



Primary school medallions bring **SMILES ALL AROUND**



Emmaus Catholic Primary School students look happy after receiving their medals from Vic Bradley and Bill Akell. Front :Ruby Byrne, Alexis Boehm, Oaklee Burge, Vincent Foley and Sadie McAteer. (Back) Jonte McCann, Allira Kennedy.

All primary school students in the Buninyong district have been presented with commemorative medallions by the Buninyong RSL. The medal presentations were part of the recent celebrations to mark the restoration of Buninyong's 100 year old Avenue of Honour, an event highlighted by the huge community march and RAAF flyover on 1 July.

Almost 1900 bronze medallions with their red, white and blue ribbons were specially designed and produced to give young pupils from districts of the former Shire of Buninyong a lasting memento and an ongoing reminder of the significance of the World War One Memorial Avenue.

(continued p12)

Above: Buninyong Primary School Principal Bernie Conlan with RSL's Vic Bradley and Bill Akell after presenting medals to Bella Vagg, Lucas Wells, Thomas Campbell, Thomas Wardle, Spencer Stewart, Alexander Schnerring and Charlie Conroy.

Business meeting packs the Red Door

Another full house of business owners and operators filled the Red Door Pizzeria when a second meeting of the group was held in early August. The attendance of some thirty-eight people followed an earlier meeting with about the same number attending.

These meetings followed a challenge issued by planning guru, **Peter Kenyon**, when he addressed local business owners in June and indicated the need for mutual assistance and support.

Catering was undertaken by **Katrine Taylor** of *Maggie & Kate* while Community Bank sponsorship assisted with costs of the evening. The Bank was represented by Board member, **Ian Corcoran**, and Manager, **Randall Drever**.

New local event

The first part of the meeting discussed ways of businesses being able to leverage off the annual Australian Road Cycling Championships held in Buninyong.

While many experienced road cyclists like to ride the circuit at other times of the



year, the danger posed by traffic and the narrow sections of road on the side of the mountain is a deterrent to other cyclists, particularly families.

This led to the suggestion that the group should look at ways of arranging another local cycling event – for example, *The Buninyong Cycle Classic* – which would use another district circuit, and which might cater for cyclists of various levels of experience and age.

Another idea raised was the use of tracks within Union Jack Reserve for cycling.

A small sub-committee was formed to look at this and other cycling-related issues such as approaching Council to complete the 750m or so of walking/cycling track in the vicinity of Aubrey's Road.

Also discussed was the revamped village festival to be held in late October and

this year to be known as *The Buninyong Festival*. Organiser, **Lisa Cressey**, told the meeting that the new-look festival would involve a street parade and would “marry” the best features of the Good Life and the Gold King Festivals.

Directory

BDCA member **Barry Fitzgerald** advised of meetings with **Cr Ben Taylor** and with landscape architect **David Turley** to clarify present planning activity by Council on the streetscape of Warrenheip Street. He said that a prime objective was to get Council to upgrade the business strip between Forest and Eyre Streets.

Megan Holman advised that she had started work on a *Buninyong Business Directory* and invited up-to-date-information on businesses to be sent to her. Together with **Simon Coghlan**, she acted as facilitator for the meeting.

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Child care centres One is go, the other slow

With builders now gutting the Village Place (old Shire Offices), the opening date for the Montessori Child Care Centre in Learmonth Street has been moved back for an opening here "early in 2018".

Structural modifications recently made to the building have included major demolition of existing internal walls which will be replaced with the construction of five dedicated rooms for children.

The previous Board Room will become the staff area, and an administration area will be located in the entry to areas formerly occupied by a real estate agency and later legal offices. Overall there is more than 600m² of floor space in the building.

Outdoor play areas of about 600m² will be constructed at the rear of the eastern side of the building.

The centre will be operated by the *Amiga Montessori* group which has 26 other centres across Australia and overseas.

Concerns

This centre has been developed by Buninyong businessman, **Gerard Ballantyne**, who said that the centre would open between 7.00am and 6.00pm five days each week and will cater for up to 100 children. Eighteen staff will be employed.



Gerard Ballantyne inspects the demolition work inside Village Place.

Mr Ballantyne said that there will be ten staff parking spots in a car park to the rear of the building with another six spaces in a laneway leading to Scott Street.

"I know that there have been some local concerns about parking and access to the Centre but approval has been given for drop-off parking and visitor parking to the front of the building. Parents can also drop off children in the car park area to the rear of the Town Hall," he said.

The Montessori approach to the education/care of the young is said to be quite different to the "normal" child care and kindergarten approach.

They refer to it as "pre-school" and the children's activities are "part of a carefully-planned, purpose-filled formal curriculum."

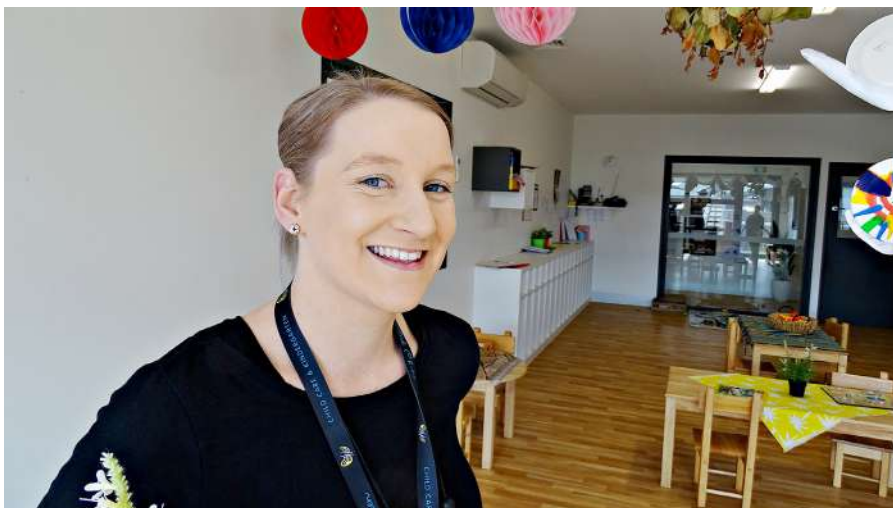
United

The other centre planned for Buninyong was proposed to be constructed on a block of land fronting both Palmerston and Inglis Streets near the old tennis courts.

This project would operate under the *United Children* banner. In addition to a recently-opened centre in Albert Street, Sebastopol this group has child care centres in Bendigo and Geelong, and another due to open in Smythes Road, Delacombe in a few days' time.

When contacted by *The News*, a spokesperson for United Children said he was unable to provide any details about the Buninyong Centre at this stage. Therefore no information is currently available regarding the opening date, hours of operation, number of child care places, staffing or parking provisions.

Earlier, contact had been made with a staff member at the Albert Street centre, **Rachel Condon**, who told *The News* that she had been appointed to head up the Buninyong centre.



Rachel Condon will head up the United Children's Centre to be built in Palmerston Street.



Newcomer Judy's favourite things

Judy Verlin knew that one of the benefits of living in Buninyong would be the strong sense of community.

Her first choice was the bridge over the Union Jack Creek in Desoza Park. After a back reconstruction last year Judy has to walk regularly and it is around the bridge that she gets a real sense of the village community.

People stop and chat, dogs sniff and wag their tails, kids ride their bikes, joggers jog.

On the morning of our visit, there was even a prospector there searching for old coins and artefacts. The bridge is one of her favourite places.

Gathering Place

Judy is well aware that Desoza Park is the place where Buninyong residents come together for Christmas activities, fairs and social gatherings and where parents bring children to play and run about.

Judy enjoys the range of walking: flat areas, hilly areas, easy walks, challenging walks and, importantly, all the while feeling completely safe.

For a small village Buninyong has a surprising number of old buildings, all proudly maintained and still in use.

Avenue of Honour

The Buninyong RSL Park, building, military memorabilia and of course the World War 1 Avenue of Honour – the focus of the recent July 1 celebrations - was Judy's next choice.

While the RSL Hall itself is not historically very significant, it contains many significant historical items, including most of the Rolls of Honour from district schools, many now closed.

Together with the Avenue of Honour, these items represent sacrifice, history, poignancy and pride.

In last month's edition of *The News* long-term Buninyong resident John Emery commented on five "things about Buninyong" that he thought a visitor here should not miss.

This month former Ballarat Mayor, Judy Verlin AM, who with husband Ron only moved into their Buninyong home some seven months ago chats about features of the village that she is attracted to or moved by.

Judy continues to have a busy community life being involved with the Board of Sovereign Hill, and is Chair of the Ballarat Cemetery Trust.

In 2015, Federation University awarded her an Honorary Doctorate for her services to the community.

Next on her list was the chance to *walk through history* following and reading from the blue 'Historical Buildings of Buninyong' plaques on many old buildings, ranging from small shops to grand houses.

As Chair of the Ballarat Cemetery Trust, Judy is very interested in local cemeteries and is especially proud of Buninyong's cemetery, the second cemetery registered in Victoria.

The first burial occurred in 1852 and they continue to the present day. Wandering through the cemetery is a walk through history.

With the rise in Buninyong's population, the cemetery is now seeking land to cope with demands way into the future.

After being very involved in public life from 1996, Judy now enjoys having some private time. She has started patchwork quilting (very badly!!), planting fruit trees, and making jams and relish. She and husband Ron also intend to travel.

So if the curious visitor to Buninyong asked Judy Verlin what "not to miss", she would list

- Desoza Park and especially its quaint bridge over the creek
- the plaques on many of the historical buildings
- the Avenue of Honour with its new commemorative plaques, RSL Park and Hall
- the historic Buninyong Cemetery

- Cassandra Carland

Need for longer-term mayors and planners

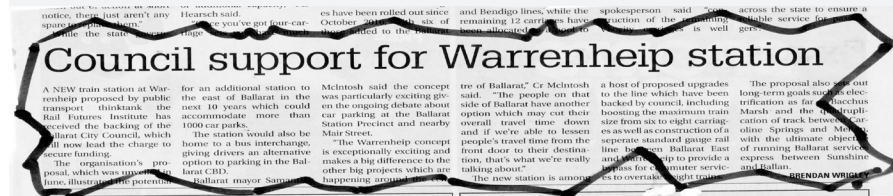
One of the problems with local government is the regular turnover of senior employed staff and elected officials. This is particularly the case where long-term planning is involved and where the “corporate memory” often goes out the door with the departure of key players.

In recent years there has been a revolving door of senior planning staff at the City of Ballarat. Some have gone by choice, others with encouragement. In the last ten years there has been at least eight staff with major responsibility for “strategic planning”.

put to the Council on several occasions over the past six or seven years by the Buninyong & District Community Association (BDCA). Sure, the BDCA is not a learned “think tank” of rail professionals, engineers and economists. But it is a group of community members who are well aware of local issues or problems, and who are smart enough to make constructive suggestions or solutions.

Lost or unread

Look for example at the BDCA’s detailed response to the City of Ballarat Planning Strategy’s *Vision for 2040* policy



Also in the same period there have been nine Mayors (Jones, Verlin, Fletcher, Harris, Burt, Morris, Philips, Hudson and McIntosh).

With such changes there always follows a flurry of media photographs as a new Mayor runs with some favourite issue or becomes excited about a new development for the city. Incoming strategic planners often depart before they have a chance to get their teeth into proposals languishing in documents for which an earlier incumbent was responsible.

Mayor excited

A good example of this could be seen in the article in *The Courier* of 5 August where Council was reported as “backing” a proposal by a respected think-tank group called *The Rail Futures Institute (RFI)* which in June 2017 came up with a proposal for a “new train station at Warrenheip.”

Mayor **Cr Samantha McIntosh** was reported as saying *the concept was particularly exciting and makes a big difference to other big projects that are happening around the city.*

That’s great! But this “exciting” proposal about the Warrenheip station has been

document. In January 2015 the BDCA submitted that *“The investigation of a possible railway station at Warrenheip, supported by bus and road linkages to areas such as Technology Park, Federation University and Buninyong have been put to Council by this Association over recent years.*

The proposal to undertake ‘feasibility’ work on such a development is strongly supported.”

Indeed it’s even more puzzling that the Mayor and the Council have just now become quite fizzed up about the RFI’s “recently unveiled” proposal, when Council’s own 2014 glossy planning document *Preliminary Ballarat Strategy :Today Tomorrow Together* discussed at some length the proposition that a new station at Warrenheip *“could form part of a new vision for development in the area, and offer the opportunity to act as a transport hub (p.38)....”* Didn’t anyone at Town Hall read or recall that? Or have they all gone?

This rail-station-for-Warrenheip example seems to be a good reason for three year terms for city Mayors and minimum three year contracts for statutory planners.



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

Published monthly

Management Committee:
Gayle Adams, Michelle Corcoran.

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Design: Sara Mangere

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.

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Newsletter printed by Baxter and Stubbs, Ballarat.

Newsletter available online in full colour at:
www.buninyong.vic.au/news/newsletters

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Challenge on for the 2018 MarmalAshes

Following on from Buninyong's hard-fought victory over the England XI in the 2017 MarmalAshes, preparations are now underway for the 2018 challenge. Since the inaugural MarmalAshes in 2011 the Australian XI has had four wins, one draw and the England XI have won twice – but the support of the Buninyong community is again needed in 2018 to beat friendly adversaries, the Poms.

The *MarmalAshes* and *Marmalade Fair* have become popular events in Buninyong's social calendar and to allow these events to continue the Committee is seeking to recruit new enthusiastic members from the Buninyong community to join the Committee in organising and promoting these events.

The Committee is also looking forward to receiving many entries from the Buninyong district and, as the Australian citrus season is just starting, it's now time to prepare entries.

Big range

The range of marmalades to be made is endless. Some of the varieties received in last year's competition ranged from the traditional Seville Orange, Grapefruit and Cumquat to the flavoured varieties of Lemon and Passionfruit, Lemon, Carrot & Ginger, and Orange, Chilli and Ginger. So gather your citrus and make some marvellous tangy, tasty marmalade for

the 2018 competition. Entry fees are \$8 and, as in previous years, the entry fee is donated to hospice and palliative care organisations.

Over \$5,900 has been raised to date.

Entries close on 25 January 2018. Please send two-jar entries into Buninyong anytime in January before that date. Entry forms and further information is available from www.buninyong.vic.au/marmalade.

AGM

The *MarmalAshes Buninyong Marmalade Association* also advises that the Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 11 October 2017 at 4pm in the Buninyong Town Hall. All members of the community are most welcome to attend.

(Above) Buninyong's June Henderson getting ingredients ready for her entries in the 2018 Marmalade Fair. June has been a consistent prize winner at both the Buninyong and Cumbria (UK) fairs since the challenge event was started in 2011





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Call for help with new-look festival

A new name, a new(ish) committee and a new program of events is coming for the 2017 Buninyong Festival in October!

Buninyong has had an innovative and engaging community-driven event since 1975 when the Buninyong *Gold King Festival* was established. Over the years many different Committee members have brought many different ideas to life.

Between 2011 to 2015, the festival was known as the *Buninyong Good Life Festival*. The last Festival in 2015 provided a brilliant day's entertainment for over 4000 people!

Buninyong Festival

In 2017, the biennial Festival is back again with a merging of old and new. From this the *Buninyong Festival* will be born.

The Festival will be held on Sunday 29 October 2017 in Desoza Park from 9am to 4pm.

There will be something for everyone – including a variety of diverse and interesting stage entertainment featuring local musicians aimed at all ages, amusements for the kids including *Farmer Darryl* and his famous Animal Farm, great food including local favourite *The Red Door Pizza*, many great stalls offering a range of merchandise, photographic art competition, roving entertainment – there might even be a dinosaur!



Festival co-ordinator Lisa Cressey

The Festival is also bringing back the legendary Gold King Parade – with a fusion of music, singing, dancing and lots of colour, snaking throughout the Festival grounds being led by the talented *CocoSounds*.

The core value of the Festival Committee is to deliver a free event to the Buninyong and surrounding community that enhances the sense of community belonging and celebrates the 'good life' that residents are lucky enough to lead here in the district.

The Committee is looking for more volunteers. Anyone interested and able to be part of this great event, please advise by email buninyongfestival@gmail.com.

streettalk

DIDN'T TAKE LONG after the Avenue of Honour reopening for some clown to skid across the highway at the western end of the avenue, rip up the grass, collect and tear bark from the first memorial tree there, and leave behind bits of his bumper bar and a couple of wheel trims. Fortunately no damage to the plaque of **Alexander Le Maitre** of Elaine.

WHILE TALKING OF CLOWNS the yellow M & M clown figure which was hopping about the pavement in Learmonth Street recently was snapped by eagle-eyed **Noel Coxall**. What the connection is between the M & M and the new fridge being delivered to the Bakehouse remains a mystery.

PART OF THE HISTORY of the village is up for sale opposite the Cathcart Street Reserve. The former Bowen Hill vineyard was planted there by **Patrick Hope** in 1982 after purchasing the five acre property for \$4500 some ten years earlier. A 1040m² slice (about one quarter acre) of the original property still covered in vines is now for sale at \$295,000. That would make the five acres now worth about \$6 million!!

KIDS FROM LOCAL PRIMARY schools loved getting their "Avenue" medals. One told her mum that the medals "made her think about respecting the soldiers who had died." Then mused about whether the medals were "made of gold and if she could swap it for an X-Box."



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Gardens group goes touring and fluming

The Friends of Buninyong Botanic Gardens (FBBG) group has been active recently with a major working bee in the Gardens, and being involved in a “mystery” tour of the historic features of the gardens precinct.

In late July, ten members of the group were involved in cleaning leaves, dirt and debris from the “flume” – the old neglected drain that acts as an overflow from the Gong and which runs from there through the Gardens, along the school boundary to the car park near the Bowling Club.

A flume is a sloping open channel designed to run water, by gravity, from a weir or lake to a collection location.

After some hours of work with shovels, rakes, barrows and replacing rocks, a large trailer load of sediment, rotting leaves and dirt accumulated over many years was removed from the drain. Workers were rewarded with a sausage sizzle in the renovated Old Police Station – now shared by the FBBG with the Buninyong Primary School.

The group also recently joined with the Buninyong and District Historical Society for a tour of historical features of the gardens and vicinity.

Highlights included a tour of the district’s first Court House (1857) and adjacent butter factory. These buildings are currently under assessment to be

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank you for publishing a story in the Buninyong Community News about our great-uncle William Rueben Lorensini.

My sister (from Perth) and myself from Sydney, were privileged to travel to Buninyong on 1 July as we felt it to be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to represent our family during the 100 year anniversary of WWI.

We were most impressed with the organisation and diligent work carried out by so many which culminated in a fantastic rededication of the Avenue of Honour. There was no stone left unturned which made for a splendid morning. The flyover was a definite unexpected buzz.

The presentation of the commemorative medals to the school children will be a wonderful way to encourage their ongoing interest. We are also very happy to know that this legacy is now firmly in place for future generations to nurture.

Thanks to all for a wonderful experience

Gwen Wallis, Sydney

refurbished. A visit was also made to the Old Police Station .

Anne Beggs-Sunter led the tour together with **Lorraine Powell** who spoke about the history of the gardens and its collection of notable trees. One of the striking trees was an old radiata pine thought to be one of those donated to Buninyong’s new Botanic Gardens by **Ferdinand von Mueller**, the Director of Melbourne’s Botanic Gardens in the 1860s.

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International garden designer new works on

Dream home build

After growing up in Ballarat, Paal* Grant, 41, has returned home. Over the past two decades he established and built a major Melbourne-based landscape design business – Paal Grant Design. He is now looking forward to being a part of the ‘wave of creatives’ establishing themselves in Ballarat, and particularly in Buninyong.

Paal studied Fine Arts at the University of Ballarat, specialising in sculpture. This was followed by seven years as Head of the Sculpture Department at Wesley College in Melbourne.

This experience heavily influences his work, and he designs gardens that are works of art as well as being functional and inviting entertaining spaces.

Award winner

Enjoying regular coverage in Australia's top landscaping and lifestyle magazines, Paal has achieved success locally and internationally. Accolades include winning gold at the *Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show* in 2009, 2010 and 2012 for his show gardens.

In 2010, he was awarded the prestigious Royal Horticultural Society's *Comeadow Award* for his entry, *The Wave Garden*.

More recently Paal even has designed and built show gardens in Japan. In 2015 and 2016 he was invited to represent Australia at the *Japan Garden & Flower Show* in Nagasaki, being awarded the *Best Design*, *Silver Gilt*, and *The People's Choice awards*.



Paal Grant finishes a day's work on his Mt Buninyong block. The rows of bottle tree seedlings can be seen on the slopes behind.

While he personally designs and involves himself in every project, he enjoys collaborating with local suppliers, and works with a diverse range of skilled tradespeople and artisans to deliver quality bespoke gardens.

With his brother **Mayhew**, who has worked alongside Paal to develop the business, he is looking forward to building on similar connections within the Buninyong community.

Local dream

In 2012 Paal and his wife **Carmen** purchased 30 acres at the base of Mount Buninyong. Their dream was to eventually return and bring this block of land to life. Raising their three young boys in the “incredible local community” was also very important to them.

This year, this dream is becoming a reality. Their Buninyong property now has over a thousand bottle tree seedlings planted. These will form the basis of their wholesale tree business.

The construction of their family home – “a contemporary version of an old barn” - from second-hand bricks is about to commence.

But for Paal, the most exciting stage awaits. Currently he is “exploring ways to showcase the site through a balance of formal landscaping, while allowing the natural environment and majestic Mount Buninyong to shine.”

He and his team also have plans to expand into furniture design, sculpture and outdoor lighting.

*** Asked about the spelling of his first name, Paal said his mother “who was a spiritual person” changed it from ‘Paul’ by deed poll when he was just a one year old because she felt it would bring him a “better life.”*

He says that now it is great on Google! He told The News that he is happy to offer Buninyong locals a half price discount for a garden consultation.

From Hamamatsu to Buninyong

AUSSIE FOOD FIRST CHOICE FOR YURI

On 22 July 2017, Yuri Oishi, a Japanese sixteen year old language student, arrived at the well-known red brick cottage of Klaudia Hochhuth in Warrenheip Street Buninyong to start a three week exchange visit.

Yuri was from the city of Hamamatsu (pop. 800,000) some 250 km south west of Tokyo in the Shizuoka Prefecture (which also is home to Mt Fuji).

While tiny in physique, Yuri proved to have a huge personality, a big heart, and plenty of courage and sense of adventure, being willing to try everything about Australia in the short period of her stay.

Curious

Klaudia and Yuri (pictured below) spent the first few days getting to know one another, with each quickly learning something of the language of the other.

The student had an amazing level of curiosity and soaked up her host's knowledge of the Australian lifestyle.

She quickly made friends with the Klaudia's three dogs, and even thought that it was funny when they searched her bedroom and ate some of her sweets.

The Japanese exchange students had a packed daily schedule which included going to school and being taken on excursions such as to Sovereign Hill, the Ballarat Wildlife Park, the Ballarat Observatory, and a trip to Geelong.

Klaudia took Yuri for walks through Buninyong, to a coffee session with locals at the *Pig & Goose Restaurant*, a drive up to Mt Buninyong, and visited the local shops. Klaudia said that she came to realise "how precious Buninyong is."

She said that the experience of hosting a Japanese student also opened more doors for her than she expected. Connecting with other hosts was one of them. She said that she also learned much about Japanese culture from Yuri.



"Our breakfast and dinner sessions were delightful. I found out that she loved yoghurt as much as I do. She eventually learned how to make delicious yoghurt herself," Klaudia said.

Leftovers

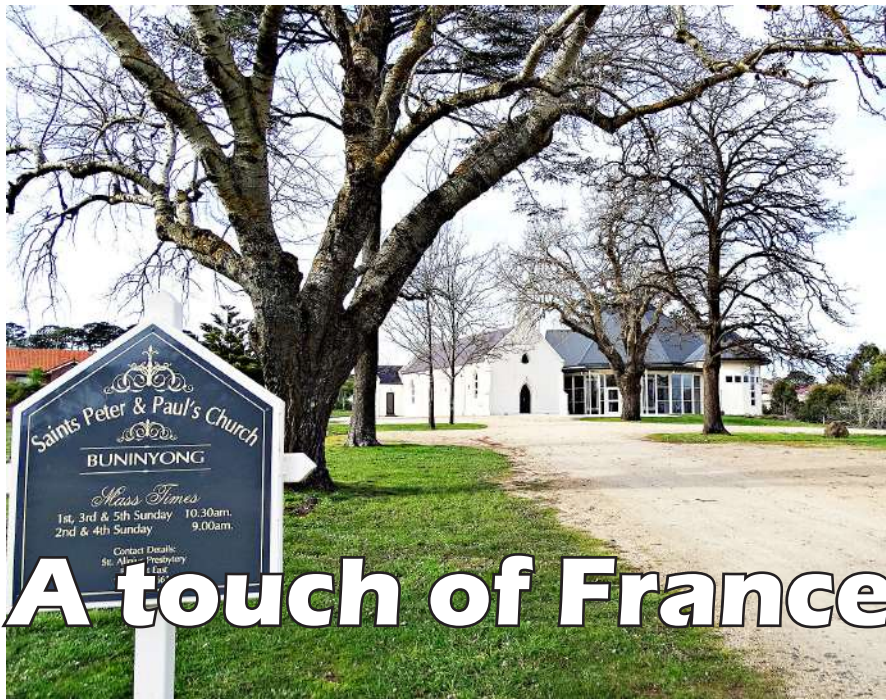
She said that Yuri hardly ate any rice, and that "my kitchen is now full of different rice dishes which I will have to consume myself as Yuri preferred to experience Australian and international cuisine."

A highlight of Yuri's visit was the offer by Klaudia's friend, **Ron Sidebottom**, to do a painting of her "as she had such beautiful features." Yuri proudly took the painting (shown above) back to her home when she returned on 11 August.

Klaudia said that "to make the time fulfilling for an exchange student is a challenge, but at the same time so very rewarding." She said that there were "tears in my eyes" in putting the notes together for this article a few days before Yuri's departure.

She has offered to provide details of hosting a Japanese student to anyone interested. Phone 0429 165 057





The historic Buninyong village includes several notable churches, most dating from the mid-nineteenth century when gold-mining was the staple industry here, and the population was booming.

The oldest of these churches is the Catholic church of *St Peter & Paul* sited high on the Fischen Street hillside overlooking the Gong and the Botanic Gardens. Its foundation stone was laid in 1853, and a Catholic school had operated from the site for two years prior to that.

The old church now sits tied into the township's newest church building which opened in 2014. The integration between the old classic, cream rendered church and the stunning new one has been brilliantly achieved with sensitivity and with a keen awareness of the significance of each.

New Church

Back in 2008 parish priest, **Fr Adrian McNerney**, felt that a new church was sorely needed for his growing Buninyong parish.

With renowned church architect, **Richard Falkinger**, who had migrated to Melbourne from Germany in 1959, Fr McNerney travelled to Europe and looked at and gained design ideas from new churches in Sweden, Denmark and Germany.

The architect also had visited France where he was struck by the stunning church in the village of Ronchamp in eastern Burgundy.

The rural village had some immediate similarities with Buninyong with a population of some 3000, and being set amidst rolling treed hillsides.

Ronchamp's Catholic church, known as *Chapelle Notre Dame du Haut*, had been designed by world-famous Swiss French-architect, **Le Corbusier**.

Opened in 1955, it had replaced an old stone one destroyed by bombing in World War Two.



Fr Adrian McNerney stands proudly alongside one of the historic oak trees outside of Buninyong's striking new Catholic church

The church struck Falkinger with its "stunning simplicity". It was marked by its soaring roofline, stark white, rounded stone walls and dark grey peaked roof, is now acclaimed world-wide and, since 2016, has carried a UNESCO listing as a World Heritage site.

Falkinger's subsequent design for the octagonal Buninyong church with its stark white walls, soaring spaces, charcoal-coloured roof and an interior dominated by massive stained-glass windows reflected the impressions of the European and French visits. It too has a stunning simplicity but strong impact.

Seating

With seating for some 200 people the new church has a spacious vestibule (with seating for another 100 people if required) that links it seamlessly with the historic original church, now used for meetings and social gatherings.

Recently retired, the 74 year old Fr McNerney is deeply proud of the Buninyong church which, like its counterpart in Burgundy, sits comfortably amongst old oak trees high on a hill overlooking its village.

While not yet listed by UNESCO, St Peter & Paul's Church, Buninyong has won a 2016 Ballarat Heritage Award for *Development within a Heritage Area*. In the years ahead it seems certain to be numbered amongst Australia's architecturally-significant modern churches.



booklets was part of a grant received from the State Government's *Victoria Remembers Fund*.

"Now that the Buninyong Avenue has been restored and plaques and plinths put in place at 167 trees, the RSL hoped that the medallions and booklets would be a reminder to the youngsters of the district of the debt that was owed to the local men who died in World War One, and their responsibility to care for the Avenue now and into the future," Mr Bennett said.

Final work

Avenue Restoration Project co-ordinator, Barry Fitzgerald, said that other elements remained to be completed. Nearing completion is the leather cover binding of the 600 pages of records of the 167 soldiers whose plaques line the Avenue. One set of four volumes will be retained by the RSL.

The other set will be presented to the local Historical Society.

The final part of the project will be completion of the photographic record which will cover the many aspects involved in the Avenue restoration, by local professional photographer, **Andrew Wilson**. Again two sets will be produced to be retained by the RSL and the Historical Society.

(Above) Medals were presented to pupils of smaller district primary schools. Representing Napoleons Primary school were Shane, Wayne Moekotte and daughter Gemma with Principal Matthew Reyntjes. Also present Lal Lal teacher Trudy East and Sharon Liversidge from the Magpie Primary School

Medals honour gallant soldiers

(continued from p1)

On one side the medallions depict two helmeted soldiers with heads bowed standing by gravestones on a battlefield. Behind them are two large trees representing the local Avenue of Honour. On the other side are details of the date and significance of the medals.

During late July, RSL members **Bob Bennett, Vic Bradley** and **Bill Akell**, and project team member **Barry Fitzgerald** made the presentations to students from the Buninyong Primary School, Emmaus Catholic School, Mt Clear Primary School and to the Steiner School.

Visits were made to student assemblies at the three larger schools where, after

brief speeches to all students, medals were presented to school leaders and commemorative booklets and medals left for later distribution to all other pupils.

Small schools

Principals, representatives and some students from the smaller district schools of at Lal Lal, Magpie and Napoleons came to the Buninyong RSL Hall where presentations were made. Some 1200 copies of the sixteen page commemorative booklet were also distributed by the RSL to secondary students at both Damascus College and the Mt Clear Secondary College RSL Secretary Mr Bob Bennett said that funding for the students' medals and

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AUTHORISED BY CATHERINE KING, 5 LYDIARD ST NTH BALLARAT 3350

Council landscape project starts



Taking a break from a skateboarding session at the Youth Space were (L to R) Tom Lannen 18, Ryan Polkinhorne 17, Jai Gilbert 16, Gilles Smith 14, George Simpson 16. Behind the group is the start of the landscaping project.

Major work on retaining walls between the Men's Shed and the skate ramp area have been commenced by the City of Ballarat.

The project involves placing a substantial number of steel posts with treated pine inserts over three levels.

This work will beautify what was previously a clay-faced cut-away area that detracted from the multi-activity Youth Space area in Forest Street opposite the Swimming Pool.

The five skateboarders present when *The News* photographer visited recently expressed disappointment when told that the levels would be planted with shrubs and not filled with concrete for some more exciting (and dangerous) jumps.

However they said they were "really pleased" at the facilities now available to youth in the area which only three years ago was a vacant paddock.

COMING EVENTS

Tuesday 29 August, 6.00pm. Monthly meeting, Buninyong Business Network. Red Door Pizzeria

Saturday 2 September, 6.00pm. Music on the Mount Concert. Buninyong Primary School gymnasium. Followed by Buninyong Bowling Club. Tickets \$35

Thursday 14 September, 2.00pm. Buninyong Bowling Club Auxiliary, High Tea with Gorgi Coghlan, BBC Clubrooms, \$15

Wednesday 11 October, 4.00pm. Buninyong Marmalade Association, AGM, Buninyong Town Hall

Wednesday, 25 October, 7.00pm Steiner School and Kindergarten, Information Night. 5341 8188

Thursday, 26 October, 7.30pm. Buninyong and District Community Association meeting. Town Hall

Sunday 29 October, 9.00am-4.00pm. Buninyong Festival. Desoza Park and surrounds.



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Lady in silver Volvo Gordon would like to thank mystery helper

Local identity, Gordon Eason, is very keen to find and thank a mystery woman who came to the aid of his wife, Iris, when she had a serious fall in Buninyong in April.

Iris suffers from Parkinson's Disease and is finding walking increasingly difficult. On the day in question she was walking from her Herriott Street home down to the Buninyong township when she lost her balance and fell, resulting in a serious head wound. The fall took place near the corner of Warrenheip and Scott Streets. **Gabrielle Coxall** was first on the scene and applied a dressing to the wound

(which subsequently required fifteen stitches). Other helpers included **Nick Croxford** an employee at Foodworks supermarket and a friend.

Clue

But it is the woman, "in her forties" who, in a silver Volvo, had driven past Iris Eason in Warrenheip Street and noticing that she was unsteady on her feet, then drove around the block to specifically check on her.

She came back to find that Iris had fallen heavily and was bruised and bleeding. She gave first aid to Iris and supplied blankets and other assistance until the ambulance arrived.

Gordon has already thanked Gabby and Nick for their help, but would now like to pass on his grateful thanks to the mystery lady in the silver Volvo. Any clues as to her identity could be emailed in to *The News* at buninyongnews@gmail.com and will be passed on.

After some months, Iris has now made a full recovery from the fall.



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CWA members on stage

Local CWA members are again celebrating their success after the Performing Arts Festival in Shepparton.

Buninyong members **Jenny Bridgewater, Carole Bartlett, Pat Howden** and **Marg Jarvis** gained three seconds and three third placings across-Song in Costume *The Minstrels*, Lip Synch

The Bottom of the Garden and Reading in Unison *Hard Work at Burke*.

Pauline Kennedy's entry *Every Day Magic* was placed second in the literary short story competition.

CWA members also recently participated in the Creative Arts Festival held in Warrnambool in early August.



Buninyong CWA members Marg Jarvis, Pat Howden and Carole Bartlett turn into a trio of fairies at *The Bottom of the Garden*.

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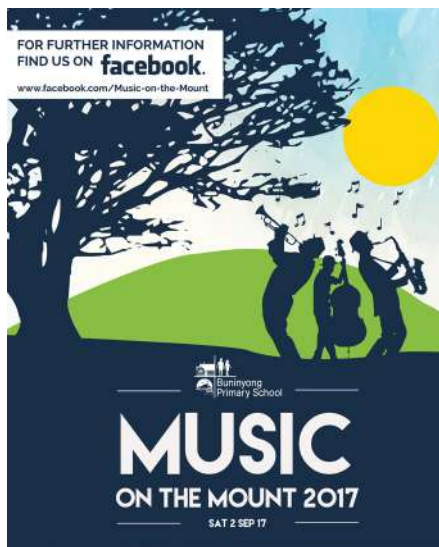
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Music On Mount Concert here again

The Buninyong Primary School will hold its second Music on the Mount concert on Saturday 2 September. The concert will start at the school gymnasium at 6.00pm and then later move to the Buninyong Bowling Club for further musical entertainment together with canapes, and drinks at bar prices.

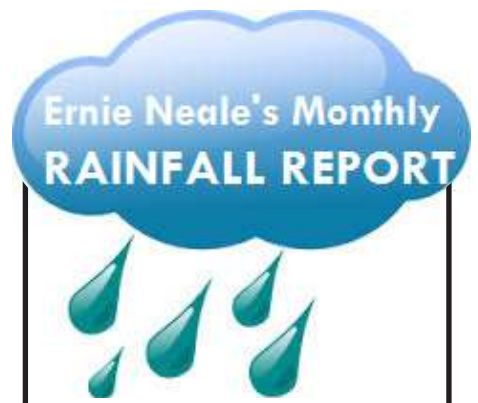


Students will again be supported by the outstanding Melbourne-based *New Palm Court Orchestra* led by **Gemma Turvey**. Gemma grew up in Creswick and the school is most grateful for her artistic direction and support with the concert again this year.

The 2016 concert which used the gymnasium before moving to the Town Hall, was a sell-out, so people are urged to purchase their tickets online (www.ticketebo.com.au/motm) or at the school before the event.

Ticket price of \$35 includes entry to the concert and canapes at the function afterwards. Drinks will be available at bar prices.

Last year the concert raised some \$10,000 for the school's music program and for three yearly scholarships for students to learn an instrument and/or extend their current music tuition.



Three bursts for 69mm in July

We experienced two Julys this year. England's was dappled and mellow, while here back at home, Buninyong's was robustly cold and wet. The little rain we experienced there came in predictable, gentle downpours.

Here winter was holding grip, with half the days of the month wet, and most of the other days experiencing substantial frosts. Our friends over there couldn't comprehend that Australia could be colder than England – but arriving to a 2°C Melbourne morning certainly confirmed that it was.

Buninyong's July rain amounted to 69 mm, arriving in three bands. These falls were certainly welcome, breaking the worrying dryness that had unfolded during June. Our year-to-date rainfall at the end of July was 388.5 mm. Both the monthly rainfall and the total to the end of July are very near local long-term averages.

There are predictions of a dry spring, so the replenished soil moisture levels now will help us should that occur. But now the magpies are starting to nest, longer days and new growth are ahead. Spring is in the air.

Thanks to Roly Nam for watching the gauge and compiling reports for May and June. It was very much appreciated.

JULY 2017			
Date	Rain	Date	Rain
4-9	34.2	15	2.5
18-21	16.8	24-25	5.3
26	2.3	28	7.9
Total		69.0 mm	
Year to date		388.5 mm	

The magical voice of Yirrmal

At a recent school assembly pupils, staff and parents of Buninyong Primary School were treated to a twenty minute mini-concert by **Yirrmal Marika** whose homeland is at remote Yirrkala, 660km east of Darwin in the Northern Territory's Arnhem Land.

Yirrmal is an inspiring songwriter and guitarist with a beautiful voice and an engaging stage presence. His grandfather is **Dr Yunupingu**, the former lead singer of *Yothu Yindi*. Many members of this band come from Yirrkala. His other mentors include **Shane Howard, Neil Murray and Archie Roach**. He's currently writing songs for a new album. Last November he launched an EP titled *Youngblood*.

The students were transfixed with his songs and messages about his homeland

and culture. They also enjoyed practising words from Yirrmal's native language.

Yirrmal was introduced and welcomed to the school by **Gorgi Coghlan**.



NEWS at a glance

PJ school day raises \$100

The recent PJ Day at the Scotsburn school campus saw students and some teachers turn up for school dressed up in a wide variety of PJs. The fashion parade, dance and disco were enjoyed by all.

The day was about raising funds for breast cancer research. Donations resulted in a cheque of about \$100 being handed to Buninyong Primary School PE teacher, Ms Morris, for forwarding on to the Breast Cancer Network of Australia. Everyone was excited to see Ms Morris looking so well.

The picture shows some of the colourful PJs that were worn that day.



Faces of Elaine Cricket

At the 2017 AGM of the Elaine Cricket Club the following were appointed to the Committee and to other positions.

President: Julie Pandzitis

Vice President: Shane Dunne

Secretary: Jonathon Inglis

Treasurer: Rebecca Curren

U16 2nds: Coach David Flood

U14 2nds: Coach Nigel Parkinson

U14 2nds: Assistant Coach Mark Harrison

U13 Coach: Position vacant

U13 Assistant: Coach Position vacant

Junior Coordinator: Shane Dunne

Committee members: Ron Read, Brad Kierce, Seamus Dunne, Nicholas Pantzidis, John Baker, Karen Pritchard, Marg Coulson

Ages 8+ for juniors from September 2017. Beginners wanted and most welcome. Enquiries ph Shane 0448291074.

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Cricket team moves into premier grade

The Ballarat Cricket Association recently announced that Buninyong Cricket Club will be the tenth team in the premier division of the BC competition from the 2018/19 season.

This represents a major milestone for the club and a tremendous challenge - one that according to club President, **Jason Giri**, has been spoken about for a long time within the club. With the right set of circumstances presenting themselves, Buninyong Cricket Club has grabbed the chance and will be working hard to ready themselves both on and off the field over the coming eighteen months.

Success

Having had two years of success in the Second Division of the competition since the inception of the new BCA competition (two grand finals and one premiership) the club feels well placed to complete the step up. A strong juniors' program has grown in recent years and the young players will now have a wonderful pathway to the

highest levels of cricket in Ballarat through their local club.

As always, the club will be looking to strengthen playing stocks across all levels and currently is conducting a search for a suitable senior coach to guide the senior sides and mentor the junior levels to help build a foundation of success throughout the club.



A position description of the coaching role can be found at the club website <http://buninyong.vic.cricket.com.au> and all new players are welcome to come down to practice for the upcoming season.

(Above) Buninyong Cricket Club President Jason Giri and Ballarat Cricket Association President Rob Florence at the announcement of Buninyong Cricket Club's elevation into Division 1 for season 2018/19.

Bowls Club High Tea with Gorgi



The Buninyong Bowling Club Auxiliary has arranged an exciting High Tea at the Clubrooms on Thursday 14 September at 2pm.

The guest speaker will be **Gorgi Coghlan** who is co-host of Network Ten's hit show *The Project* and has had more than fifteen years' experience in the media. Gorgi is also a professionally trained classical singer, a former state level equestrian rider and a devoted mum.

Guests will be served a glass of champagne or punch on arrival accompanied with light savouries. After Gorgi's presentation, a delicious High Tea of sweet treats will be served with tea and coffee. There will also be a raffle and lucky door prizes.

If you would like to attend this delightful afternoon, bookings can be made with Monica Voss (0437 350 843) or email monica.anne.voss@gmail.com.

RSVP by Monday 11 September. Cost is \$15. Please advise any special dietary requirements.

Ray Sullivan's SPORTS NEWS

Mixed results

The Buninyong Bombers winning streak was halted at 11 when they lost narrowly to top team Beaufort in the first qualifying final. They now meet Daylesford in a semi-final. The Under 18s also lost their qualifying final and will front up in a knock out semi-final in week two of the finals. The Bombers Reserves and Under 15s had good wins in their qualifying finals and go directly to preliminary finals in week three.

Still alive

The Lady Bombers 'A' Grade netball side had a good first up win in week one of the netball finals and progress to the semi-final round. The 15/Under and 13/Under girls won their qualifying finals and earned a week's rest before the preliminary finals. Unfortunately, the 'C' Grade and 17/Under teams lost their qualifying finals and will both play semi-finals in week 2.

Daniel's medal

Buninyong Golf Club 'B' Grader **Daniel Welch** mastered the cold and difficult conditions to post the best score of the day with a net 69 to win both 'B' Grade and the August Monthly Medal. Three 'A' Graders, **Stephen Bongiorno**, **John Robertson** and **Greg Palmer**, were only one shot behind on 70 net.

Close indoors

Buninyong Bowling Club were runners-up to Ballarat East in the Division 4 Indoor Grand-Final. After defeating East in the semi-final Buninyong were hopeful that they could take out the title. However, East turned the tables to take out the Division 4 Premiership.

Redbacks hang on

The Redbacks' Division 1 team were clinging to fourth spot on the ladder after their round 17 victory. The finals race will be tough as they were up against second side Ballarat North United and fifth-placed Warrnambool played lower ranked side Ballarat Red

Georgie does well

Georgie Mees recently represented Victoria U 13 in her first nationals (School Sport Australia) in Hobart. Georgie was the third Victorian over the line and 20th overall.

GAEL MOVES HER SEW SHOP

After some thirteen years in a smaller shop in Warrenheip Street, Gael Fennell opened her **Sew Special: Button Heaven** business in 2012 in the spacious Learmonth Street premises that had formerly been part of the Foodworks supermarket store. She certainly didn't think then that her business would grow to the point where she would have to look for other premises.

But business boomed at the shop with its truckloads of buttons, thousands of yards of material, gifts, school uniforms, a clothing alteration service, and a dry-cleaning agency. It became something of a tourist attraction.

Last Day

For most of that time, Gael was also still working evening shifts as the Night Duty Coordinator at Ballarat's St John of God Hospital. She retired from that position in 2016.

In 2014 she opened another store, *Darn 'n Yarn*, in Albert Street, Sebastopol close to Coles.

But she said the demands of running the two businesses became heavy and she decided to combine them at a large shop in Rubicon Street, Sebastopol, formerly occupied by *Blockbuster Video*

This huge store, with a much increased range for sewers and knitters, opened in June 2017. The final date of operating from the Buninyong premises will be in a few weeks' time on 15 September.

Along with **Clayton McIlvena**, the former operator of the *Old Bluestone Café*, Gael was instrumental in trying to revive the *Buninyong Business Network* (BBN) which had had a chequered history of overall disinterest by the local business community.

She said she was pleased to see that there had been some positive moves to breathe new life into the BBN following the recent visit to Buninyong by planning expert, **Peter Kenyon**.

At least one service offered by *Sew Special* is staying in Buninyong. The dry-cleaning agency for *Speedie Dry Cleaners* has moved to **Cathy Hopper's Divine Vintage** store in Warrenheip Street.

At the moment there is no news on another tenant for the Learmonth Street premises.



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Juniors excel in sporting awards

Junior sporting stars from the Buninyong district were strongly represented at the recent Fed Uni WestVic Academy of Sport Athlete of the Year Awards hosted by the Ballarat Sportsmen's Club at their August Dinner at Ballarat Golf Club.

The awards recognised outstanding performances during 2016 and 2017 by young athletes who are supported by the Academy.

The Academy, funded by the Victorian Institute of Sport and the State Government, is based at Federation University which is also is the naming rights sponsor.

Talent

The WestVic Academy of Sport currently supports 140 talented athletes across the region. Athletes can access specialist coaching, strength and conditioning programs and facilities, sport science and sport psychology opportunities, nutrition and athlete mentoring.

Of the fifteen finalists who were nominated on the night, three were from the Buninyong district. These were wheelchair racing athlete **Sam Rizzo**, golfer **Amy Leeson** and tennis player **James O'Sullivan**.

Wheelchair racer, **Sam Rizzo**, had many outstanding performances throughout 2016-2017 - enough for him to be crowned as *Male WestVic Athlete of the Year*.

World medallist

Sam was not present to receive his award as he was representing Australia in the World Para Athletics Junior Championships in Nottwil, Switzerland. Sam had an amazing week in Switzerland, winning a silver medal in the 400m event, and bronze medals in the 100m, 800m and 1500m races.

Another highlight for the seventeen year old Rizzo was being selected as flag-bearer for the Australian team at the World Championships.

Rizzo said that his coach **Richard Colman** was a big factor in his success in the Games. Colman was an Australian Paralympian, winning gold medals for the 800m event at both the 2004 Paralympics in Athens and again in London in 2012. He also was a member of the Australian gold medal-winning team in the 4 x 100m relay at the Athens Games.

For the recent Championships in Switzerland Sam Rizzo was also greatly assisted by the Variety Club of Victoria which funded a new racing chair for him

Young Star

The youngest member of the group, thirteen-year-old **James O'Sullivan**, is also compiling an impressive list of achievements on the tennis court.

After strong performances at local and regional level through 2016 and 2017, James was selected to represent Victorian Country at national level. He played as number one in the *13 and Under* team in the 2017 Federation Cup held in Adelaide.

Pro future aim

Young Buninyong Golf Club member, Amy Leeson, is quickly making a name for herself in the local and state golfing scene. Amy, currently in year 12 at Mt Clear College, is rising rapidly through the ranks at State level.

Amy is in the Golf Victoria State Development Squad. She is the current Royal Melbourne Open Girls Champion and holds all Ballarat Ladies titles. She aims to get her handicap down to scratch with her eyes firmly set on a professional golf future.

- Ray Sullivan



Sam Rizzo with his silver medal from World Para Junior Championships in Switzerland



James O'Sullivan off to Adelaide to represent Victoria in Fed Cup



Amy Leeson in a practice session at Buninyong Golf Club