00am and 12.00pm.

Residents are able to borrow and return Library items and can also request library materials from other City of Ballarat libraries and libraries across Victoria.

There are also half hour Q&A sessions, in which you can ask any Information Technology based questions, or if you have a new device and would like to know how to use it, the staff will help.

Booking must be made for these sessions, either from the Outreach Library or Ballarat Library on 5338 6850



- Amy Darby Walker

PLANNING SESSION PACKS TOWN HALL

Some 180 residents packed the Buninyong Town Hall on 13 June to participate in an interactive session on future planning of the village led by renowned expert Peter Kenyon.

The event, sponsored and promoted by the Buninyong Community Bank and the Buninyong & District Community Association, was a prelude to the 'official' township planning exercise to be carried out by the City of Ballarat later in 2017. Following that exercise the Council will prepare a strategic planning document for Buninyong up to the year 2040.

Peter Kenyon gave a stimulating presentation in which he discussed examples of small townships which had been invigorated in a variety of ways by locals passionate about their home towns, and who were willing to become active in improving them.

Many ideas

Those present were then moved from group to group to discuss issues relating to Buninyong and to write down lists of 'wants/needs' and 'don't wants' for the village and district. These ideas, currently on 'mountains of butchers' paper' (see inset) will be collated and will form the

basis of further discussions prior to the Council planning exercise.

Some thirty people, interested in helping or getting involved further, left contact details.

In addition to Councillors **Hudson** and **Taylor**, several very senior City of Ballarat staff were noticed participating in the group discussions. These included CEO **Justine Linley**, and Infrastructure and Environment Director **Terry Demeo**. **Peter Appleton**, Council's Manager, Engaged Communities, attended the session on the following morning.

Business

On the following morning twenty eight business owners and operators attended an early-morning follow up session in the Town Hall also conducted by Peter Kenyon.

Again he cited examples of very successful businesses which operated in small townships of similar size to Buninyong.

One which he used repeatedly was the Beechworth Bakery business set up by



Beechworth man who had only been an apprentice baker, and now had a \$12 million a year business with stores across Australia, and which had put Beechworth "on the map."

He listed many principles that were keys to the success of businesses in small communities. These included;

- "outrageous" customer service
- staff pride and involvement
- connectedness with the community
- collaboration between and referrals to other local businesses

Kenyon said one test that he often uses in small communities is to go into a business and say "I have 20 minutes or so to kill while I'm here, what five things are there that I can't miss in your town?"

He said that he is amazed that this question is often met with a blank stare.





The area outside the boundary of the cemetery where the kangaroo was shot and killed.

Police hunt the kangaroo killers

A large male kangaroo and a younger one have been recently found shot on land adjacent to the Buninyong Cemetery.

The shootings have been reported to Buninyong police by a witness who was working in the cemetery and who noticed two males, driving 'a beaten up cream-coloured 4WD vehicle', acting suspiciously on the old Eureka quarry site.

He said that he was 'pretty sure' that the vehicle had come onto the property from an entrance off South Imperial Road. While the 'quarry' land has external fencing, the interior of the site is largely unfenced enabling vehicles to be driven around.

A spokesman for the Buninyong police said that investigations were underway not only about the killing of kangaroos in the area, but also persistent reports of shooters regularly using firearms in the area. He warned that regular searches were made for unregistered firearms. Penalties were severe.

A local resident whose property is in the vicinity of the disused quarry site said that there had been a recent spate of spotlight shooting in the area.

"Not only are these people shooting protected wildlife, but we think there is a lot of indiscriminate shooting which endangers us and our pets and livestock," she said.

AROUND THE CHURCHES

Schedules of the services and happenings at local churches.

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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** 5330 2657
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The measure that matters

Over recent days there's been a flurry of activities that have considered issues related to the future planning of Buninyong. Ideas, issues and concerns have been thick on the ground. Across two sessions, visiting community development guru Peter Kenyon did a great job of stimulating discussion.

The *Imagine Buninyong!* exercise has laid a good base for when Council planners come into town later this year with their formal processes for putting together the *Buninyong Plan: Our Township Towards 2040*.

Doubtless then there will be lots of community 'consultation' sessions, and undisclosed sums of dollars spent in producing a glossy report, which will include classy professional photographs and diagrams, numerous tables, and exciting (but usually unfunded) projects and plans.

Criterion

Be that as it may, there should be just one key criterion applied and one measure run over the pile of proposals, projections and protests that emerge; how will these help retain the precious village character - the history, heritage and heart - of Buninyong?

Forget about the current buzz terms like *Liveability, Sustainability, Prosperity* and the like that the Council writers love to pepper their publications with.

Let's just stick with ensuring that Buninyong's history, heritage and heart are preserved and protected in future planning.

* * * *

On the topic of costly publications, the Winter 2017 edition of the City of Ballarat's excellent quarterly publication *My Ballarat* appeared in mailboxes recently. Lots of colour, and graphics and pictures and information, with dot points everywhere.



But where was reference to Buninyong and its projects, or any sign of planned expenditure for this township in this issue of forty pages?

There was plenty on the CBD, the City's West (fair enough), Cardigan Village, Sebastopol, Bonshaw and the inevitable Civic Hall.

But Buninyong? Aha, there on page 20 was a small story headed *Cycling Nationals Stay at Home in Ballarat*. Buninyong seemed certain to be featured prominently there. But no....seven mentions of Ballarat, and only in the second last line was there even a passing reference to the Mt Buninyong circuit.

Thank goodness for Page 32 where in a lengthy table of successful Community Impact grants where three small Buninyong activities at least got a mention.

Despite the technical quality of *My Ballarat*, its seeming lack of interest in Buninyong makes it no small wonder that dozens of copies are regularly seen tossed in that waste bin at the Buninyong Post Office.



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

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Editor: Barry Fitzgerald

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Reporters: Cassandra Carland, Ray Sullivan, Russell Luckock, Amy Darby Walker

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.

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

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Newsagency owner Ron Delaland shows staff member, Jess, the location of the defibrillator



Help now just a heartbeat away

In late 2016 The News initiated a project to obtain a life-saving defibrillator and have it more readily available than others in the township that are locked away for much of the day and certainly at night.

Now the new AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) is in place inside the Buninyong Newsagency on the front window to the left of the entry doors. Facing the street there is Emergency/AED signage prepared with the assistance of Kwik Kopy, Ballarat.

Staff trained

Training of staff of the newsagency was completed on 19 June, and further sessions for members of other community groups will be scheduled in the near future. Ballarat Community Health staffer and local resident, **Michelle Corcoran**, coordinated the selection, purchase and installation of the machine and the training program.

Again, local people are advised that after calling 000, the number to call to get a newsagency staff member to rush the community access unit to a patient in a central Buninyong

location is 5341 2154. Put this number under AED or Defib in your phone now.

The vital importance of applying continuous CPR to the patient while waiting for the AED and/or ambulance to arrive cannot be overstressed.

Community Support

News editor Barry Fitzgerald said that this project was able to be completed because of the support of community groups and businesses. These included the Buninyong Newsagency, the Buninyong & District Community Bank, Buninyong & District Community Association, Buninyong RSL, Buninyong Probuss Club, The Men's Shed, Buninyong Mt Helen Lions Club, Kwik Kopy (Ballarat), and Meridian Energy/Powershop.

Residents are urged to check out the location of the AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) - near the cards section - next time a visit is made to the Newsagency.

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AUTHORISED BY CATHERINE KING, 5 LYDIARD ST NTH BALLARAT 3350

Men's Shed Extension



Shed and oak tree are still good friends

Extension work at the Buninyong Men's Shed has been completed and members have been busily moving equipment and setting up storage bays, making good use of their extra space. The \$20,000, six metre by thirteen metre extension, was funded by grants from the Bendigo Bank, the Ballarat City Council and local fund raising.

Above: Oldest shed member, 91 year-old Harry Lindorff is busy at work

Initially, there was concern that the extension may not have been given the go-ahead due to the old oak tree growing at the northern end of the proposed building. The council arborist inspected the site and offered a solution that would allow the building to proceed. So the new extension has an unusual feature, a gravel floor on its eastern side to allow the roots of the old oak tree to breathe.

Shed President, **Bill Jolly** said the extension would be used for much-needed storage of equipment and materials and would allow them to open up the area which tended to become cramped when bigger projects were in progress.

Hard at work making wheels for a toy project was the oldest shed member 91 year old **Harry Lindorff** who is given a ride from the Bupa Aged Care Home by Men's Shed member, **David Searle**, for a regular session at the shed. For some thirty years Harry ran the garage in LaTrobe Street, Redan.

streettalk

AFTER LOBBYING by the BDCA for some four years Council has at last sealed the vacant land at the rear of the service station. After progressing from a muddy block, to one with crushed rock and potholes, the area is now covered with asphalt and is looking ready for a paint job to mark off the roadway and parking spots. Well done Council – credit where credit is due!!

WITHIN A FEW minutes of joining The News team in the design role, **Sara Mangere** came up with the news on happenings in the former Harcourt's real estate shop on Warrenheip Street. A late July opening is slated for new retail store *Three Times Blest* selling women's, men's and children's clothing and homewares. No news on happenings at the former *Sew Special* shop yet.

RON DELALAND got into a flap recently when he noted that the local Town Hall flag was tattered and reduced to about half of its normal size. A call from *The News* to the other big Town Hall saw it all fixed within a couple of days. Ronnie's now happy again!

FORMER STATE PREMIER the Hon. **Ted Baillieu** will be in town for the big 1 July event. No more politics for the Hon. Ted though. He will be here as Chair of Victoria's ANZAC Centenary Committee – the group that oversaw many of the grants received for the Avenue restoration.



RABBITS WERE introduced into Australia from England at Winchelsea in 1859. However a *News* reporter has just returned from a driving holiday from the south coast of England up to well north of Edinburgh and reports seeing only seven rabbits in the entire trip! But he sees this many rabbits over the back fence most evenings. Did Australia really mean to import ALL of England's rabbits, he wonders?



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Pedita new face at local bank



Pedita on duty at the Buninyong Community Bank with Manager Randall Dreger

Buninyong Community Bank has announced the appointment of Pedita van Hees as the newest member of their friendly banking team. Pedita recently joined the staff as the Customer Relationship Manager, bringing with her a wealth of experience and a focus on community.

Pedita has been in banking since 2011 when she joined the Bendigo Community Bank first in Dunkeld before moving to Beaufort in late 2016.

Having started her career with a community bank she is thrilled to continue at the Buninyong location.

"I fell in love with the community bank model when I first started with Bendigo Bank," said Pedita.

"Every day I get to say I work for an organisation that gives back to the community that supports it. It's a wonderful feeling being part of something that literally puts its money where its mouth is."

Involved

She is very active in community affairs. "At the moment I am presently a member on a primary school board as well as an active member for Rotary. I have also completed training and am a Mentor Driver for the L2P program, offering free driving practice to youth aged between 16 and 25. I'm looking forward to getting paired up with kids locally," she said.

Pedita has a broad range of experience in banking. She is able to help the community with home and personal loans, credit cards and personal banking, business accounts and business lending including leasing and equipment finance. She is also well educated on insurance and making sure customers have the right protection in place.

Residents and customers are invited to come into the community bank and meet Pedita. She has appreciated the warmth of the welcome she has received since starting in Buninyong recently.



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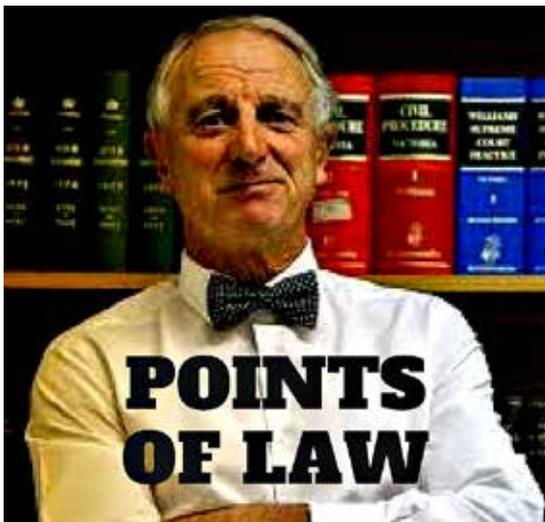
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Even the young can die suddenly because of an accident or illness. Even students or home renters in their 20s or 30s may have quite a valuable estate - car, phone, jewellery, bank account, sporting equipment, TV and other household goods.

Where there's a will...

A Will must be in writing and signed at the same time by the person who makes it and two adult witnesses who ideally should not be beneficiaries. A Will is revoked if the person who makes it marries or becomes divorced afterwards.

A Will can be changed at any time, as it has no legal effect until the person who makes it dies.

Changes

A person making a Will has a moral and legal obligation

to make proper provisions for his/her spouse or partner and children, which include step-children. Recent changes to the Wills Act (Vic) restrict the right to challenge a Will to such persons if they are not adequately provided for.

The choice of who to appoint as the Executors of the Will must be considered carefully as they are entrusted to carry out the wishes of the deceased. If there are children under the age of 18.

It is advisable to appoint a guardian should they become orphaned. A Will can be revoked by making a later one or by destroying it.

Risks

Every Will carries a risk that it could be challenged by a family member and it is vital that it be prepared by a lawyer.

There are do it yourself kits available, but in general these are not recommended, as there are increased risks in using them.

In summary, a Will is an important document which should be prepared with advice from a lawyer.

The enclosed information is of necessity a brief overview and it is not intended that readers should rely wholly on the information contained therein. No warranty express or implied is given in respect of the information provided and accordingly no responsibility is taken by Cinque Oakley Senior Lawyers or Buninyong News for any error or omission within this article.

Every person over the age of 18 should make a Will, which is basically an expression of that person's wishes upon death.

If a person who dies does not have a Will, they die intestate and their assets are divided amongst family members according to a legal formula which can create problems.

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Centenary march and celebrations Saturday 1 July

RAAF FLYOVER, ARMY CHIEF AT BIG MARCH

What was shaping to be one of the biggest community events in Buninyong's history on Saturday 1 July has become even bigger with the announcement that RAAF aircraft will conduct a flyover of the township to coincide with the march of some 600 people

Retired former RAAF Group Captain **Bob Bennett**, now Secretary of the Buninyong RSL, played a central role in getting approval for the PS 8 aircraft based in Sale to come to Buninyong for a flyover at approximately 10.15 am. Weather permitting, the aircraft will fly along the Midland Highway from west to east and then do several passes in the vicinity of the Buninyong Town Hall.

The PS8 aircraft are the same as those used by the RAAF's crack aerobatics team, The Roulettes.

The event will also be greatly boosted by the attendance of the Chief of the Army Lieutenant-General **Angus Campbell** DSC, AM. (pictured below).

He will be accompanied by other senior Australian Army officers. These include the Australian Army's Regimental Sergeant Major, Warrant Officer **Don Spinks** OAM and Captain **Tom Day**, the ADC to the Army Chief.



Big numbers

Over 500 people from 35 schools, groups and teams in Buninyong and surrounding districts will participate in the commemorative march commencing at the Buninyong Golf Club at 9.30am and going along Learmonth Street to the Buninyong Town Hall.

The first marchers are expected to arrive there at about 9.50am. The numbers of marchers will swell to some 600 when Army reservists and cadets, members

of three bands, and members of the Creswick Light Horse troop are added.

Residents and children who are not members of a group also are invited to join in the march under the Buninyong Community banner. Assembly is at 9.00am at the golf club car park.

Spectators are encouraged to line the route along the Midland Highway and to join in the activities in the Town Hall forecourt.

Above: An RAAF PC 8 aircraft similar to those which will do a flyover of Buninyong



Three years of hard work

The celebrations and excitement of completing the Avenue of Honour Restoration project come after three years of intensive and persistent work by the RSL's Avenue of Honour Working Party.

In late 2014 a general plan to restore the integrity of the Buninyong Avenue, then overgrown and neglected, was developed by the Buninyong RSL

In the early stages it was decided to rededicate the Avenue to those men from the districts of the (former) Shire of Buninyong who had been killed or died in the First World War. A great amount of research was required at this stage.

Funding was applied for and obtained from several sources. Assistance of the City of Ballarat was sought, and given. Planning permission was needed to remove much of the self-sown trees and foliage. Objections had to be overcome. New plantings were made and substantial shaping and branch removal undertaken on existing trees.

Plaques and plinths were designed, and installed by RSL working bees.

Putting together the 1July centenary celebrations involved a massive amount of work – street closures, publications, commemorative medallions, contacting many, many community groups, getting Army and RAAF involvement, ordering flags and many other elements were involved.



Federation University Pipe band is one of three bands participating in the centenary march

Order of the March

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|---|
| 1 Australian Army Band | 14 B'yong Football Netball Club | 27 Cambrian Hill Community |
| 2 8 th /7 th Battalion RVR | 15 Buninyong Guides | 28 Navigators Community |
| 3 Vintage Army Jeep (Vic Bradley/John Thomas) | 16 Mt Clear Scouts | 29 Elaine Community |
| 4 Buninyong RSL | 17 Buninyong Soccer Club | 30 B'yong Community Bank |
| 5 Ballarat/Sebastopol RSL | 18 Buninyong Bowls Club | 31 Sturt Buninyong Lodge |
| 6 Service cadets | 19 Buninyong Golf Club | 32 Federation University Pipe Band |
| 7 Red Shirts Australia | 20 Ballarat City Brass Band | 33 Bun. District Community Assn |
| 8 Buninyong Primary School | 21 Combined Churches | 34 Friends Bun. Botanical Gardens |
| 9 Buninyong Pre-School | 22 Buninyong Men's Shed | 35 Buninyong Probus Club |
| 10 Emmaus Catholic School | 23 Bun/Mt Helen CFA | 36 Buninyong Mt Helen Lions Club |
| 11 Damascus College | 24 Hardies Hill CFA | 37 Buninyong Festival |
| 12 Mt Clear College | 25 Elaine CFA | 38 Bun. District Historical Society |
| 13 Creswick Light Horse | 26 Grenville Community | 39 Buninyong Community (non group) |

BE PART OF HISTORY

Buninyong Remembers:
Centenary Reopening of the Avenue of Honour



1 July 2017, 9.30 am

Come and watch the biggest parade in Buninyong's history - 600 soldiers, cadets, community groups, teams, three bands and the Creswick Light Horse march to the Buninyong Town Hall. And don't miss the RAAF flyover.

Avenues of Honour

Rooted in war history

The earliest suggestions for living memorials to honour the service of Australian volunteers in the Great War seem to have appeared in 1915. The Lal Lal State School quickly took up the idea, and began planting its Anzac Avenue on Arbor Day 1915.

In 1916 Melbourne newspapers were promoting the idea, spurred by Professor Ernest Scott of the University of Melbourne.

He wrote eloquently that 'the association of heroes with trees is so entirely appropriate that a tree should be planted in honour of every soldier who has gone from Australia to take part in the war. Not only those who have died for the great cause, but also all who have served in the fight, should have a living growth rooted in the soil of Australia to tell to following generations what he did.'

Ballarat Start

Ballarat took up the matter in May 1917, spurred on by the local Progress Associations and Mrs Tilly Thompson of the Lucas Clothing Factory, which put its more than 300 female employees to the service of the cause. On the King's Birthday, 4 June 1917, the first 500 trees of the great Ballarat avenue were planted.

Meanwhile, Buninyong was gearing up for action on Arbor Day 1917, when a



Buninyong Avenue would be planted along Learmonth Street, and 40 pine trees would also be planted on Mount Innes reserve.

On 4 July 1917, *The Courier* reported that on Saturday 30 June, 150 trees were planted at Buninyong 'in honour of the lads who have gone to the front.'

The citizens turned out in full force, and the trees were set and guarded within the space of three hours.

Other Sites

Permission to plant memorial trees in Barkly and Fiskin streets was also sought, as was a Fire Brigade request to plant an Avenue of Honor in Inglis Street in honour of 22 members who had volunteered.

The main Buninyong Avenue honored all those who had volunteered from the Shire of Buninyong, and name plaques were placed in front of each tree.

There is also an avenue in the Buninyong Botanic Gardens planted as a memorial to those who died in World War Two, and the Gallipoli Pine in RSL Park, planted on Anzac Day 2008.

To mark the centenary of the planting of the Buninyong Avenue, the Buninyong RSL has championed the restoration of the Avenue, removal of invading plants, and restitution of plaques in front of each tree, this time commemorating those who gave their lives during the Great War.

- Anne Beggs-Sunter

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Four experts at Royal Park HELP FOR SMALL FARMERS



Nerissa Loveric (left) and Heather Field presenting at the Workshops

A series of Small-Farm Workshops was recently held at Buninyong's Royal Park over four weeks with the aim of assisting small farm businesses in various areas of profitability and sustainability.

The workshops started out with the aim of assisting fire-affected farmers, but was widened to include all district small farmers.

Environmental factors were covered as were operational and profitability aspects in running small farms in this district. Participants came from Scotsburn, Clarendon and Durham Lead amongst other centres.

Farm Mapping

The program covered the computerised farm mapping as a means to improve farmers' productivity and sustainability by greater integration of their knowledge about soils, water availability, weeds and where to put new fencing.

The four sessions in the series covered various areas with a range of expert speakers.

Neil James, Agriculture Victoria, covered pastures - how to maintain and improve them, and the extent of weed species

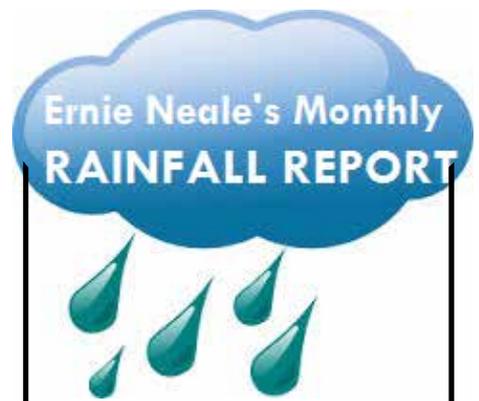
and how to deal with each – especially blackwood, blackberry and bracken.

Heather Field, Land Management Extension Officer with Agriculture Victoria advised on farm water and particularly water planning.

Jane Bevelander, Environmental Projects Officer with *Leigh Catchment Group*, offered advice on various funding opportunities for small farms including Scotsburn Phoenix Project grants, Biodiversity grants and Corangamite community grants.

Nerissa Loveric is a Colac-based Agriculture Victoria officer who discussed soils and land classes with the particular aim of getting small farmers to match their operational planning to the different soil classes.

Future workshops and seminars will be held and co-ordinator Jane Bevelander can be contacted at: janelcg@iinet.net.au regarding these.



Mostly mild May

After the wild and wet weather in April, Buninyong turned on calm and mild conditions for the majority of the month of May. The rain data below shows that Buninyong missed any significant rainfall or damaging storms.

The heavy dews and light showers helped put a few millilitres in the rain gauge for the first three weeks. This assisted the paddocks and the lawns to remain vivid green in stark contrast to the autumn colours of the trees which makes Buninyong so attractive at this time of the year.

Most of the month's rainfall did not arrive until the later part of the month. Overall, the total rainfall was well below the normal average for May. Buninyong did record the lowest temperature for the year, minus 3 degrees on 30 May. What a frost! It made us all shiver.

*** This month's rainfall report has been prepared by Roly Nam of Mt Buninyong. Regular rainfall reporter Ernie Neale is on vacation.*

MAY 2017			
Date	Rain	Date	Rain
1-17	8.0	27	16.3
18-26	16.3	28-31	15.0
Total		46.1mm	
Year to date		295.9 mm	

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Cemetery search easy with GPS



Cemetery Trust member Ash Madigan (rear) with student team (L to R) Andy Wang, Jason Luo, Daniel McDonald, Watson Liao, Tom Zhang and Sophia Sabas

The Buninyong Cemetery will soon provide a more high-tech, user-friendly visitor experience. For the past year, six Federation University students, in their final year of an IT degree, have been mapping burial locations to GPS points.

Through the website, visitors will be able to search the name of a deceased person and then see a Google Map with the exact grave location. It is also planned to put the locations of the grave sites of well-known locals such as Thomas Hiscock on the website.

Buninyong Cemetery Trust member Ash Madigan said the project was designed for user convenience. The Buninyong

Cemetery Trust contacted Federation University with a request for assistance.

“It is designed for visitors to be able to access needed information via the website,” he said. “Users will be able to see name, date of death, the burial area and the denomination.”

8500 Records

Students worked with the information of 8500 deceased persons. Student Sofia Sabas said they were provided with a list and a map. “So this information made it easy for us to map the locations,” she said.

The project was one of several that final year students could elect to undertake

as part of their course. Student Daniel McDonald said this type of project was also helpful for the students. “It’s always good to have portfolio work, and this will be a website that people actually use,” he said.

This website feature will likely be available in July, after the students’ assessment processes are completed at the University.

The Buninyong Cemetery was surveyed in 1849 and a plan established. It had three major areas, including the memorial section, the lawn section and the memorial rose garden area.

The cemetery is on the web at: www.buninyongcemetery.com.au.

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Military history handed to RSL for safekeeping

It's a sad fact that many family military photos and war time souvenirs finish up in second hand stores as family interest wanes or relatives move on or die.

A few weeks ago Buninyong RSL member **Brendan O'Loughlin** presented a pre embarkation photo of his uncle Corporal **Leo A. O'Loughlin** to the branch for safe keeping.

Corporal O'Loughlin VX 47004, grew up at Durham Lead and enlisted with the 2/29th Battalion AIF F Force on 24 July 1940. He was captured by the Japanese in Malaya, worked as a POW on the Thai Burma Railway and died in Thailand on 20 December 1943.

Next month Brendan's son in law RSL member **Andrew Sproule** and family will visit Cpl O'Loughlin's grave at the Kanchanaburi War Cemetery in Thailand.



Important

Branch President **Ray Mende** said it is important that these militaria items be preserved for future generations and the RSL was willing to discuss the preservation of such items with interested families.

Twenty five members attended the May RSL meeting, received a report on the recent golf day which indicated that 157 players participated, and that their generosity to the RSL Welfare Fund was equal to last year.

The RSL thanks the Buninyong Golf Club and players for their continuing support. Likewise the branch thanks the Buninyong community for its support of the Anzac tokens.

Branch Secretary **Bob Bennett** also extended thanks to both the local Community Bank

and to Bunnings for assistance provided to the Club recently.

He said that the Community Bank had assisted in funding RSL Anzac Day scholarships for primary school students for several years, had made a substantial contribution towards signage in the restored Avenue, and recently had given support for a gardening project in RSL Park.

Community Spirit

"We commend the bank for its community spirit in assisting many community groups such as the RSL," Mr Bennett said.

Major assistance had also recently been given by Bunnings in providing a substantial quantity of garden plants, mulch, seats, paving and other materials. Bunnings even provided assistance across three sessions of staff members. This has been a most generous gesture by Bunnings," Mr Bennett said.

Pictured above: RSL President, Ray Mende, receives the photograph from Brendan O'Loughlin (centre) and Andrew Sproule

Left: RSL Auxiliary member, Joanne O'Loughlin, with Bunnings staff who assisted with the RSL Park makeover



A long journey and the start of a new one

Two highlights of the June Sturt Buninyong Lodge meeting were the commencement of a masonic journey and the recognition of loyal service to the ideals of Freemasonry.

Graham Dawes was admitted into the society of good men, who support each other, their families and the community.

The loyal 65 years of service by Peter Stacey was highlighted by Robert Bowers during the presentation of a



special service jewel and certificate. Peter continues to be a regular attender and supporter of lodge activities.

The Lodge commenced its 161st year of service to the Buninyong community with the re-installation of Ron Fleming as the master during a 17 June ceremony.

The ceremony was witnessed by 50 Freemasons from the wider Ballarat areas. It was carried out by *The Highlanders Masonic Association Installation Team* whose members are drawn from areas covering Avoca, Maryborough and Bacchus Marsh.

Pictured above: Master of the Lodge Ron Fleming, along with members, Graham Dawes, Peter Stacey and Robert Bowers



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NEWS at a glance

The Festival Cake

Local cake decorator **Liz Armstrong** took about a week to bake and decorate the special cake which featured at the recent Film Festival. The chocolate mud cake was covered in white fondant, surrounded by a contrasting black ribbon.



Above: Joan Goldsmith, dressed in a silver theme for the 25th anniversary, is shown with the special cake.

The hand crafted decorations on top were three black movie reels with white film, together with a popcorn box overflowing with real popcorn.

The movie clapperboard noted the 25 year milestone. A separate "white mud" layer was shared with the audience.

Bushfood on show

Buninyong's **Brigid Corcoran** says locals might be interested in some events that are slated for the Saltbush Kitchen at the MADE centre later in July

On 29 and 30 July there is an Australian Winter Festival involving a bushfood garden workshop, an Arranging Native Flowers workshop, and a Bushfood Workshop showing how to bring bush foods into the kitchen. These workshops are free but bookings are essential.

On 9, 16, 23 and 30 July there is a four part lecture series, in conjunction with Federation University, concerning how indigenous Australia influences the contemporary nation to survive.

For full program details visit www.made.org

Flocking to fashion

The recent fashion show put on by Blumes Fashions at the Uniting Church Hall attracted some sixty spectators who enjoyed both a morning tea and a glimpse of what should be worn by ladies of good taste in the months ahead.

The morning raised some \$455.



Pictured on duty at the door are (foreground) Val Coulter and Betty Bunting.

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Top Council team in town for main street walkalong



Three senior administrative staff members from the City of Ballarat did a walk along Buninyong's Warrenheip Street North in mid-June as part of an exercise to develop a "comprehensive streetscape plan for the street."

Senior Streetscape Architect **Adam Parrott** said that he was aware of the lobbying from the Buninyong Community Association for work to start on the North End section of the street along the business strip.

He said that consideration was being given to the problem of parking along the strip

with the possibility of angle parking being "in the mix."

Malcolm Wilson, Council's Senior Engineering Designer, had drawn up an initial concept plan for the area some eighteen months ago, but this had been overtaken with the installation of the traffic lights and the concrete pad near the bus stop at the Forest Street corner. It seems likely that elements of his plans will be incorporated into the new work.

The third member of the Council team was Vegetation Planning Officer **David Grant**. The group was accompanied by local landscape architect **David Turley**.

Ray Sullivan's SPORTS NEWS

Amy goes back-to-back

Young Buninyong golfer Amy Leeson continues to stake her place at the top of local golf standings with back-to-back Ballarat District Women's Championships titles. After winning her first title in 2016, Amy proved it was no fluke by taking out the title again this year at Buninyong Golf Club. Amy got off to a great start and led by two shots after shooting even par for the nine hole round. Her afternoon score of six over par 79 was good enough for her to hang on and win the 27 hole title by two shots from Buninyong team mate Helen Pascoe and Chalambar golfer, Ellen Pollock.

Bombers back on track

The Buninyong Bombers are back in contention after a rocky start to the season. They now sit 6 and 3 and are sitting in eighth spot on the ladder. Three winnable games this month should see them comfortably in the top eight to head into the back half of the season. The reserves are 8 and 1 and share top spot on the ladder with Learmonth and Waubra.

In the mix

Nine rounds into the season the Bombers' netball team claim the fifth spot on the A grade ladder. They are up for an interesting month ahead with games against the two bottom teams and the undefeated Clunes and Learmonth at the top of the ladder.

Three times

At the Annual General meeting of the Buninyong Bowling Club, Wayne Morgan was voted in as president for the third successive year. Wayne reported on the past season and assured members that the club is strong both on and off the green. The new greens project has been very successful and club members will enjoy the new surface in the coming season.

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The essence of the village

This bucolic image of the flock of ibis resting casually on a wood heap in Eyre Street, just 200 metres or so from the Post Office, captures the essence of what living in Buninyong is all about. It is a snapshot of the peaceful, semi-rural character of the village that most people living here cherish and want preserved.

Narelle's new venture in corner store



Shown discussing ideas for the redecoration of the store are Narelle Mackenzie (front) with husband Wes and daughter Ella ,14.

When the lease held by Harcourt's Real Estate runs out on the old Middleton's garage building on the corner of Eyre and Warrenheip Streets on 1 July, there will be a local family waiting to get the keys and start work on bringing the landmark store into its next phase of business.

Local mother of two, **Narelle Mackenzie** plans to open a new store specialising in women's, men's and children's clothing and homewares and giftwares.

The store will be known as *Three Times Blest* – a name taken from the title of a book on Buninyong's early history written by **Peter Griffiths** and published by the local historical society in 1988.

While Narelle's family moved back to Buninyong only four years ago, she said that was born and bred here, and her grandparents **Gordon** and **Audrie Barry** also lived at the top end of Simpson Street in Buninyong for many years. They now live in Mt Clear.

Plans are for the store to open in late-July.



Royal Park new Redbacks' home

Earlier this year Councillor Des Hudson responded positively to calls by *The News*, the local soccer club and the Buninyong and District Community Association for Council to move on with the revamp of Royal Park. As a result, first stage work on this Council project has been completed.

The soccer pitch has been laid. The Redbacks have their new base and have already played their first games at their home venue.

There was much excitement amongst Buninyong Redbacks players and supporters when the team lined up for its first game on the newly constructed football pitch at Royal Park. This was the first time the Redbacks' top side was able to play on their own home ground and they did it in style with a 2-1 win over Forest Rangers.

Involved

James Parini was the first Redback player to score at the new home with a first-half goal and **Ben Hutchins** sealed the game for the Redbacks with the

winning goal at the 80-minute mark of the second half. Earlier in the morning that same day in cold, frosty conditions, a small group of spectators braved the weather to support the Redbacks' U 13 team. Despite the fact that they started two players short they fought the game out, going down 4-2 after being tied at 1 all at half time. **Campbell Palmer** scored both Redback goals.

The small group of spectators in the morning and the larger group in the afternoon were unanimous in their praise for the new pitch. The transformation from disused paddock to excellent sporting facility didn't just happen by chance.

Vision

A small group of Redback supporters fronted by local mum, **Sue Mroczkowski**, had the vision and the enthusiasm to get it off the ground. Over the last few years there has been lots of lobbying to get this project to this stage.

The foundation has now been laid to continue the development of the Royal Park facility to make it one of the best in the region. Stage Two and beyond is now eagerly awaited. **Cr Hudson** said that he would "continue to press for future works at the ground to be on Council's priorities."

- Ray Sullivan

Above: Redback Under 13s get their last instructions before the historic kick-off on their new field

Below: Redback supporters, Isabel Stout, Nick Stout, Ange Finch and Michaela Saha supported Redbacks' U13s for their first game at their home pitch.

