

Report lists public opinion on future plans

# 'Village feel', traffic are our top concerns

A strong base of community opinion relevant to the City of Ballarat's *Township Plan for Buninyong* project in coming months has now been compiled following the Imagine Buninyong workshops conducted in June.

Voluntary work by **Samantha Elshaug** and **Jacqui Stepnell** has resulted in some 580 responses from 180 workshop participants being analysed and included in a seven page report using widely-accepted market research software.

Their analysis reported that there were some "common" and "significant themes throughout." These included participants'

- wish to protect the village as a quiet hamlet away from Ballarat
- love of the village atmosphere, its culture and services
- concerns about the need to reduce heavy traffic and working towards a bypass proposal
- interest in social sustainability such as welcoming new residents and knowing neighbours.

## Categories

The analysts used four categories to code the data. These are (i) loved and wanted retained, (ii) wanted to "regain", (iii) wanted to "change", and (iv) those things that could be "started".

The report listed many items under each of these headings and provided details on the frequency of comments and overall percentages in each category.

The following summary gives a flavour of the main comments/suggestions in the four sections.



Jacqui Stepnell (left) and Samantha Elshaug prepared a report based on views expressed at the Imagine Buninyong event.

## Love/Retain

- the village atmosphere, services and cafes (including the 'country feel', the street vines, sculptures/art, community newspaper)
- gardens and open spaces (including Desoza and Royal Parks, the Botanic Gardens, the Gong, Mt Innes)
- the friendly and safe community
- the natural environment (including the trees, bush setting, bird life, clean air)
- facilities and infrastructure (including the pool and oval, presence of CFA and police, the school, medical facilities, community house)
- events (such as the film festival, cycling, markets, Christmas Carols, car shows)

## Regain

- the railway station/network
- community engagement and connectivity
- sense of 'independence' in Council consultation, decision-making
- village beautification

*continued, p2...*







# Cemetery projects start

(Above) Looking at projected images of the cemetery's new GPS system (R to L) John Bedggood, Tom Zhang (Fed Uni student), Sophia Sabas (student), Ash Madigan, Frances Winnell, Kylie Turville, Dawn Whykes. In front, student Daniel McDonald at the computer.

It was a busy night for Trustees of the Buninyong Lawn Cemetery at their August meeting. At the AGM, Wendy Wells was elected President replacing John Bedggood who stepped down from that position after a term of twelve years.

Also in attendance at the meeting were three IT students from Federation University along with former staff member, Kylie Turville.

This group had worked with Trust member Ashley Madigan in the development of a GPS tracking system which will indicate the location of the graves of persons buried in the cemetery through the entry of a name on the Cemetery's website.

## Impressed

Work has been completed on recording burials in the monumental section and is progressing well on lawn section burials.

Trust members were impressed with the development and thanked the students for their excellent community-involvement project.

The Trust allocated funds for the first

stage of landscape improvement works at the cemetery.

This follows the 2016 preparation of an overall landscape plan for the cemetery by local landscape architect David Turley.

Works in the first stage will involve the construction of a reflective garden in the north-east corner of the cemetery where the small creek enters the property.

## Pond

This will include a formal pond with rockworks, placing some large boulders to which small plaques can be attached, planting with ferns or similar, and seating.

This quiet corner will be designed especially as a contemplative area for persons whose loved ones have been buried or whose ashes are spread elsewhere and who wish to have a place to grieve or reflect.

Also to be undertaken in the first stage of works will be the erection of four pergolas, construction of linking paths, a central feature garden, and additional tree planting to parts of the cemetery's lawn section. The Buninyong men's Shed will be

asked to quote on construction of these pergolas.

Trust member Barry Fitzgerald said that these works were designed to "give some vertical features to the relatively flat Lawn Section of the cemetery."

## New section

In another major development, John Bedggood advised that a tender had been let to Campana Bros for the construction of concrete plinths in the final undeveloped area of the Lawn Section. This area will provide space for some 300 additional burial plots. This work is expected to be completed in coming weeks.

Gerard McCarty advised the meeting that action for acquisition of additional land for future expansion of the cemetery are now on hold because of legal problems associated with part of the land being considered for purchase. He said "this has been a protracted exercise but would continue to be pursued to ensure the long term viability of the cemetery."

# Desoza Park works Artefacts and action in park



Graeme Kent

Various spots in Desoza Park were seen being dug up recently. *The News* wandered over and spoke to archaeologists, John Young and Bruce Mude, and to Chloe Clarke from the Wathaurung Aboriginal Community who were at work there with buckets, shovels and tarpaulins.

Their investigations were in advance of coming works in the Park, which is an area of cultural heritage sensitivity. Like 80 per cent of Aboriginal sites in Victoria, it is within 200 m of a named waterway - *Union Jack Creek*.

## Artefacts

If any artefacts are found they will be registered on the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Register*. The aim is not to stop development but to avoid harm to any cultural heritage. (The Council didn't know this assessment was being done until *The News* rang to ask what was going on!)

After a call and a visit from *The News*,

Council's Community Engagement Officer **Graeme Kent** provided an update on several projects about to happen in the park.

The design work for the playground has been done with parents of young children suggesting a mining theme which may include mullock heaps that the kids can roll down and tunnels and dry creek beds that they can play in. There will still be swings - but better ones. The aim is to have an improved, functional, nature based playground with natural elements, not plastic.

## Stage

Safety and access to the stage has been an issue for some time. It's planned to soon install concrete steps on the side, and perhaps an add-on section which will face the audience out to the north-west.

It will have a performance space, a 'green room' and underground cabling and piping to replace the current haphazard cabling.

To the west there will be an enclosed off-lead dog recreation area with a tap and bin for bagged dog droppings. Graeme Kent wants the dog-owning community to provide some ideas about the design of, and level of support for, this area.

## New bridge

Along the creek towards Lumeah Road there will be a new bridge placed across the creek. The bridge has already been built and is ready to be installed. Also, nearby, along the trail will be a 'river playground' nature area with large rocks for kids to sit on and dip their feet into the stream.

It is planned that the current toilet will be converted into a rotunda, but details of a new and larger toilet facility are unresolved. The cost for just the toilet is estimated to be \$160,000.

The plans will be shown to the community in the near future for comments.

Cassandra Carland





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# Mixed messages on visitors and tourism

There are mixed messages about Buninyong coming from the regional tourism organisation *Visit Ballarat* – the group largely funded by rate-payer dollars from Council. Of *Visit Ballarat's* 2015-16 annual expenditure of just under \$4.5 million, almost \$3.9 million came from the City of Ballarat.

On a recent visit to a Buninyong Community Association meeting, *Visit Ballarat* CEO Noel Dempsey said that Buninyong “didn’t have much going for it” as a tourism or visitor destination.

A foray into *Visit Ballarat's* website is no more encouraging. Under the ‘See & Do’ section it is only on the last of about ten pages, after passing such local tourism gems as the *Indoor Go Karts* and the *Plaster Fun Factory* and the like, that Buninyong gets two mentions – the Sinclair and Mt Buninyong wineries – and that’s it!

Under the ‘Eat & Drink’ tab there are 67 listings – with nary a sign of a Buninyong business.

It’s a little more encouraging when the brief listings of eleven local townships are looked at. There is mention of Buninyong’s Film, Marmalade and Good Life Festivals and of the historic buildings. Pity that the spelling *Buninyong* jumps off the page!

Those “*Buninyong hasn’t got much going for it*” views of the CEO stand in

contrast with the recent call from folk in *Visit Ballarat's* own largely-volunteer-staffed visitor centre who asked for more copies of the local tourism guide *Visit Buninyong*.

They wanted to include this booklet in show bags at the *Lions International Australia/New Zealand/Indonesia Pacific Forum* held at the Mercure Convention Centre a few weeks ago.

## Nice Drive

These volunteers wisely surmised “*that Buninyong would be a nice drive for visitors during short breaks in the Conference.*” Good judges!!

Also, more encouraging noises of support and interest are now being given to the newly-revived local Business Network by senior staff in VB’s marketing department.

In that \$4.5 million of annual *Visit Ballarat* expenditure referred to earlier, ‘Employment’ accounts for a healthy \$1.58 million, ‘Events’ for \$1.25 million and ‘Marketing’ for \$1.06 million.

Let’s hope that, this year, VB’s million dollar annual marketing budget at least runs to acknowledging in media and elsewhere that the bulk of the Australian Road Cycling Championships are inextricably linked to Buninyong, and at last getting some decent acknowledgment of Buninyong on the signage, brochures, and other trappings associated with the coming cycling events.

Member of the Community Newspapers Association of Victoria

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Copy should not exceed 400 words and a maximum of two photographs per item may be submitted. 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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Brushed Tailed Phascogale

# Search for cute rat with dunny brush tail

Local Landcare Coordinator, Nick McKinley, has put out a call for help from persons living in the Enfield, Napoleons, Mt Mercer, Dereel and other nearby localities to report any sightings of a threatened small native species - the Brushed-Tailed Phascogale.

This creature is a cute, hyperactive, rat-sized marsupial with a flowing tail which looks like a “dunny brush.” Its fur is grey with a cream belly and the tail is black. Its overall length including the tail is about 30cm. They breed and shelter in tree hollows and feed on insects, spiders and centipedes.

## Enfield

The Friends of the Brisbane Ranges conservation group has “a reasonable suspicion” that the creature may be in the Enfield area following a recent unconfirmed sighting there and some recent habitat mapping by Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

If the Enfield sighting is confirmed it would point to a previously unknown population of this species.

The group is also requesting to be informed on any dead ‘possible’ phascogales as they would be able to take a tissue sample for DNA testing to check on the population origin of the animal.

To report sightings or for more information contact **Colin Cook** on 0417 770 765

## Historian at Landcare

The Upper Williamsons Creek Landcare Group will hold a general meeting



on Thursday, 12 October at the Scotsburn Hall commencing at 7.30 pm. Guest speaker will be Dr Anne Beggs-Sunter, Lecturer in History at Federation University, who will speak on *A History of Williamson’s Creek*.

The area of interest of this Landcare Group covers Mt Buninyong, Lal Lal, Scotsburn and Clarendon – an area of some 10,000 hectares.

Enquiries to **Nick** on 0455 147 398.

## Warning on fire hazards

The City of Ballarat has advised that their Fire Prevention Officers will begin fire hazard inspections in the district in November.

Owners of properties deemed to be a “fire risk” will be issued with a *Fire Prevention Notice* – a legal directive to take action to mitigate the risk.

Failure to undertake works as directed may lead to an infringement notice carrying a fine of \$1586, or following non-payment, Court action with penalties of up to \$19,000.

Enquiries to **Carlie McKimm**, City of Ballarat Emergency Management Officer, 5320 5695

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For more information go to [www.ballarat.vic.gov.au](http://www.ballarat.vic.gov.au) or [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au).

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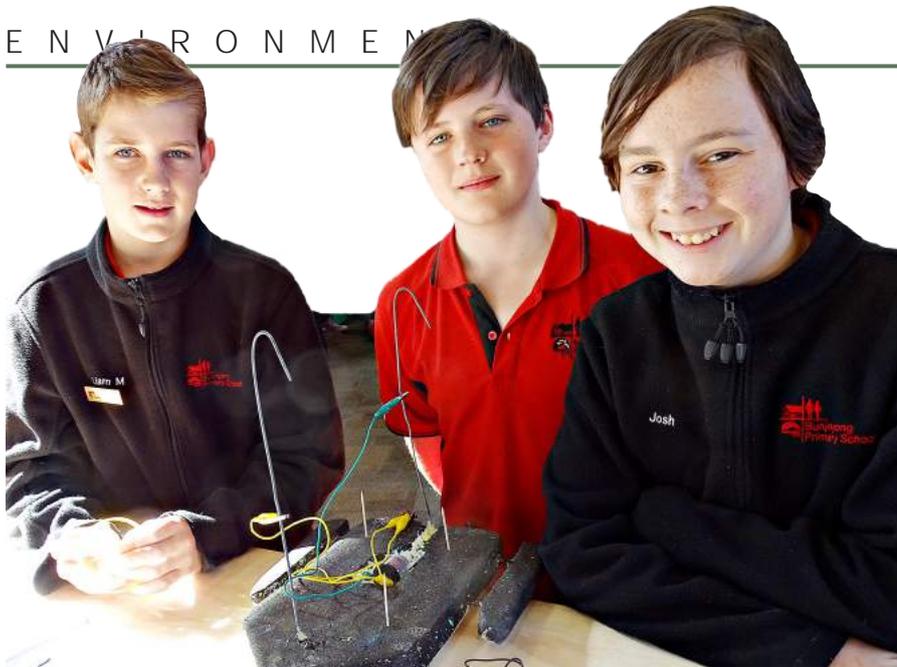
# Buninyong community

## Joshua Morris MP

State Member for Western Victoria

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Authorised by Joshua Morris MP, 211 Dana Street, Ballarat. Funded from Parliamentary Electorate Office and Communications Budget.



Grade Six pupils from Buninyong getting their boat ready for the challenge. (L to R) Liam Mason, Daniel Allan and Josh Ives.

# Two schools in solar boat battle

**With more than two million households currently using a solar system on their roof, use of solar electricity is rapidly expanding in Australia. That's not surprising as Australia has the highest average solar radiation per square metre of any continent in the world**

Now Year 5 and 6 students at the Buninyong Primary School are exploring the potential of solar energy through a Solar Boat Challenge.

Organiser of the Central Highlands Solar Boat Challenge, **Imogene Forsyth**, approached the school with a suggestion to develop a program which builds student knowledge of electrical circuitry, buoyancy and solar energy.

"I have always had this idea since I attended primary school where a passionate teacher gave me this same opportunity," Ms Forsyth said.

## Helpers

Students have been working hard to develop a clear understanding of these concepts and how to apply them to a real life boat building challenge. Helped by fourth year Federation University student teacher, **Rose Sedgwick**, and with the guidance of Year 6 teachers **John Oellering**, **Barb Brokenshire** and **Jarrod Morgan**, the students

researched, designed, produced and evaluated their boats in an effort to create the fastest machine.

On Wednesday 23 August students from primary schools at Buninyong and Ballan participated in a competition which saw students race their solar boats against each other and the clock.

The Buninyong school was the winner and will now have the opportunity to further refine their designs and compete at the State Championships at ScienceWorks in Melbourne later in the year.

## Crews

Students from Damascus College's Energy Breakthrough Team assisted on the day, sharing their knowledge and acting as pit crews for the competing teams. Damascus College also kindly brought their solar carts to be displayed so students could see a clear pathway for the future.

The competition pool was six metres long and was purpose-built by Yuille Community College students for the event.

'It has been a real team effort with wonderful collaboration between schools and the community to make this event a reality. Our vision is to make this an annual event and for it to grow over the coming years with more schools getting involved,' Ms Forsyth said.



## A bit wetter than in 2015

I'm writing this on the fourth day of September, having been chased inside by some dark clouds that delivered a little snow.

Just two years ago, August started with 30 degree days. It barely rained and an unforgettably dry summer followed. Last year we had our wettest September in a century, all the local springs were flowing, and Lal Lal Falls were roaring.

This year it's started with a bit of snow, following weeks of temperatures that barely made it into the low teens. BOM forward projections are steady in the neutral zone, so hopefully this spring will be a nicely settled affair.

August has certainly started things off well, with most days wet and a total of 83.5mm for the month, around 10mm above average. Year to date rainfall to 31 August has been 472.0mm. Last year's total to then was 444.7mm.

Historically August is our wettest month. Ahead lie longer and dryer days, signalled by the commencement of daylight savings early in October.

AUG 2017			
Date	Rain	Date	Rain
4	7.6	6	5.4
7-8	9.5	11-13	10.5
16-17	14.4	18-19	17.2
20-21	1.4	24	7.8
27	8.0	28-31	1.7
Total		83.5 mm	
Year to date		472 mm	

# Football fever hits the lodge

Freemasons from the local Sturt Buninyong Lodge joined in the football fever during supper at their August meeting. Dining on typical football fare of soup, pies and hot dogs, they sang AFL footy club songs with gusto and displayed their club allegiance with club scarves.

Lodge Master, **Ron Fleming**, noted that the most famous Freemason involved with football was **Charles Brownlow**, a Geelong Captain, VFL Administrator and now recognised by the *Brownlow Medal* first awarded in 1924.

The book *Harder Than Football* lists 2,500 footballers serving in the Australian Imperial Forces from the Boer War

to World War II of which 156 paid the supreme sacrifice. In the Changi Prison of War Camp a round-robin competition of four teams played for the *Changi Cup* and *Changi Brownlow Medal*.

The first documented women's football match in Victoria was played on 28 September 1918 at Eastern Oval, Ballarat before a crowd of 7000 and raised 300 pounds for the war effort. A team from the Lucas Factory playing in pink beat the Melbourne Federal Khaki Clothing Factory team who wore khaki.

Since 1995, the match between Collingwood and Essendon played at the MCG on Anzac Day is a tribute to those footballers who died serving their country.



Anthony McKnight rises above the pack as Peter Stacey and Graham Dawes confer with the headless "man in white". Ed : The Masonic football appears to have sprung a serious leak.

## streettalk

**WITH THE** annual cycling championships just a few months away, word on the street is that changes to the route are being considered with a swing through the grounds of Federation University a real possibility in place of Fiske Road.

**THE ANNUAL** daffodil day stall for the Cancer Council wasn't seen in Buninyong this year. Stalwart seller **Helen Stephens** was devastated when the box of 'daffodil' merchandise failed to arrive here. She promises to be back again next year!

**A FIZZER.** Recently VicRoads spent a packet dropping little green cards in local letter-boxes inviting the public to two *Community Information Sessions* to 'help shape the future of the Midland Highway.' At last, some action on Buninyong's traffic mess, most thought. Only to find out that VicRoads just wanted views on roundabouts at corners near Bylisma's and McDonalds, and really weren't interested to talk about the impact of the Western Link Road out here.

**SPOTTED AT** the Ballarat Golf Club recently was **Clayton McIlvena** (ex Old Bluestone Café) doing the rounds in his new sales representative job. Says he is "loving having my life back" after the demands of the busy Learmonth Street coffee spot.

**ON THE SAME** topic there's a strong whisper around that another popular main street business may soon be put on the market

**LOTS OF** recent action from Council in getting concept plans together for the Warrenheip business strip. A long way to go yet, but changes could include angle parking and even a small roundabout at Eyre Street.

**TWO FRIENDS** of Buninyong are heading down new paths. Local VicRoads boss **Ewen Nevett** is taking a new career direction while Council's **Graeme Kent**, the easily-spotted bloke with the Santa Claus beard, is retiring on 17 October.

## AROUND THE CHURCHES

### ST PETER & PAUL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

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**Rev Mark Schnerring** 5341 3281  
www.buninyonganglican.org.au  
Sunday Services: 8.30am and 10am

### BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor **Noel Mitaxa** 0414 776 789  
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

# Eastern Europe comes to Elaine

Memories of a brief visit to Belgrade, Serbia, are rekindled whenever we pass or hear of the St Sava Serbian Monastery, with its distinctive Eastern European architecture, tucked in a quiet corner on the Mt Mercer Road some five km from Elaine.

When our cruise ship docked on the Danube River at Belgrade in 2009, the first thing we saw was a local newspaper poster with the headline declaring that nutty Australian tennis coach **Damir Dokic** had just been jailed for 15 months for threatening to blow up the Australian Ambassador to Serbia. A good start!

## Serbia at war

A second memory was of the many buildings in downtown Belgrade still clearly pock-marked or shattered by bullets, artillery or NATO bombing. These came from the years of warfare involving the Serbs and other countries such as Croatia, Bosnia and Slovenia during the period 1991-1999 after the break-up of Yugoslavia.

Then there were the beautiful escarpments of parklands overlooking the confluence of the River Sava with the mighty river Danube. The name of that Belgrade river provides an immediate link to the local Serbian monastery, St Sava's, at Elaine.

## St Sava

St Sava (1174-1236) was born a Serbian Prince with the name of **Rastko**. In the late 1100s he left Serbia for Mount Athos

in Greece - the world centre for Eastern Orthodox monasticism - where he became a monk taking the name **Sava**.

He later became one of the most important figures in Serbian history and is the country's patron saint. The church of St Sava in Belgrade is one of the largest church buildings in the world.

But back to Elaine's St Sava monastery complex. The main feature there is the church of *St Alypius the Stylite* built in 1972 with its dome and towers giving it a distinctively Eastern European look. Like many churches in Eastern Europe, its interior is ornately decorated with gilt and extravagant colour, with icons of saints adorning many walls.



Fr Lazar outside of the church at Elaine

There is a regular congregation of some 30-50 who gather for the weekly service. Most are Serbian-Australians, who travel from Melbourne and Geelong.

## Deputy Abbot Fr Camim Lazar

(pictured) said visitors are welcome at the weekly Sunday 10.00am service, bearing in mind the Serbian language is used. At other times, visitors are welcome to drive along the treed driveway and look at or photograph the church

## Cemetery

Around the corner from the church on the road to Narmbool is a unique cemetery, established by the monastery in 1982. Its ornate, predominantly-black granite headstones with gilt lettering stand in stark contrast to the surrounding fields. There is a small lake nearby.

*Barry Fitzgerald*



(Left) One of the beautiful monuments at the St Sava cemetery. Dragisa Jefic travels from Melbourne to Elaine each Saturday to tend to the grave of her husband who died from cancer in 2001 at age 56. The right side of the tomb will be her final resting place.

## Buninyong in figures

# SNAPSHOTS OF THE 2016 CENSUS

Despite the fact that the Commonwealth bureaucrats had major problems with their on-line collection of information for the 2016 Census, there are always some items of interest for small communities such as Buninyong when the data are published.

For example, between 2011 and 2016, the population in the Buninyong Local Government Area (LGA) rose 15.6 per cent - from 3214 to 3714.

On the other hand Alfredton's leapt by over 28 per cent from 7195 to 9229. Ballarat was lagging with an increase of just 8.8 per cent to now 101,868.

Household income in Buninyong is now higher than that in Alfredton or in Ballarat. The Census reported that weekly household income in Buninyong was up 18.9 per cent from \$1323 to \$1573, now slightly ahead of Alfredton's \$1527 and Ballarat's \$1160.

### Dwellings

The number of private dwellings rocketed by 30.8 per cent in Alfredton since the last census with now 3379 dwellings to be found there. Buninyong showed a more modest increase of almost 11 per cent now reaching 1334.

The Table shows the age distribution in the three local areas. The perception that Buninyong is a community with many aged people is not evident in the data.

Age	Buninyong			Ballarat			Alfredton		
	2011	2016	% inc	2011	2016	% inc	2011	2016	% inc
0-14 years	712	847	19.0	18163	19465	7.1	1675	2059	22.9
15-24 years	398	380	-4.5	14300	14147	-1.1	1065	1329	24.8
25-39 years	524	526	0.1	17666	19204	8.7	1291	1678	30.0
45-54 years	731	785	7.4	18382	19220	4.6	1617	1958	21.1
50-69 years	624	789	26.4	14868	17626	18.5	992	1413	42.4
70+ years	354	374	5.6	10121	12030	18.9	553	779	40.9

Some 10.2 per cent of the population here is over 70 years of age compared to 12 per cent in Ballarat and 8.4 per cent in Alfredton. In the inter-census period Buninyong showed a modest growth of 5.6 per cent in this category.

### Religions

Religious affiliations of respondents to the 2016 census show that in Buninyong there are 811 Catholics, 422 Anglicans, 333 'other' Christians, 121 Uniting, 77 Presbyterian & Reformed, 53 Church of Christ, 30 Baptists and 4 Hindus.

When details of family ancestry were given, there remained a high proportion of those who indicated that their ancestors came from the United Kingdom and Europe as shown below.

It should be noted that because people reported ancestors coming from more than one country or area these numbers exceed our population of 3714

### Ancestry

United Kingdom	2814	New Zealand/Maori	19
Australia	1532	South Africa	11
Europe	399	Middle East	11
Asia	50	Other/not stated	376

There were 33 persons of aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander heritage from Buninyong in the Census results

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# Festival fun for everyone

Lots of organisation and planning has been going on behind the scenes for the 2017 Buninyong Festival to ensure that everyone in the community, from young to old, will enjoy a fun day out!

The Buninyong Festival, a free community event, is to be held on Sunday 29 October. Starting at 9am and finishing at 4pm there will be a day chock-full with entertainment and activities. "You'll definitely need to make a whole day of it," said **Lisa Cressey**, President of the Festival. "We think we have managed to put together a really good day of entertainment for everyone."

## Park setting

Under the gorgeous trees in Desoza Park there will be over 80 unique market stalls, ranging from hand made children's clothing, kaftans and candles, to jewellery, jams and pyjamas.

On the food front, every food group will be covered – delicious American-style BBQ from *The Gypsy's Lunchbox*, slow-cooked pork rolls and saddle-back sausages from *Zed & Co Freerange Farms*, wood-fired pizzas from the *Red Door Pizzeria* to Dutch mini pancakes from *Golden Poffertjes* – as well as plenty of other food trucks. You can plan what you will be eating on Festival day by visiting the Festival website.



At the main stage, you'll be able to enjoy local dance schools' performances, an uplifting performance by the famous *Ballarat Ukulele Group*, local singer-songwriter **Geoffrey Williams'** soulful sounds, as well as meeting a *Bird of Prey!*

## Dinosaur

One of the highlights of the Festival this year will be a visit from *Toby the Dinosaur* (pictured above). Your imagination will come to life with a thrilling interactive dinosaur stage-show; this will be followed by a roving meet-and-greet around the Festival grounds!

In the afternoon, sit back and relax in the *Atwoods Pop-Up Wine Bar* and chill to the sounds of *The Infusers* - a six piece local band playing a lively blend of bluegrass, country, rock and blues. They use a multitude of instruments and harmonised

vocals to create a unique take on some familiar (and not-so-familiar) songs.

## Town Hall too

At the Town Hall precinct, the CFA will have their annual open day; you can take a look at the lovingly restored vintage cars; make a *Boomerang Bag* in the Town Hall and enjoy the Art Show of local artists' work. Historical displays will set up about the Festival and region and informative history walks by the Buninyong Historical Society will also leave from the Town Hall.

Posters and a full-colour brochure will be distributed to the district at the beginning of October and will also be available in shops and cafes in Buninyong and Ballarat.

For more information of what's happening at the Festival – check out the Festival website – [www.buninyongfestival.com.au](http://www.buninyongfestival.com.au)

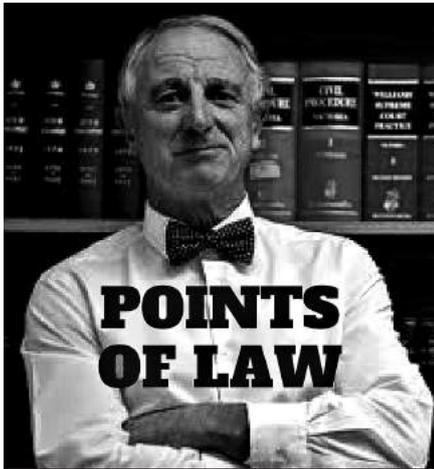
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The press often carries news items about charges laid against those who are alleged to have broken one or more of the road laws. Some issues such as parking offences come under the control of local government, but most are police matters.

## Driving offences do hurt

There would be only a small number of people driving some form of motor vehicle who have not run foul of the road law at some time. Most are relatively minor traffic infringement offences, but unfortunately, more serious cases such as those relating to drug use are on the increase.

All drivers should be aware of the law relating to driving offences and this short article merely provides an overview.

Infringement Notices are usually issued for most driving offences such as;

- drink driving
- drug driving
- excessive speed
- traffic infringements, such as failing to stop at a Stop Sign
- detection device, such as running a red light.

If served with an *Infringement Notice* a person may either accept the penalty which could include a fine and loss of licence, or not accept and lodge an objection within 28 days, but this involves going to Court.

It is possible for drivers with a good record who have been charged with a minor traffic offence (not including drink/drug-driving) to have the *Infringement Notice* withdrawn and receive an official warning by writing to the Penalty Review Section, 277 William Street, Melbourne 3000, ph 9200 8111.

Grounds for review are

- if you believe that the serving of the notice was contrary to law
- there is a mistake in identity
- your conduct should be excused as exceptional
- if other special circumstances apply

If in the opinion of the Police the offence is serious, then a Summons to appear in Court to answer the charges will be issued and the advice of a lawyer is recommended.

*Of necessity this article provides 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.*

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### No Suburbia

The Buninyong and District Community Association (BDCA) thanks the new Buninyong Business Network for its recent presentation to Council. As reported in *The Courier* (12 August, p3) it seems the BBN, with the help of Cr Taylor, may have helped to shift a decade-long resistance to planning a truck bypass of Buninyong. Council resolved to ask the state government to start planning.

The issue is of central concern to the BDCA. We have written letters, reports and articles, made submissions, attended panels and meetings, and last year formed a dedicated *Bypass* sub-committee.

On behalf of the BDCA, I wrote to *The Courier* to respond to some errors in the report. One was that we were referred to as the Buninyong Progress Association when, years ago, the group was renamed the *Buninyong and District Community Association*.

The other error was an assertion in the report that Buninyong is “going to be suburbia”, presented as a ‘given’. We think that gives all Buninyong residents a strong incentive to turn up and have a say when the Buninyong Township Plan is initiated by Council early in 2018.

It’s a suggestion that is contrary to the vision for Buninyong’s future gathered via membership at meetings last year and at the very well-attended Buninyong Imagine event held in June.

The Municipal Association of Victoria’s *2017 Future of Local Government* conference declared that Councils should allow room for residents’ own initiative in shaping their local future. The *Township Plan* will bring Buninyong just such an opportunity

Linda Zibell, President  
Buninyong & District Community Assoc

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AUTHORISED BY CATHERINE KING, 5 LYDIARD ST NTH BALLARAT 3350

# HAPPENINGS AND COMING EVENTS

**Friday 6 October/Saturday 7**

**October. Living with Bushfire Community Conference.** Federation University, Mt Helen Campus. From 8.30am. **Grant Palmer**, 5327 9102.

Details and program [federation.edu.au/bushfire-conference](http://federation.edu.au/bushfire-conference).

**Wednesday 11 October, 4.00pm.**

*Buninyong Marmalade Association* AGM. Buninyong Town Hall.

**Thursday 12 October, History of**

*Williamson's Creek.* Guest speaker Anne Beggs-Sunter at general meeting of Upper Williamson's Creek Landcare Group. Scotsburn Hall, 7.30pm.

**Saturday 14 October, 9.30am. Wind**

*Farm Bus Tour.* From Royal Park. Leigh Catchment Group. 0426 873 202

**Sunday 15 October. 12.00 noon.**

*Getting to Know You.* Invitation to Buninyong/Scotsburn people. Shared Finger food lunch (BYO), followed by church service. Scotsburn Union Church, Midland Hwy. **Heather Stokes** 5341 7609

**Saturday 21 October, 9.30am-**

**1.30pm. Historical Society Photograph Day.** Bring your photographs, documents, records along to the Old Court House, Buninyong Town Hall.

**Saturday 21 October, 12-5.00pm.**

*Discover the Treasures of the Yarrowee.* Kids Science/Arts Festival. Yuille Wetlands, off Vickers Street, Sebastopol. Open to children and families. 0426 873 202

**Wednesday 25 October, 7.00pm.**

*Steiner School and Kindergarten, Information Night.* Steiner School, Moss Avenue. 5341 8188

**Thursday 26 October, 7.00 pm.**

*Buninyong & District Community Association, Meeting and AGM.* Buninyong Town Hall. All welcome.

**Sunday 29 October, 9.00am-4.00pm.**

*Buninyong Festival.* Desoza Park and surrounds and Town Hall precinct.

**Saturday/Sunday, 11 and 12**

**November, 10.00am-4.00pm. Ballarat Gardens in Spring.** Including three local gardens the Burnham, King gardens in Scotsburn and the McLeod garden at Mt Buninyong. Entry \$5, Children free. See [ballaratpengardens.com.au](http://ballaratpengardens.com.au). **Wendy Taylor**, 047 554 306

**Sunday 12 November, 9.00am-**

**1.00pm. Buninyong Gardens Spring Market.** Buninyong Botanic Gardens.

**Sunday 19 November. Noon-**

**3.00pm. Community Bank Community Appreciation Day.** Desoza Park. Free BBQ, Kids' fun activities. The Bank's thanks to the Buninyong and district community for their support.

**Friday 24 November, 6.00pm.**

*Gumboots and Gowns- 20 years of LPG Celebration.* Garibaldi Hall. **Michelle Harvey** 0417 359 724

**Saturday 9 December, 4.00pm-**

**8.00pm. Buninyong Village Twilight Market.** Buninyong Town Hall.



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Shown at the presentation are (L to R) RSL Past President Brian Parker, Daryl Wallis (City of Ballarat), RSL Secretary Bob Bennett, and Wayne Pelchen (WVP)

# Avenue helpers thanked by RSL

Two people who gave great assistance to the RSL's 1 July Avenue of Honour event were thanked and presented with commemorative medallions and certificates of appreciation recently by Buninyong RSL members at their monthly meeting.

Daryl Wallis, City of Ballarat's Coordinator of Parks and Gardens and Wayne Pelchen of WVP Ballarat each "made a significant contribution to the success of the event," according to RSL Secretary **Bob Bennett**.

Mr Bennett said that in the weeks leading up to the hugely successful event, Daryl Wallis and his team had been responsible for final tree plantings, mulching,

groundworks, clearing of ivy, grass cutting and other works along the Learmonth Street Avenue.

Wayne Pelchen had given the organising committee expert advice on the major exercise of closing two highways, and had liaised with a traffic management company, the Council, and VicRoads concerning our complicated road closure application.

"On the day of the event, at no cost to the RSL, Wayne and his staff had put in many, many hours to set up the large number of signs, staff detours, close off assembly areas and generally ensure that safety measures were all in place," Mr Bennett said.

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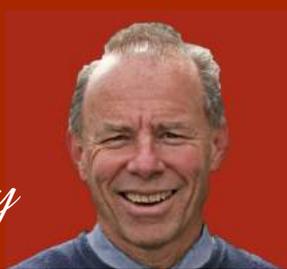
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Ricky and Tanya Innes chat with Flynn Eustace at the Grandparents and Special Friends day

## School's grannies' and friends' day was a big hit

One of the highlights for pupils at the Buninyong and Scotsburn school campuses is the annual Grandparents and Special Friends morning. A large number of visitors came along and enjoyed their time back in the classroom. As usual many families helped out with a wonderful morning tea for the guests.

Another recent visitor to the Scotsburn Campus was **Gordon Reynolds** from the South Street Debating competitions. He made a presentation to young **Drew Davis** who had won the distinction of the Best Male Debater for his age group.

## Bushfire conference at Fed Uni

**Federation University will host the fourth Living with Bushfire Community Conference on Friday 6 October and Saturday 7 October at the Mt Helen Campus.**

The expected 300 attendees will hear from leading emergency services personnel (including **Craig Lapsley**, Emergency Management Commissioner), agency and industry experts, scientists and community groups.

There will be a strong representation from the Scotsburn community in the conference program. On the Saturday there will be a session on the Scotsburn

Bushfire Experience. Details of the program can be found at [federation.edu.au/bushfireconference](http://federation.edu.au/bushfireconference). Registrations are from 8.30am on each day and enquiries to **Dr Grant Palmer**, 5327 9102

## Call for photographs

**The Historical Society has an extensive collection of photographs of Buninyong, but the group is always looking for more.**

Some people may think the Society is only interested in old photos of "important" events or people, but they are just as interested in more recent everyday photos. These can tell a surprising amount about life in our town and the old Buninyong Shire.

Documents are also of interest, no matter how mundane they may seem – receipts, letters, tickets etc. You'd be surprised the things we like to see.

So we are holding a *Photograph Day* on Saturday 21 October, 9.30am– 1.30pm. The Society is not asking you to give us your photographs, just the opportunity to take a digital copy to add to our archives.

Volunteers will be on hand to scan the photos and take down any information you can provide about them. We may also be able to help you identify the location of photos you are not sure about.

We look forward to seeing you on 21 October at the History Centre in the old Court House, Buninyong Town Hall.



## POLICE BEAT

**OVERNIGHT** between 4-5 August 2017, residents of an Eddy Avenue, Mt Helen address were the victims of an aggravated burglary. Unknown offenders entered the house through an unlocked sliding door and took a set of car keys whilst the victims were sleeping. The victims' *Subaru* was then stolen. A Mt Helen resident, 35, has since been charged in relation to the stolen vehicle.

**A SEARCH WARRANT** was executed at an address in Darriwell Drive, Mt Helen on 9 August 2017 by police. As a result, police located a quantity of amphetamine, cannabis, ecstasy and hash. A 34 year old Ballarat resident was arrested and later conveyed to the Ballarat Police Station where he was interviewed and charged with drug offences. He faced the Ballarat Magistrate's Court on 14 September 2017.

**A WORK TRAILER** was entered in Durham Lead between 18 and 21 August 2017. The victim discovered that offenders had taken a number of items including a *Husqvarna* chainsaw, brush cutter and blower.

**THE BUNINYONG GOLF CLUB** fell victim to a Burglar on 20 August 2017. The quick footed thief/thieves were in and out in under five minutes. Fortunately, the Club was left undisturbed for the most part apart from some damage to a wooden door. Presumably the same offender/s returned on 3 September 2017 with Security and staff in attendance in record time.

**AFTER SOME RECENT** complaints from parents regarding speeding drivers in Learmonth Street during school times, police have been spending time providing a visible presence and performing speed detection. Unfortunately despite the signage and flashing LEDs, drivers are still not getting the message. Fortunately, the majority of offending drivers are not Buninyong locals.

# Council responds to lights problems

**An approach by the BDCA to local Ward Councillors to assist in getting Council action on two township lighting issues has borne fruit.**

One issue was the lack of security lighting in the newly-sealed car park at the rear of the service station. This unlit area has been of concern to late-night shoppers and particularly to supermarket staff using the car park area after dark.

The other matter was the theft of the solar panels from the four township entrance signs.

A response to a submission from BDCA's **Barry Fitzgerald** on these matters came from Council's Director of Infrastructure and Environment, **Terry Demeo**. He agreed that the provision of suitable lighting to the car park would be beneficial to the community, and Council will investigate options to achieve this.

He said that Powercor has now been contacted by Council with a request to provide a suitable light on an existing pole in the Forest Street road reserve.



On the second issue, Terry Demeo advised that Council will investigate in conjunction with our electrical contractors, a more robust solution that is cost effective to light the signage. A meeting has now been held with Council's **Peter Bate** to

consider the problem of providing secure lighting to the stone *Buninyong* entrance signs.

*(Above) City of Ballarat's Peter Bate (left) at a meeting with BDCA members Ian Salathiel (right) and Barry Fitzgerald to discuss the Buninyong lighting matters*



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Boom in BYO cups at Maggie & Kates

# Helping save the planet with coffee

One Buninyong café owner wants to help save the environment .... one reusable coffee cup at a time. Upon realising she was buying and using approximately 2000 disposable coffee cups each fortnight for takeaway drinks, Katrine Taylor, of Maggie & Kate, knew something had to be done.

“Some customers come in twice a day, so they were using up to two disposable cups a day, and that soon adds up,” Katrine said.

While the disposable cups that she uses are biodegradable, she wanted to promote the use of recyclable cups. So, since June this year, Katrine has been stocking *Keep*

*Cups*, available in plastic, glass or glass with cork. At *Maggie & Kate* the purchase of a *Keep Cup* comes with a free fill.

**Popular**

Many Buninyong residents have jumped on board and either are now using a *Keep Cup* or something similar.

“Sometimes people who live close by will bring their own mug from home,” Katrine said. “I’ve noticed people are getting into the habit of bringing their cups. Certainly we are trying to get the regular coffee drinker to realise what a difference it can make.”

Katrine has already sold about 100 *Keep Cups*, and she is on the way to her goal of halving the amount of takeaway cups purchased each fortnight.

Katrine says that she was impressed by *Buninyong Foodworks’* efforts to reduce plastic bag use, and she hoped businesses could do the same with disposable coffee cups.

Other Buninyong coffee businesses also encourage residents to bring their own cup, and some give a discount – in the next issue, the *Buninyong News* will do a survey of the scene.

Amy Darby Walker



Katrine Taylor shows the *Keep Cups* at *Maggie & Kates*

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# Red and blacks do town proud

**Buninyong has been well represented by their red and black sporting teams over the winter season. Both the Buninyong Bombers Football/Netball sides and the Buninyong Redbacks Soccer Club performed well during the season without the success in the Finals they would have liked.**

Grand Finals victories went to the *Bomber's* Reserves football team, and 13 & Under Girls netball team. The 13 & Under girls went through the season as undefeated Premiers and the Reserves only lost one game during their premiership season.

## Reserves

The Grand Final win for the Buninyong Reserves was a well-deserved one after going into the 2016 finals as hot favourites and just missing out. This year Buninyong 7.8.50 defeated Beaufort 5.12.42.

Top performers for Buninyong were goal scorers **A. Scott 2, M. Phelps 2, C. O'Keefe, K. Terry, J. Mann**, and the best players were **D. Kelly, A. Scott, M. Phelps, J. Finley, L. Burbidge**, and **J. Mann**

With only those two premierships to show at the end of the finals series the Club may be a little disappointed that there weren't more to celebrate. The 15 & Under boys had a brilliant season and were very unlucky to lose the only game of the season by four points in the preliminary final.

Overall, the Bombers football and netball sides had strong

performances throughout the season culminating in all four football and all six netball sides playing in finals.

## Redbacks' soccer

The season is also over for the *Buninyong Redbacks'* soccer teams. After being in finals' contention for most of the season, the Division 1 side found the competition at the top level tougher than their 2016 Div. 2 Premiership season. They faded at the end of the home and away rounds and slipped out of the four after a last-round loss.

The only team to play in a final was the U16 Girls' side in their first year in the competition. Unfortunately, they went out in the first semi-final.

The U15 Div 2 side were the best performers for the *Redbacks* in 2017. They finished on top of the ladder and also featured in both of the main awards for their division.

**Yuri Hoashi** easily won the Best & Fairest with 36 votes, and **Bailey Webb** won the goal scoring award with 24 goals. A highlight of the *Redbacks'* season was the opening of their new pitch at Royal Park.

*Ray Sullivan*

## Ray Sullivan's SPORTS NEWS

### Bowlers ready to go

Buninyong lawn bowlers are looking forward to the start of the new season in October and to the opening of their new green. The green looks fantastic and greenkeeper **Scott Roberts** and his volunteer team are doing everything possible to have it ready for the first game of the season.

### Social bowls

The Club is running a Social Bowls competition for new bowlers and community members every second and fourth Friday of the month from 1.00pm to 3.00pm. Entry is \$5 per player and includes afternoon tea. Bowls supplied. Entries close at 12:30pm on the day. Contact **Bill Bridges**: 0408 413 659

### Giggles on the grass

Have fun and learn to play bowls. A *girls only* event with prizes and bowling information is set for the Buninyong Bowling Club on Sunday 15 October. Nibbles and drinks to follow the game. Contact **Barbara Voigt** 0407 048 159 or **Patti McGregor** 0407 522 585

### Medal to Jason

The golf club's September Monthly Medal went to C-Grade golfer, **Jason Porter**. Jason mastered the extremely windy conditions to score 68 nett. Two shots behind Jason were **Peter Kerwan, Wayne Parker** and **Gary Tolliday** with nett 70s.



*Bombers Reserves footballers celebrate their Premiership win*

# Versatile vet to the rescue

When Dr Rebecca Jennings opened her veterinary practice in Buninyong last April, she told *The News* that initially “the clinic would concentrate on small animals – dogs, cats, rabbits, ferrets, guinea pigs- and birds.”

However that list has had to be quickly adjusted in recent weeks when Dr



Jennings has been called on to tend to a young goat which had fractured its tibia in a farm accident. He had a splint placed and should make a full recovery. This young goat is looking for a good home – call the Clinic on 5312 9727.

## Sick snake

Another interesting challenge for the vet was to tend to a juvenile jungle carpet python which had developed a prolapse of the cloaca. Snakes do not have urinary tracts or a ‘bottom’, just a cloaca – a cavity at the end of the digestive tract. The snake’s prolapse had resulted in an abnormal protrusion of tissues through the opening.



Dr Jennings said that snakes are very sensitive creatures and any changes in food temperature or humidity can cause them problems. She repaired the prolapse surgically, gave the snake medication, and he is now doing well. The young snake will grow to some 1.8m when an adult.

# Winners of tree photos

A recent Buninyong competition brought some wonderful old local trees to life in all their photographic majesty. Each of the contestants had photographed their favourite tree and described its importance to themselves.

Winner of the Primary School section was **Logan Smith** from Buninyong Primary School who was enthused by the trees with red flowers that smell good and which are inhabited by all manner of insects and also a passing echidna. Commended for their photographs were **Madison Rosenhart** from Emmaus Primary School with her ‘magic faraway tree’ and **Henry Oldaker** from Buninyong Primary with his ‘gum tree at Nan and Granddad’s house that he climbs’.

**Peter Hiscock** won the Open Section with a photograph of a very old Messmate on the slopes of Mt Buninyong.

Peter’s winning photograph and some others are shown on page 20.

Commended in the Open section were **Henk Batstra** with his old, ugly tree that he ‘loves to hug’, **Sue Pilbeam** with a eucalyptus that reminds her of ‘the forest that once swept down from the Mount and along the creek’. Also commended were **Cheryl** and **Malcolm Anderson** who chose a huge tree near the top of the Australian Cycling Championship circuit

on Mt Buninyong, and also **Margaret O’Brien** with her ‘poetic’ oak.

Organiser of the event **Roger Permezel** was very happy at the success of the inaugural competition as it highlighted the value to Buninyong of its uniquely treed landscape. He thanked the Buninyong Community Bank and Board member, **Steve Falconer** who presented the awards.

*Russell Luckock*



(Above) Shown with FBBG President Roger Permezel (second from left) are Henk Batstra, Malcolm Anderson, Cheryl Anderson, Sue Pilbeam. Margaret O’Brien, Peter Hiscock, Logan Smith. (Front) Henry Oldaker and Madison Rosenhart.

Gardens group competition

# Pick of best loved trees

The *My Favourite Tree* competition recently conducted by the Friends of the Botanic Gardens resulted in some outstanding photographs of best loved trees in the district.

Shown here are three photographs of trees that were awarded prizes in their particular sections. Entrants also had to provide a few words to explain why the tree was a favourite.

In addition to those shown, other winners were:

*Primary Student Section* : First Prize : **Logan Smith**.  
Commendation: **Henry Oldaker**

*Open Section*: Commendations: **Margaret O'Brien, Susan Pilbeam, Malcolm/Cheryl Anderson**

A selection of the prize-winning 'favourite tree' photographs is now on permanent display at the Old Police Station, the home of the Friends of the Botanic Gardens



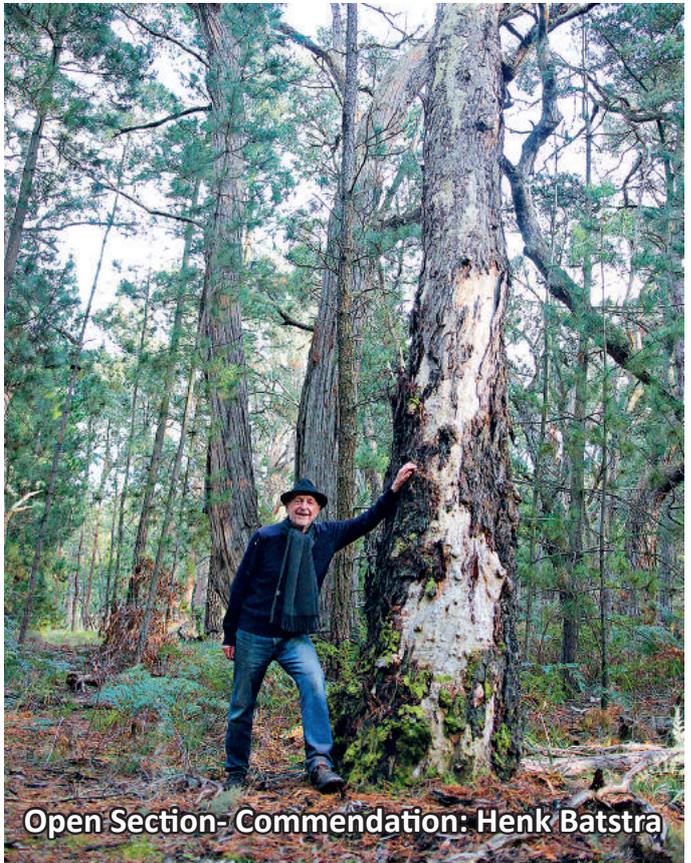
**Open Section-First Prize : Peter Hiscock**

"This is a very old messmate (*E.obliqua*) on the upper reaches of the Blackberry Lane track on Mt Buninyong. Being on a road reserve the tree is unmolested, and would likely measure over 1.5m in diameter."



**Primary Student Section : Commendation: Madison Rosenhart**

"I call this tree the Magic Faraway Tree. It feels magical because I imagine that fairies live inside the trunk. It is easy to climb and you can even crawl into the trunk. I always head for this tree when visiting my nana in Buninyong."



**Open Section- Commendation: Henk Batstra**

"This is a classic tree on my Henderson Road property. It stands stylish and proud. While it has shed some limbs over the past 33 years, it refuses to lie down. It's a talking point for new and old friends."