

Desoza Park's

Tale of three bridges

The movie *Three Billboards Outside of Ebbing Missouri* went close to winning the 2018 Oscar for Best Picture. A local sequel, *Three Bridges Over Union Jack Creek*, could soon be in production.

A new steel bridge recently placed over the Union Jack Creek in Desoza Park has caused an uproar amongst nearby residents and park users, being described as an "eyesore intrusion in a green and rustic area".

Another said that it "looked like a relic from the Latrobe Street saleyards". Other bridges in the park are made from timber and blend into the park setting.

The bridge was installed by the City of Ballarat in late June opposite Cathcart Street following requests to facilitate a crossing at that point.

The extra bridge is part of a *Master Plan* to improve the park.

It is claimed that the new bridge "has low maintenance and resists vandalism".

At an inspection of the bridge **Cr Ben Taylor** said that his initial reaction was that it did "stick out like a sore thumb" however he conceded that planned landscaping may "make it look much better".

Hopefully, that will happen, because it will be there for the next fifty years.

Some landscaping works had started around the base of the new bridge in late July.



Winter Street



Lumeah Road



Cathcart Street



CFA fireys take on high climb

Being a volunteer fire-fighter is often a pretty demanding role. But a team of seven members from the Buninyong-Mt Helen CFA have put their hands up for a challenge in a few weeks' time that will test even the fittest of them.

John McLeod, Andrew Greig, Kimberley Morris-Flynn, Patrick Cashin, Frank Di Cato, Matthew Cane and Mark Rankin will represent the local brigade in the 2018 *Melbourne Firefighters Stair Climb* event. This will involve a climb up 28 floors of stairs at the Crown Metropol Hotel on Melbourne's Southbank on Saturday, 1 September.

Each firefighter will be decked out in 25kg of kit which includes their heavy overalls, helmet and breathing apparatus.

The Buninyong-Mt Helen team is seeking sponsorship support from individuals, groups and businesses to help reach their team goal of \$5000 which will go towards the event's overall goal of \$700,000.

Every cent of funds raised will be contributed to research, support services, and awareness-raising about depression, PTSD and suicide.

The data for these areas of mental health are disturbing.

- Some ten per cent of those in emergency services roles suffer from PTSD
- Suicide is the leading cause of death for Australians aged between 15 and 44 years, with 3000 Australians dying by suicide year
- 41 returned Australian soldiers have died by their own hand on home soil which is a greater number than those lost on the battlefield during fourteen years of war in Afghanistan.

To sponsor the local CFA firefighting team in the stair-climb challenge, go to the link <https://www.firefighterclimb.org.au/station/cfa/buninyong-mount-helen/>

streettalk

A FEW LOCAL COLONIALS were most concerned that we had come back under direct British rule recently when all that could be seen of the shredded flag at the Town Hall was the Union Jack in the corner. Very windy weather had taken its toll with very little of the flag left. After contact from *The News*, the "we don't do flags" call back from Council has now caused some ripples. Apparently Council does flagpoles, ropes and pulleys... but not flags!!

WORK ON WIDENING the road shoulder at the Midland Hwy end of the Mt Buninyong Road seems to be the start of the works promised to make cycling around the famous Mount circuit much safer (*The News*, July, p13). Will be interesting to see what can be done higher up, with the road barrier hard against the road on one side and a two metre earth wall on the other.

IT HAS BEEN GETTING PRETTY SERIOUS down at Simpson Street near the school where on some mornings, friction between residents and the parents in cars parking and dropping pupils off reached boiling point. Police attendance was needed recently to cool down some warring parties.

NEWS IS THAT YUSPIN, the key and shoe man who moved from his busy Warrenheip St shop recently because of the steep rent there, has found a much cheaper spot for his business down in Little Bridge Street in Ballarat. Some landlords never learn!

FANTASTIC WINTER SCENE display in the shopfront windows of Studio 408 in the Old Library in Warrenheip Street (See photo p 15). Result of work by **Annie** and **Mark Ross** and folk from Pinarc Disability Services. Some 70 people attended the opening of their *Christmas in July* exhibition with the 'penguin' window, music and pizza from the *Red Door* being a hit with adults and children alike.

Street upgrade will bring

JOBS AND VISITORS

On her second visit to discuss local issues, ALP candidate for the seat of Buninyong, Michaela Settle met with the three groups working for funding for the upgrade to the business strip of Warrenheip Street.

Meeting and inspecting various problems with the streetscape with her were business owners **Katrine Taylor**, **Trevor Whitworth** and **Simon Coghlan**, the BDCA's **Ian Salathiel**, **Randall Dreger** from the Community Bank, and **Barry Fitzgerald** who has led the push for this project over several years.

First hand

Michaela Settle said she was pleased to see the situation at first hand and said that she would liaise with possible funding sources such as Regional Development Victoria concerning the project. She was told that up to fifteen new jobs could follow the filling of vacant premises and the revitalisation of the street. She agreed that the strip was overdue for "activation."

She was also very interested to see and to note the impact that the very large V-Line bus stop near Forest Street was having on

business parking. She requested copies of background documents relating to the issue, and agreed to "look at solutions" such as the relocation of the stop to the present one near Eyre Street.

Liberals too

Several weeks ago, the three community groups also had met with Liberal candidate **Andrew Kilmartin** concerning this project.

A submission has been made to Regional Development Victoria's *Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund* for a sum of \$298,000 to enable Council to commence work on this project. Upgrade works have been made more urgent in view of the increasing number of vacant shops along this strip.

Buninyong Business Network Chairman, **Simon Coghlan** said that if all vacant shops were filled, provision made for *al fresco* dining at the three existing hospitality businesses, and the renovations to the community cottage completed, many new jobs would be created, and that visitor and tourist numbers would grow.



Michaela Settle (right) chats with Simon Coghlan, Randall Dreger, Ian Salathiel and Trevor Whitworth.



Festival changes

The Buninyong film festivals (BFF) Annual General Meeting will be held on for Monday, 30 July at 7.00pm at the Community House.

With the resignation of current co-Presidents **Jamie Brown** and **Luke Grimes**, committee member **Lisa Cressey** has put out an urgent call for all interested in the Festival to attend the meeting and to consider standing for an Executive position.

The Festival Committee has roles involving film selection, marketing, media, and sponsorship in addition to the usual roles of President, Secretary and Treasurer. **Lisa** (0408 116 202) is happy to provide more information.

Daffodil Day soon

In a few spots around the district daffodils can already be seen. But there will be plenty to see down at Foodworks on Friday 24 August when local charity stalwart **Helen Stephens** and her helpers set up their stall for the annual *Daffodil Day Appeal*. The stall will be near Foodworks' main entrance between 9.00am and 5.00pm.

Funds raised from the *Daffodil Day Appeal* go to the Cancer Council which assists in the research, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer, and support of cancer sufferers. There would be few families not touched in some way by cancer, so look for Helen and her daffodils on 24 August.



Seat of Buninyong

MEET THE CANDIDATES

At the time of going to press for this edition, three political parties had announced candidates for the Seat of Buninyong in the State election scheduled for 24 November. The seat is presently held by the ALP's Geoff Howard.

The ALP has endorsed Michaela Settle, the Liberals have Andrew Kilmartin as their candidate, and the Greens have recently announced that Linda Zibell will contest the seat. The Nationals State office told The News that there would be a candidate "soon". Several independents also are likely to nominate.

The News asked the three known candidates about their previous careers, their reason for nominating, and why electors should vote for them. Following are their responses.



Andrew Kilmartin
Liberal Party

Career: Local journalist in regional Victoria for seven years, including four years on 3BA. This gave me an excellent understanding of issues that matter to the Buninyong electorate. Also working as an adviser to Louise Staley, Member for Ripon, gave me a strong understanding of working with local communities.

Why nominate: As a lifelong local, I'm tired of our region being ignored by a Government that only cares about Melbourne. We need a Member of Parliament who has the strength and integrity to fight for better roads, a safer community and a fair go for the CFA.

Why vote for you: I'm passionate about making the Buninyong electorate an even better place to live and work. I will be an active and accessible local representative whose door will always be open, and who will put our community first.



Michaela Settle
ALP

Career: I've had diverse experience ranging from running a business, to working our family farm, and raising my kids. Most recently I took up a communications role at Ballarat Community Health, while volunteering for the CFA and the Sebastopol Primary School's Breakfast Club.

Why nominate: It's time to give back to my community. I've lived in regional Victoria for most of my life, and I want to fight to make sure that everyone gets the same opportunities, no matter where they live.

Why vote for you: Genuine lifetime experience. I understand the day-to-day struggles of local families, workers and small business owners because I've lived it. I understand this region because I live here, work here, and I've raised my children here.



Linda Zibell
Greens

Career: I worked as a teacher with regional students aged two to 62 – from all walks of life and abilities. As a Federation University lecturer in Humanities education, I supported young people from this electorate and beyond to become teachers.

Why nominate: Two decades of community action in Buninyong mean I feel ready to stand for the people of this electorate. I have worked successfully in planning for residential housing developments as population growth increases, regional education, conservation initiatives, and transport alternatives.

Why vote for you: I'm focusing on the Buninyong electorate's future. Our state government must respond to what communities are asking for and work towards sane, sensible, cost-effective and timely services and infrastructure. Community identity and bottom-up employment initiatives must be encouraged and valued.

A chance for people power

It's amazing how accessible and friendly politicians and aspiring politicians are at election time. But once the smoke clears after 24 November, senior members of the winning party will settle back into comfortable offices and surround themselves with the usual circle of staffers charged with keeping ordinary people at bay.

Then it will be back to 'our party's priorities', or 'we don't have the funds,' or 'sorry the member has a full day of meetings,' or 'thank you for bringing this matter to my attention' responses.

But right now it's different! For the next fifteen weeks local residents should grab the chance to make some serious noise, eyeball candidates and their leaders, and demand to be heard. Locally there are issues such as possible changes to planning laws, traffic problems and road improvements, in addition to several key local projects that need to be gotten into the mix of promises of whichever is the winning party.

All locals need to talk about and push them hard in the company of Councillors, candidates, colleagues or cab drivers.

It seems that the City of Ballarat has a 30 item wish list for election-time State funding. Word also is that top spots on the list are for city-centre, big-picture stuff. So it's about time the three Councillors, **Taylor, Hudson** and **Rinaldi** who, at

the forum here prior to the last Council election in 2016, promised that they would 'go to the wall for Buninyong', became more vocal in support of Buninyong projects.

Support needed

For example the Warrenheip Street business precinct upgrade project keeps getting rebuffed by a Council administration that 'can't find any money'. And the major re-development at Royal Park? And the Desoza Park plans? And what about funding for planning of a village by-pass? Even getting 'no dollars needed' support for moving a PTV bus stop seems too hard. Where's the public comment or support for such issues from our three representatives in or outside of the Council chamber or in the media?

It's not enough to rely on groups such as the Community Association or the Business Network to do all of the lobbying work. Prior to the last State election in 2014 then-Premier **Dennis Napthine** stood on the Town Hall steps here and gave a commitment for \$450,000 for the Town Hall precinct project. The ALP promised \$1.5 million for a new Fire Station. That just didn't happen by chance.

While *The News* won't suggest who you might vote for, mark Thursday 8 November in your diary for a *BDCA Election Forum* at the Town Hall. And, in the meantime, take an interest and get active.



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The name and address of the person submitting any material must be provided (address not for publication).

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Hello, Mr Nott



For over forty years, when local radio was the major form of information and entertainment in Ballarat, Geoff Nott was a star announcer on radio station 3BA and a household name across the city and region.

Along with the likes of 3BA colleagues Gary West, Peter Caligari and Glen Driscoll, Nott brought the news, local chat, music and comment to people across the greater Ballarat area.

He was also a stalwart in the local theatre and arts scene, being involved in countless productions with Ballarat's National Theatre and also the St Martin's Little National Theatre in Melbourne.

Care

Now, aged 87, and suffering from dementia, Geoff can often be seen pottering about Buninyong, coffee cup

in hand, usually in the care of his daughter, local remedial masseuse Cathy Micich.

He spends many hours sitting happily watching television in the waiting room of Cathy's massage rooms at the rear of the Old Library in Warrenheip Street. On a regular basis his family also takes him for a swimming session at the QEH pool. He now lives with Cathy and family at Scotsburn.

Two things that he really enjoys these days are chopping wood at home, and visiting the community bank where the staff always greet him with a chorus of "Hello Mr Nott". Cathy says he just loves being greeted in that way.

So if you see Geoff in a coffee shop or walking about Warrenheip Street, see what response you get when he is greeted with "Hello, Mr Nott".

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FIRE IS NO GAME

One positive that came out of the Scotsburn fire is a new board game that heightens awareness of fire readiness, particularly for school children and their parents.

The board game, *Should I Stay or Should I Go?*, was designed by the leadership team formed under the *Scotsburn Community Leadership Program* with facilitator **Tim Ferguson**. The aim was to build resilience in a disaster affected area.

Members selected for the team were **Carol Bond, Stephen Ford, Julia Petrov** and her daughter, **Tam** (Year 8), **Amy Wells** (Year 8), **Bianca Fammartino** and **Martine Foerg**.

Surf coast

The Team considered many options to fulfil their aims but settled on the board game after taking inspiration from the *Surf-Coast Fire Game* developed after their earlier fires.

Scotsburn's fire game was further developed and localised using landmark buildings as well as fauna on the 100 cards that form the components in conjunction with the beautifully illustrated playing board.

On the back of the cards are a series of questions about fire-preparedness measures such as what to do on 'Alert Days' and 'Should I go or should I stay?' with the aim of spreading the word on fire awareness in a family-fun manner.

The dual benefit is fun and education with the message that the children can teach the parents a thing or two that will help

each family survive any future fire disaster.

Affected

Team member Carol Bond was affected by the fires of December 2015, but she said the fire itself was not once mentioned in the team's deliberations about how best to influence positive outcomes for the Scotsburn region.

"We just focused on the future," she said. "The fire awareness board game came out of that as the best means to spread fire awareness throughout the community."

The project was funded under the *Natural Disaster Resilience Grants Scheme* with support from the Moorabool Shire Council and Ballarat City Council.

Some ninety copies of the board game will be distributed to primary schools in the region and more information will soon be available from their website which is in preparation.

Russell Luckock



City of Ballarat Mayor, Cr Samantha McIntosh plays the 'Fire' game with children at the Scotsburn school.

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AUTHORISED BY CATHERINE KING, 5 LYDIARD ST NTH BALLARAT 3350

Last day for local posties

After more than thirteen years delivering mail to homes in Buninyong and Mt Helen, Stuart Ward and Mark Zala called it a day in late June.

Stuart was the long-term Buninyong 'postie' and Mark had the run through Mt Helen. While each could recount the odd dog incident, it was the attraction of having an outside job and meeting friendly people that made their jobs special.

"During the annual bike races we felt extra special because those very strict road marshalls were given instructions to let the posties through," they said.


A structural change by Australia Post will see the duo soon commencing similar roles within the central parts of Ballarat.

The Buninyong area contract has now been taken up by **James Cadd**, formerly a resident of Lismore.

His new delivery team will be easily spotted in their fluorescent yellow clothing.




Shown sorting the mail for the last time at the rear of the Buninyong Post Office are Stuart Ward, (left) and Mark Zala.




Why Ask A Local?
The Results are Obvious!



6864 Midland Hwy Scotsburn




269 Post Office Rd Ross Creek



10 Lewis Ave Mount Helen




911 Lal Lal St Buninyong



104 Moss Ave Mount Helen



411 Learmonth St Buninyong



429 Yendon No 1 Rd Yendon



23 Marina Dve Mount Clear

Gary Jones
0419 576 545

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Phil Crosbie
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Ernie Neale's Monthly
RAINFALL REPORT

Now time to buy a tank

The financial year has ended and for many it's time to complete the mid-winter paperwork. Often the figures reveal distinct trends. The same happens with the annual rainfall ledger.

With only 48.9 mm of rain in June we've now had five months of less than average rainfall this year. The total is now 243.4 mm, twenty percent below recent averages.

On current trend, this year could well bring to nine the number of years in the past decade of less than average rainfall.

Most of June's rainfall came as showers, with only one real rain event in the middle of the month. Sadly, this weak pattern matches the long-term forecast of the BOM. They are indicating a neutral chance of an *El Nino* (temperatures up, rain down) developing this spring but they also report that Pacific Ocean temperatures have now reached trigger point for an *El Nino*. Maybe now's the time to install another water tank and let it fill before spring?

JUNE 2018			
Date	Rain	Date	Rain
6	1.3	10	1.2
12	7.2	14	4.3
16	9.0	18	19.4
23	1.0	25	1.5
30	4.0		
Total		48.9mm	
Total June '17		26.0mm	
2018 YTD		243.4mm	
2017 YTD		295.9mm	



More community activities

Major changes to bike champs

Program changes, better communication with residents, decorated shops, 'Buninyong' banners, and more community activities are all in the mix for the 2019 National Road Championships to be held in Buninyong and district.

Events management company *GTR Events*, along with the City of Ballarat, have been meeting with community groups including the Buninyong & District Community Association (BDCA) and the Buninyong Business Network (BBN) to obtain feedback and discuss and outline many new plans for next year's event. A Cycling Working Group has also been set up to assist with community engagement.

Busy time

Changes to the program include the scheduling of the *Criterion* through Ballarat streets on Friday 4 January, with the major races around the Mt Buninyong circuit being on the Saturday and Sunday, followed by two days of time trials along the Mt Mercer circuit on the Monday and Tuesday.

Other 'community-focused' activities under consideration include:

- the BBN arranging for most local shops to be decorated
- schools to be invited to join in a "dress the bike" competition and parade
- the Men's Shed and the Botanical Gardens groups assisting with displays of **Pat Hope's** red bike collection
- family activities in Desoza Park on Saturday 5 January to include *Gran Fondo* links and use of the event's huge LED screen for family movies from 6.00pm with a mature audience movie following from 9.00pm
- exploring options, including banners, for Buninyong branding throughout the community

GTR Event Director **Phill Monaghan** said that it was also planned to have a colour brochure showing event information, community engagement activities, crossing points and local maps ready for distribution to "all the community" in early December 2018.

Above: BDCA President Linda Zibell (right) welcomes the GTR Events team to a recent meeting at the Buninyong Town Hall. Shown are (L to R) Nick Swanton, Callum Ray, Cr Jim Rinaldi, Phill Monaghan.



BOOM IN SAM'S BAGS

With the recent banning of one-use plastic bags from supermarkets, *Boomerang Bags* has become an initiative that has attracted much attention. The movement was started in 2013 in the community of Burleigh Heads and has since become a global movement.

Over the past year or so, a great local team effort has been coordinated by Foodworks' **Sam Blanchard**. Her team has spent many months making over 1000 Boomerang Bags.

Helpers are invited to two more 'no skills required' workshops to be held at the Buninyong Community House on 12 and 26 August from 2.00pm to 4.00pm.

Most of the material has been donated – old curtains, old cushions, material found in cupboards, and also rolls of material donated by former Buninyong store Sew

Special, and by *Envision*, a *Work for the Dole* organisation.

It has been a 'win-win' effort because the volunteers have learnt new skills such as how to screen print, sew up bags, use a sewing machine, even cut material accurately. It has been a genuine community effort including Sam's former employers at *Foodworks* who have supported Sam in her idea to make and provide reusable and returnable bags.

Now that plastic bags are at last banned, residents should feel free to take a Boomerang Bag if needed... then bring it back... or reuse it.

Cassandra Carland

Sam Blanchard (right) at the launch of the Boomerang Bags project in Buninyong in early July watched by interested helpers (L to R) Sam Molesworth, Tom Gillon and Will Molesworth.



Voluntary Landscaping Program

Lal Lal Wind Farms offers a Voluntary Landscape Program for the owners of dwellings that are located within 4kms of a turbine.

This program is a planning permit requirement to assist with screening the visual impact of turbines for the closest neighbours.

Lal Lal Wind Farms is funding this program.

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New book on the Scott family

From Glasgow to Boninyong



Author Glenice Wood Lake with a copy of her new book at the entrance gate to the Scott family property at Scotsburn.

The book *The Land they Learnt to Love: Ten Years in the Life of a Squatting Family in the Port Phillip District, 1839 – 1849* written by Buninyong’s Glenice Wood Lake was recently launched and can now be purchased at the Buninyong Information Centre, or from the Buninyong & District Historical Society. It traces the first decade in Australia of one of Buninyong’s pioneering families

Hoping to secure the future for their children, **Andrew** and **Celia Scott** and their four children left Glasgow, Scotland and departed on the Glenbervie from Gravesend on 31 August, 1838. They arrived in Melbourne four months later, on 31 January, 1839.

There the family rented a house, and soon after, Andrew Scott set off to walk to Geelong with his saddle on one shoulder and a bridle on the other to buy a horse. After purchasing a young mare, he rode up the Leigh River with **Harry Anderson** who had taken up a run, *Waverley Park*,

just beyond what is now the Buninyong village.

Returning to Melbourne, Andrew then started a nine month search for land. He travelled to Kilmore, Yea, Muddy Creek, north along the Goulburn River to where Echuca is currently located, then south along the Campaspe River before returning to Melbourne via Woodend.

Too late

He realised with dismay that much of the land along the rivers and creeks in these areas had already been ‘sat on’.

Finally, in October 1839, 16,000 acres was found near Mt. Bonan Yowang (Boninyong). The family established a dairy, living for nine months under a temporary dwelling of tarpaulins over timber frames, harvested from the bush.

During 1841-1842 drought and a severe economic downturn in the colony forced many squatters to sell their stock for give-away prices or walk off their runs. The Scotts had to sell most of their cattle, furniture and personal possessions to survive.

In desperation, the family sowed two acres with potatoes, successfully raising a bumper crop of 24 tons. Friends also gave them small numbers of sheep to start off again. However, the damp conditions on their station did not suit sheep, and they lost many to footrot and other diseases.

News of good dry country in the Wimmera motivated the family to send their sons **Robert**, **Andrew Jnr.** and **Thomas** to drive 1500 sheep along the Wimmera River to try their luck there.

Squatters

They eventually squatted on 124,000 acres along the Yarriambiack Creek, setting up the Werraknabeal station there. After many trials and tribulations, with the assistance of their aboriginal workers, they eventually prospered, increasing their flock to 100,000 by 1869.

The Scotts became wealthy pastoralists, often venturing back to Scotland and the UK, but they always returned to the colony, to the country they had learnt to love.

Nancye's role in international schools

Ticking off the boxes

Buninyong resident Nancye Sullivan would be in the running for the local prize for racking up the most frequent flyer points. She is often travelling to countries such as Vietnam, Japan and India monitoring and supporting schools and staff in the implementation of the *International Baccalaureate (IB)*.

Founded in 1968, the IB is an international educational foundation headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. A graduate from an IB school meets entry requirements for Universities all over the world, including the prestigious Ivy League Universities in the USA.



Nancye's teaching career started at Ballarat Teachers College where she trained as a primary teacher along with her husband Ray whom she had met at High School.

Overseas

After working locally for some time, they went to Penang, Malaysia for two years with their three children then aged 2, 5 and 8. Some ten years later in the midst of the Victorian Government's closing and amalgamating schools, they resigned here and headed to Vietnam for three years.



There, in 1993, they opened that country's first international school since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975.

One year later they were in Yokohama, Japan where Nancye taught at St. Joseph's International School often with a variety of nationalities in a class. A year later, she moved to Yokohama International School where Ray was Principal.

Mix of nations

The dilemma with students from multiple nationalities is whose curriculum do you teach? So creating a global curriculum based on the themes of human commonality - who we are, where we are in place and time, how the world works, how we express ourselves, how we organise ourselves and sharing the planet - made a lot of sense.

The Yokohama school decided to implement the IB Primary Years Program (PYP) in 1999. This was to be the beginning of Nancye's long and passionate association with the IB.

Following nine years in Japan Nancye is now settled back into life at home but still maintains close contacts with the IB.

Her current role is as a global *Schools Services Lead Educator* for the IB. This includes visiting, mentoring and supporting IB schools in their practice of the IB and also reviewing evidence from schools to verify that IB standards and practices are being met.

This year Nancye's visits have included Sydney, New Zealand, Thailand, Japan and India - one of her favourite places to work.

Locally, Nancye supported Ballarat Grammar's initial interest in the PYP and the primary section is now an authorised IB world school.

Over the last two years she worked with Urquhart Park Primary School to support them in implementing the PYP.

In Nancye's opinion if every child attended an IB school where the qualities of being principled, caring, knowledgeable, open minded and inquiring are the 'umbrella' of an educational program and its main focus, the world would be less insular and a much better place. She has recently resigned in her role and is looking forward to the next exciting year.

Cassandra Carland

Buninyong marmalade event

Innings finished after eight years

After eight years of frivolous and serious fun with its marmalade initiative, the Buninyong Marmalade Association has decided to cease operations. The Association ran an Australia-wide marmalade competition and cheekily took on the Poms with its *MarmalAshes* challenge to England after Australia lost the 2010-11 Ashes series in cricket.

Over the years the competition attracted a total of 860 entries from the *Marmy Army* of marmalade-makers throughout Australia and their entry fees - \$6,880 in total - have been donated to Ballarat hospice and palliative care organisations.

Win record

The Australian XI, eleven jars of selected marmalade, beat England XI five times, drew once and lost twice to the English.

The Committee thanks all marmalade-makers and other who have supported the competition. Many jars have been sold to raise funds.

The CWA judges - **Barbara Porter, Sue Gass, Janette O'Keefe, Ann Marston,**

Lyn Fleming, Laurell Cockerell and Melanie Wityk - did a superb job. A particular thank you to Barbara Porter who initiated and carried out two remarkable banquets in Buninyong to showcase marmalade as well as to raise funds.

Council help

For most of its years the event was self-funding through sales of marmalade, the banquet and donations. However, in its first three years Ballarat City Council provided seed funding especially for establishment costs. They have also physically supported the *Buninyong Marvellous Marmalade Fair*, held in late January or early February, with the Mayor or a representative officiating. The Buninyong Community Bank has also assisted in funding this community event. In winding up, the Association has donated remaining funds to Ballarat Hospice Care (\$2,000) and to the Buninyong & District Community Association (\$1,020). The total donations made were over \$9,900.

Ed: The writer of this article was Russell Luckcock who was the initiator and driving force behind the marmalade activities across the eight years of its existence.



Photo shows Jane Hasell-McCosh from Cumbria, England holding the MarmalAshes trophy in the dock of the old Buninyong Courthouse after the England XI beat Australia in 2014. Jane is the founder of the annual International Marmalade Awards.

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Running the 2018 AGM of the Business Network were (L to R) Alison Rickard (Treasurer), Megan Holman (Secretary) and acting Chair Trevor Whitworth

Weekend of tree planting

Community members are invited to assist with two sessions of tree planting to take place in a few days' time. The first will be in the urban streets of Buninyong on Saturday 4 August between 10.00am and noon. Assembly will be in Inglis Street adjacent to the skate park.

The street planting will involve a mixture of trees, both native and deciduous where appropriate.

The second planting session of trees indigenous to the area will be in the Mount Buninyong Reserve, also between 10.00am and noon on the following day, Sunday 5 August. On that day assembly will be at the Mt Buninyong Reserve Car Park, Blackberry Lane.

Helpers are asked to bring a spade or other digging tools, mallet, hammer and a water container to use in watering in the new trees.

The planting days have been organised by the Buninyong and District Community Association and the Upper Williamsons Creek Landcare Group. Enquiries to **Peter Hiscock**, 0408 337 696. Funding support has come from the Buninyong Community Bank.

Business network closes a busy year

After just one year since its formation in 2017, the Buninyong Business Network (BBN) reported many achievements at its Annual General Meeting held in early July.

Now with a membership of forty-five the BBN has a healthy bank account, a logo, is incorporated and has established links with the City Council, *Visit Ballarat* and national cycling officials.

The group has now clarified its statement of role and purpose. It aims to:

- connect the community to local businesses
- provide support to local businesses
- advocate for improved commercial infrastructure that supports investment

- raise the profile of the village and attract visitation

In his annual report, the BBN Chairman **Simon Coghlan** also noted a range of initiatives including production of stickers and calendars, working on various cycling initiatives relating to the national championships and general cycling in the district, lobbied and worked with other groups for the development of the Warrenheip Street business strip, and organised various forms of training for members.

Elected to the BBN Executive for the coming year were Chair, **Simon Coghlan**, Deputy Chair **Trevor Whitworth**, Secretary **Bridget Corcoran**, and Treasurer **Alison Rickard**.

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Blues and Jazz at Brewery

International jazz and cabaret singer **Susan de Jong** will perform spicy Latin, blues and jazz classics with local jazz pianist **Bronwen Algate** at a cabaret style evening at the **Buninyong Brewery** on **Saturday 18 August** at 7.30pm.

Susan de Jong has featured at jazz festivals in Thailand, New Zealand and across Australia. Originally from Adelaide, she lived in New Zealand where she was Director of the Christchurch Jazz School before moving to Australia in 2015. Her new album *Once A Girl* was recorded in Christchurch in 2016 with **Bob Heinz** - guitar, **Ted Meager** – drums, and **Michael Story** – bass.

Bronwyn, aka *Jazzi Bea*, has worked with bands in Ireland, R&B outfits in New Orleans, Reggae in Jamaica and Afro bands in London. In Australia she has worked and recorded with Latino, Reggae and R&B outfits, and locally with *Suitcase Full of Blues* band and saxophonist **Barrie Currie**.

Enjoy this cosy private venue with open fire, free tea, coffee and some snacks. BYO drinks and nibbles. Glasses and plates are provided.

Tickets (\$30) and information available from: **Deborah Gilchrist** 0467 643 279, debandron2000@gmail.com or **Merle Hathaway** 0419 324 042, merle.hathaway@bigpond.com



Buninyong Little Athletics is launching in October!

We need volunteers to assist with the running of this program on a Friday night. We need help with the set up of equipment, running of events and much more...

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If you would like to be a part of this wonderful community-run program, please follow the volunteer link on our website or find us on facebook for more information.

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New 'local' play for mature audiences

It gets hot in that footy club canteen

Think of Me on Thursdays is an Australian contemporary play written over a four week period during an intense and unrelenting time of grief. Playwright, Buninyong's Miranda Donald, wrote this play while at the bedside of her father in August 2017. It seems fitting that nearly one year on from his death, she fulfils her ambition to produce, direct and perform in this production.

While not a play focusing on the death of a father, this play explores human nature and how we interact with one another. Dreams are explored, desires exposed and human nature put under a microscope and all within the confines of a country football club canteen. What better place for people to chat and share secrets over hot chips and green tea!

Mixed emotions

Public readings of this play have had audiences in tears of laughter and tears of sadness as they get carried away on the different journeys of each character.

This play is based around real-life conversations and events, with only names being changed and of course a little bit of liberty taken by the author!



Into rehearsal mode are cast members (L to R) Linda Olger, Janette Baxter, Jane Gaylor, Leslie Hale and playwright Miranda Donald.

The five women of the club share stories and laughs as various members of the club – both players and officials – weave in and out of the storyline. This is a high-energy play, with no interval ... and no boundaries!

Rated M

Explicit language and mature theme warnings are in place as the audience is taken into the inner sanctum of the canteen kitchen on those two Thursday night meals.

The cast consists of **Miranda Donald, Janette Baxter, Jane Gaylor, Linda Olger, Lesley Hale, Ryan Britton and Simon Buckle**. It's on Wednesday 1 August to Saturday 4 August, 9 pm at *Housey Housey*, 12 Armstrong St Nth, Ballarat. There is also a matinee on Saturday 4 August at 2pm.

Tickets : \$25 from *Trybooking*. For more information / group discounts contact **Lisa Cressey** 0408 116 202 or **Miranda Donald** 0409 954 283

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Vietnam veterans welcomed

Local Vietnam Veterans who fought in the battles of Fire Support Bases Coral and Balmoral from 12 May to 6 June 1968 attended the June meeting of the Buninyong RSL.

RSL President **Ron Fleming** welcomed **John Dellaca**, **Rowan Gamble** (RSL members), along with **Des Maher**, and acknowledged their service in some of the largest and most sustained Australian battles of the Vietnam War.

Attack

Fire Support Base Coral was not fully established as dusk fell on 12 May. The attack came the following day by North Vietnamese forces who penetrated the artillery positions, over-running one of the guns were driven back after heavy fighting.

Coral was again attacked on 16 May by an estimated force of three battalions of North Vietnamese who found increased base defences impossible to penetrate and withdrew after several hours of intense fighting. Further attacks occurred on 22, 26 and 29 May after which the base was not seriously threatened again.

FSB Balmoral north of *Coral* was attacked on 24, 26 and 28 May by a two-battalion force that was repelled by a combination of infantry, tanks, artillery and mortars. Operations in the Coral-Balmoral area ceased on 6 June 1968.

During these actions 26 Australians (including fifteen National Servicemen), were killed and over 100 injured.

(Top Right) Des Maher, Rowan Gamble, Vic Bradley (Buninyong RSL longest serving member) and John Dellaca with the 'We Honour the Battle of Coral-Balmoral 50 years On' supplement Army newspaper. The tank pictured commanded by Des Maher sustained serious damage after hitting a tank land mine. The supplement included information on John Dellaca's role in the listening post as part of 131 Divisional Locating Battery. Rowan Gamble's story as part of 104 Signals Squadron was published in a later issue.



Help with food and blankets

The Sturt Buninyong No 23 Lodge Masonic Committee continues to support the 3BA Christmas in July Appeal.

In partnership with the *Freemasons Foundation*, this year the committee contributed \$3000 to assist in the purchase of sixteen pallets of food for distribution among the four principal Ballarat welfare agencies.

The Lodge also donated a further fifteen blankets to *Uniting Ballarat* in support of their program to assist disadvantaged members of our community during these winter months.

Lodge secretary **Ron Fleming** made the blanket presentation noting that the Lodge, in partnership with the Foundation, has provided 85 blankets since 2011.



John Clonan, Team Leader Doorway Program of the Salvation Army, Ken Jenkin, President No23 Masonic Committee, and John Fitzgibbon, General Manager 3BA at the cheque presentation

Girls' team kicks off



Redbacks on a roll

The French celebrations as world champions and the feel-good result of the *Wild Boars* rescue in Thailand recently commanded world-wide interest in soccer. On the home front, the *Buninyong Redbacks* are working hard to put Buninyong soccer on the local football map.

In the men's competition, the *Redbacks* are doing well with both the Div. 1 and Div. 2 sides in finals contention after fourteen rounds. The celebrated *Redbacks'* Under 17 side of 2016 now make up the nucleus of these two sides, and the current Under 17s are also looking forward to finals participation.

In recent years there has been an increased focus on women and girls' participation in traditional male sports of cricket, Australian Rules and soccer. In soccer, the Australian *Matildas* are now rated among the best in the world, so there was excitement in Buninyong in 2017 when *Buninyong Redbacks* entered a girls' soccer team in the local U16 competition.

Team spirit

They won four games in 2017 but are yet to taste victory in 2018. President, **Sue Mroczkowski** said, "These girls are a very young group, and are working hard to improve week by week. Most importantly they have developed a great team ethic

based on enjoyment, encouragement and support." This has become such a team asset it has been openly praised by opposition supporters.

Future Plans

Sue said that the plans for further expansion of the Royal Park area can't come quickly enough. "The move has been great but there is still a lot of work to be done."

If all goes as planned the Club will be able to offer activities outside the present competitions. Soccer Mums, Walking Soccer (Over 55s) and Over 35s are options that have been discussed. It seems that the *Buninyong Redbacks'* journey has only just begun.

Ray Sullivan

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Town Hall venue for **INDIAN FESTIVAL FUN**

Some 200 members of the Indian community from Ballarat and from Melbourne held the 2018 *Teeyan Da Mela Festival* at the Buninyong Town Hall on a Saturday afternoon in late June. This was Ballarat's first celebration of this festival of cultural diversity.

The festival celebrates the culture of the compact Punjabi region located in the extreme northern area of India.

The Punjab lies north of New Delhi, and to the west is bordered by Pakistan. The well-known city of Rawalpindi is part of the



region, and the main religions there are Sikhism, Hinduism and Islam.

The festival is especially dedicated to daughters and sisters. In the Punjab married women would return to their maternal homes to celebrate.

Brothers give a gift set to their sisters as part of the festival which involves sharing food, music, dancing and children's activities. Highlights of the Ballarat event

included a contest to choose Miss, Mrs and Mr Ballarat, and a *Bollywood* selfie zone.

A large number of sponsors, mostly with connections to the Indian community, were involved in the event. These included the very popular *Ballarat Indian Restaurant* located near Sovereign Hill. Shown above (left) are restaurant owners **Sanjay** and **Neeru Sharma**.

Kinder kids to lifelong friends

Two people who have been friends from their days at the Buninyong Kindergarten recently held a joint art exhibition at the Learmonth Art Hall.

They are **Annie Chibnall** and **Tim Sedgwick** who are finding their feet in the art world under mentors **Sarah Lloyd** and **Geoff Bonney**. Annie creates colourful paintings of flowers, while Tim makes wonderful 'found - object' sculptures. After their kindergarten days Annie went to the Buninyong Primary School and then to the Ballarat Special School, while Tim attended the Garibaldi School and Ewing House.

Their exhibition titled *Wow – Look at That! which* ran for six weeks in the May-June period was opened by **Margaret Rich**, former Director of the Art Gallery of Ballarat.



SUNSHINE LETTERS BRIGHTEN UP LIVES

Homelessness in major Australian cities is a serious problem. Recent reports indicate some 400 people sleep on Melbourne streets each night. Ballarat too has a growing number of people ‘sleeping rough’, many of them quite young.

On a visit to Melbourne with her family **Ailish Ryan**, a Year 4 student at Emmaus Catholic Primary School witnessed and was deeply moved by the sight of so many homeless people living and sleeping on the streets.

After returning to Ballarat, Ailish put on her thinking cap wondering how she might do something to help.

Visits

Following a visit to **Fr Constantine** at the Ballarat Shower Bus and another to the Soup Bus, she then approached a teacher at Emmaus, **Jo O’Kelly** who heads the school’s social justice action program to request her support.

While speaking with Fr Constantine at the Shower Bus he suggested that a letter, or card or drawing delivered to a homeless person would make them feel that someone cared. This led Ailish to start her campaign.

She called it the *Sunshine Letters* campaign because the “sun makes us warm and happy” and she hopes that the letters “will brighten up someone’s day.”

Dear Friend

I hope you are having a great day today. If you ever think that no-one sees you, that’s not true. I see you and I care about you.

I have written this letter to put some sunshine in your life.

So just remember that I care. As long as you have this letter, then I hope you’re not alone.

Love Emily



She now has a goal to deliver 300 letters, cards or drawings to people who are using the Soup or Shower bus.

She is requesting students and adults to start off with “Dear Friend” and then “include in it anything you might wish to say.” Ailish asks people to sign the letters but only using their first name.

Her dad **Alan** has also helped out. He built a gorgeous yellow letter box (see picture) that now sits in the foyer of the Emmaus

school. In that space is a large notice which asks the question – *how can we contribute to a most just future for all?* Local residents and children should feel free to write their own ‘sunshine’ letters and drop them in the box at Emmaus.

Letters are being posted there daily and Ailish is busy counting getting ready to deliver them, hoping to bring some of her and her school’s sunshine to the users of the soup and shower buses.