



Friday and Saturday in the village will see **Bands, buskers and wall-to-wall music**

The night of Friday 29 March and then all day Saturday will bring on one of the most varied and exciting music events ever seen in Buninyong. This is when the *Bended Knee Roots Music Festival* will come to town.

The Festival will kick off on Friday evening with a family-friendly bush dance in the Town Hall commencing at 6.30pm.

Captain Accordion (accordion maestro Peter Anderson) and Sovereign Hill's resident band *Men O' the Hill* will be featured. This group has decades of folk

music experience and will ensure a bush dance not to be missed.

Tickets are \$15, but only \$5 for full-time students or other concession card holders. Child U 6 are free. Drinks and supper will be available.

Saturday

The Saturday program starts at 11.00am, continuing through to 10.00pm with artists performing at many venues around downtown Buninyong. About twelve groups and individual musicians are on the program. Shown above is local folk band

The Infusers which will be on stage at the festival. For full details see buninyongfestival.com.au.

There's also a 'pub choir' event in the Town Hall, and music workshops between 1.00-5.00pm at the Anglican Church.

For the all-day Saturday Festival events tickets are \$30 with \$20 concession tickets, Children U12 are free.

To add further colour and interest, a Village Market will be in place between 10.00am and 4.00pm incorporating a great range of food trucks and stalls, with buskers dotted about.

Sunny Expo's record crowds

The sixth Buninyong Smart Building and Living Expo took place at Royal Park on Sunday 24 February in pleasant sunny conditions in marked contrast to the previous year when cold and very strong winds prevailed.

Expo director **Andrea Mason** was very pleased with the response from exhibitors and the record crowds in attendance. Andrea said this was their biggest Expo ever with a great mix of exhibitors, sustainability projects, plants, food outlets and kids' activities such as face painting, solar boats and a hands-on 'treehouse' children's workshop.

The future

One of the features this year was the large display of EV and hybrid cars- together with their enthusiastic owners. There were vehicles from Tesla, BMW, Nissan with a special Hyundai EV from Lakeside Hyundai. Electric bikes were also on display.

The electric car display attracted a large number of inquisitive on - lookers even though the price tags may have been well beyond the average motorist.

Amongst the huge range of exhibitors and community groups there were worm farms, solar panels, revamped furniture, leftover ideas, permaculture exhibits, sustainable building products and contractors, and even book restorations.

Local groups such as Boomerang Bags, the Collective, and Friends of the Botanic Gardens had stands on site.

Ray Sullivan

(Above) Sam Blanchard and her Boomerang Bags team in action. (Centre) The shiny blue Hyundai EV attracted interest. (Lower) Local youngsters and their solar boats.





Chatting after the meeting at the child care centre are (L to R) Geet Gaba, Bridget Tresidder and News reporter Cassandra Carland who will report on activities at the centre.

New owners and name change for child care centre

After its initial 12 months of operation in which there was a solid enrolment response, but also with community controversy over its unsuitable signage, the United Children Child Care Centre in Learmonth Street has recently been purchased by a new ownership team.

One of the first moves by the new owners was to contact *The News* to set up a meeting at which they were briefed about some of the existing problems in community perceptions of the centre.

The owners advised that not only would stories on the centre and its children now be welcomed, but that they would also be pleased to consult over new signage.

New name

The new signage is needed because of the change of name to the *Buninyong Child Care Centre*.

One of the new owners, **Rajat Devyani**, has been involved in other educational ventures around Australia particularly in various training colleges.

The organisational management of the centre will be in the hands of **Geetanjali (Geet) Gaba** who has previously had experience in child care centre management for many years.

Mr Devyani said that the centre would be very happy to become much more involved in community life and activities.

Day-to-day operation and management of the centre will continue to be under the supervision of **Bridget Tresidder** who said that she was “really positive” about the new ownership.

News reporter **Cassandra Carland** has agreed to be the contact person between the centre and *The News*.

streettalk

ANOTHER ONE. Another blow came with the recent sudden closure of the gallery **Studio 408** on the western side of Warrenheip Street. Their wonderful window displays have now been replaced with gloomy Holland blinds. When will any of our elected officials show some energy and get that stalled streetscape project out of Council’s ‘too-hard’ basket?

CELEBRATE. On a brighter note, it was good to see the SOLD sticker on the former *Celebrate* shop across the road next to the post office. Hear that an entrepreneurial local businessman, not an absentee landlord this time, might have done the deal.

SELF HELP. When the Town Hall precinct project was about to commence a couple of years ago, the whole area in front of the hall was to be asphalted. Lobbying by the Community Association saw the two garden beds established on the proviso that Friends of the Botanic Gardens arrange for the planting and upkeep. Noticed a couple of FOBBG blokes down there last week mulching and tidying up. Well done.

MORNING LIGHTS. You don’t have to go to Las Vegas to see bright lights at 3.00am these days. Just camp on the Geelong Road and watch the huge trailers bringing in the massive blades for the Lal Lal wind farm.

COINCIDENCES. In the good old days of print media, humble community newspapers such as *The News* would often scour the major dailies for snippets of local news that could be pinched and published. Now the worm seems to have turned. In the few days following the release of the February and March editions of *The News*, our local daily newspaper suddenly popped up with a major story on **Peter Innes’** teaching career (*News*, February, p 3) and then discovered that a father and son, **John** and **Tom Robinson**, had set up one of the State’s best recording studios out in Mount Helen (*News*, March p 9). We’re happy to be helping the big guys!!

On being a rising star

Over the past year or so there's been grave concern expressed about the falling prices of property, especially in Australia's capital cities. For example in 2018 property prices in Sydney fell a whopping 9.9 per cent, and Australia-wide by 4.8 per cent.

Now while such nationwide trends should hold no serious concern for residents of Buninyong and district (except for those holding a couple of extra apartments in Southbank), a recent report (*Herald*

cannot get enough properties to meet the demand.

While being at the top of the list of *Rising Stars* is quite exciting, the situation does call for reflection on the impact of this on Buninyong as we know it today.

Reflect

Items on the 'reflection' list might include growing traffic problems, the pressure on infrastructure such as schools, the lack of development of local business,

Municipalities and suburbs with increasing sales volumes, which are likely to deliver strong price growth in the near future			
BENDIGO	HOUSE MEDIAN	BALLARAT	HOUSE MEDIAN
Bendigo	\$395,000	Ballarat North	\$380,000
California Gully	\$275,000	Brown Hill	\$350,000
Eaglehawk	\$305,000	Buninyong	\$495,000
Flora Hill	\$340,000	Miners Rest	\$395,000
Golden Square	\$330,000	Sebastopol	\$280,000
Kangaroo Flat	\$320,000		
Long Gully	\$270,000	LATROBE	
Maiden Gully	\$480,000	Churchill	\$180,000
North Bendigo	\$310,000	Moe	\$190,000
WhiteHills	\$310,000	Morwell	\$165,000
		Newborough	\$230,000
		Traralgon	\$295,000
		MELTON	HOUSE MEDIAN
		Burnside	\$635,000
		Heights	
		Fraser Rise	n/a
		Harkness	\$480,000
		HUME	
		Gladstone Park	\$640,000
		Mickleham	\$540,000

Sun, 14 February 2019) did catch the eye. This report looked at areas with "increasing sales volumes, and which are likely to deliver strong price growth in the near future."

Top of the list

There, almost at the top of the list of *Rising Stars* was sleepy old Buninyong with a median house price of \$495,000. The median price is the middle point, or level above which half of the sales fell and below which half of the sales fell.

Local real estate agents PRD report that property sales have indeed been hot here recently. They lament that they

pressures to subdivide, and in particular the attraction for out-of-town investors looking to buy in for capital growth but at the cost of having regular rental tenant turnover of persons less likely to play a positive role in the local community.

Of course many older residents would have been gravely concerned about such factors twenty or thirty years ago with subdivisions and housing developments being floated, farming land disappearing, and with the loss of the cosiness of having one's own Shire of Buninyong just up the street.

Times are changing... but for the better?



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Copy should not exceed 400 words and a maximum of two photographs per item may be submitted. Material may be edited because of space, style, or clarity, or for legal reasons.

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

The Management Committee reserves the right not to publish material considered to be offensive or inappropriate or not deemed to have community interest or relevance.

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Carter Ken to visitor helper

One of the first stops for most people to visit when exploring new places is the local Information Centre. But how many know what's inside the one in their own town?

Buninyong's Information Centre isn't just a place for tourists to find out what there is to see in and around Buninyong. It houses some fascinating historical records and artefacts from the town. The small historic room is packed with information, detailed cemetery records from 1853 to date, books and letters on the goldfields, artefacts and photographs and up-to-date tourist information.

Comments from the *Visitor's Book* say it all – 'top place for information', 'lovely, delightful people', and 'wonderful to see such a marvellous Information Centre in a small township'. One of the Centre's most valuable assets, however, is the staff of local volunteers.

Carter

And leading the team of twelve volunteers is **Ken Nicholls**, who has lived and worked in Buninyong all his life.

Ken's father, **Harry**, left the Air Force after the Second World War and started a trucking business in Buninyong- referred to locally as *Harry Nicholls-Carter*. When Ken finished school, he joined his father in the business. They carted wood to *Cowley's Eureka Ironworks*, hay to farmers, and indeed anything else that needed moving!

He remembers that all business was conducted in the *Crown Hotel* after work over a few pots of beer – no mobile phones then – and it had to be before six o'clock when the hotel closed! Ken



has many memories of life here, one of the most vivid being of the day in 1959 when there was a great procession of floats through Buninyong to celebrate the turning-on of running water!

Sad day

For him, one of the saddest days came in 1968 when several old shops in Warrenheip Street were demolished to make way for the service station, and Ken and Harry had to cart the rubble away. But as Ken says "you have to go along with the times".

His first introduction to the Information Centre was eight years ago when he went to look for details of his aunt's grave in Buninyong and he was coerced into repairing the squeaky door with no handle! He became hooked on the building and its contents and has worked hard to maintain it, becoming Vice-President of the Joint Library Trust.

Buninyong Information Centre is housed in the Old Buninyong Library (1861) in Warrenheip Street, one of the oldest buildings in Buninyong. It is open and

staffed between 10am and 3pm every day except Monday. Telephone is 5341 8211

Ken is looking for an additional volunteer or two for the occasional Saturday morning. So if you are interested in helping out call *The News* or go along to chat with him.

Rita Russell

RSL 2019 Golf Day

The Buninyong RSL's very popular annual Golf Day is again set for Saturday 13 April at the Buninyong Golf Club. It is open to all club golfers.

Two shot gun start times are available, at 7.30am and at 12.30 pm, for the singles Stableford event.

As usual there are great prizes, novelties and plenty of food and drink available on course.

Contact the club to enter - phone 5341 3217. All funds raised assist RSL charities.



King on the court

Federal Member for Ballarat, Catherine King recently visited Buninyong Community Tennis Club to announce a grant of \$59,600 through the federal Community Sports Infrastructure Grants Program.

This grant will be used to upgrade the

surfaces of the courts located on Inglis Street adjacent to the youth recreation area.

Worn out

“For many years Buninyong Community Tennis Club has been an important part of the Buninyong sporting landscape.

These courts have seen a lot of wear and tear as the only tennis facilities in Buninyong available free to the general public,” Ms King said.

“All in the Buninyong community are able to come along and play at these courts, and now they will be up to the quality people deserve.

“We know that upgrades like these are often out of reach of many community clubs, so it is important that this investment will allow the club to improve and grow.”

Ebbs credit

She congratulated all who were involved in securing the grant, and in particular **David Ebbs** who, she noted, “has given so much to the club”.

Club Treasurer, **Allison Pearce** said, “As a local community tennis club, we are delighted to receive a significant grant through the Federal Government’s *Community Sports Infrastructure Grants Program*.”

She thanked the Hon. Catherine King and club President, David Ebbs.

“Without David’s passion, enthusiasm and commitment to our club, this grant would not have been possible,” she said.

Mt Helen battle lost

VCAT gives go-ahead to units

The Mount Helen Residents Group (MHRG), formed to fight a proposal to erect a ten unit complex and basement carpark at 2 Eddy Avenue, was shocked and disappointed by the decision of VCAT handed down on 12 March. The decision followed hearings on 5 October and 10 December 2018.

VCAT Senior member **Hewat** approved the plans for the development subject to a range of conditions.

This followed the refusal of Council to support the planning application on grounds of neighbourhood

character and because of the project’s “bulk, size and intensity being excessive to the locality.”

The VCAT member noted the planning scheme’s reference to Mount Helen as a “convenience living area... where change is contemplated to the existing character of the area as infill development proceeds.” He said that “opportunities for urban renewal and infill development are to be promoted.”

The conditions attached to the approval related to landscape planning, arborist supervision, provision of street trees, roadworks and drainage,

waste management and meeting CFA requirements.

MHRG President **Kevin Zibell**, who led the fight against the project and who appeared before VCAT, said that residents were “extremely disappointed” with the decision.

The development site is zoned as GRZ (which allows for smaller subdivision) as distinct from a Neighbourhood Residential Zone (NRZ). In Buninyong most of the township is NRZ with the exception of two strips on either side of Warrenheip St running south from Russell Street for several blocks.

Four generations of local farming....

JOHN STILL LOOKS AHEAD

At 92 years of age, Mt Mercer farmer John Cameron is still forward-looking in his thinking and his farming. There have been hardships in the past - droughts, disasters and depressions - but John looks to the future of farming as a successful family enterprise.

John is descended from great grandfather, **Alexander Cameron**, who sailed out from Fyfe in lowland Scotland - initially to Tasmania under indentured arrangements with the Russell family and the Clyde Company.

Self help

John's father **Neil** bought the original *Glenspean* property between Meredith and Mt Mercer in 1924 after returning from WWI where he served on the Western Front. Neil married **Kathleen Gordon Browne**, who was born into a pioneering pastoral family, and John and his younger brother, also Neil, were born in 1926 and 1928.

Homestead

In 1952 John married **Beverley Pearson**, who had grown up on an orchard property in Ringwood and in 1954 they built their homestead on the back part of the property which they called *Camberley*. The

two brothers continued this farming tradition in partnership until 1984 when they split to take their own families into partnerships.

John worked his farm with the equipment of the day which centred on the Ferguson tractor, and any implements required were often made or adapted to fit the purpose at hand such as excavating small dams for stock water. The initial house water supply was made by the ever-resourceful John using the Fergie and small grader blade with his foot constantly on the inner-wheel brake to excavate a circular site for the recessed tank!

When the house was built there was no electricity, no water and no roads. Whatever you needed you made yourself - the early sheep-weigher, the land-leveller and the round hay-bale transporter.

However, time has moved on and now the large-scale farming methods have meant that these small dams are now filled in to provide more productive cropping acreage - and that is the way it should be, says John, as modern water storage dams are vast. The Fergie tractor of earlier decades has now been replaced with several 300 horsepower mega-machines with GPS-guided precision.

Then as now, the farm operates as a successful family partnership and this has evolved too with his sons and grandson now replacing John's generation - as always utilising the strengths of each but all 'mucking in' together during key operations such as sowing and harvesting as well as shearing and crutching.

Russell Luckock

2019 Film Festival bigger and better!

With the Buninyong Town Hall now available on Sundays, the 2019 Buninyong Film Festival (BFF) will run over three days from Friday 24 May to Sunday 26 May - showing a record nine films.

BFF President, **Lisa Cressey**, said "It's wonderful that we can now use the full weekend to bring a really jam packed event to Buninyong."

Movies chosen this year range from *Terror Nullius* to *Studio 54 The Documentary*, *Dancing the Invisible: Jill Bilcock* to *Midnight Oil 1984*, as well as movies from Lebanon, Spain and Italy.

The family-friendly film showing on Sunday morning will be *Oddball*. **Luke Hura**, one of Australia's best movie animal trainers, who had a hand in training *Oddball* and *Red Dog*, will be in attendance.

In conjunction with the *Ballarat Heritage Weekend* the Festival will offer two village walks on Saturday and Sunday - one with a geological aspect and the other with an historical building theme. There will also be a free entry showing of the documentary '*Mooramong*' - *Private Hollywood* in the meeting room in the Town Hall.

A program of the films and more information can be found on the BFF Website - www.buninyongfilmfestival.com.au.



John Cameron at the underground tank he excavated to provide the water supply for their new house. The Leigh River provides a delightful backdrop.

Lions Youth of the Year



(L to R) Phoebe Harrison, Kate Brophy, and Aurora Snibson (all Year 11 students at Mt Clear Secondary College), and Tessa Canny, Year 12, Loreto College.

The topics explored in their prepared presentations were *Asylum seekers*, *Finding Your Passion*, *Gender Equality*, and *Gratitude*.

The students who contested this year were **Kate Brophy**, **Aurora Snibson** and **Phoebe Harrison** all from Mount Clear Secondary College, and **Tessa Canny** from Loreto College.

Challenge

The judging panel, **Rosemary Sheludko**, **Shayne Maloney**, **Judy Wilson** and **Matthew Richardson** found the task of finding a winner very challenging.

There were two awards presented. The *Public Speaking Award* resulted in a tie between Phoebe Harrison and Tessa Canny.

The overall winner of the *Youth of the Year* was Tessa Canny. Tessa went on to represent the Buninyong Mt Helen Lions Club at the district level of the competition which was held at the Midlands Golf Club in early March.

Greg Pugh, Program Coordinator

Loreto's Tessa takes top spot

The local phase of the annual *Lions Youth of the Year* program concluded at the Buninyong Bowling Club on 18 February. This is an annual program of the Buninyong Mt Helen Lions club that aims to develop leadership, networking, interview techniques and public speaking for senior secondary students.

Students complete a comprehensive application form outlining their academic achievements, sporting pursuits, community service and ambitions for the

future. They then undergo an interview with a panel of adjudicators.

Speeches

The process of selecting the *Youth of the Year* is completed with students being required to demonstrate their public speaking abilities in both impromptu and prepared presentations.

The challenging impromptu topics were - *World leaders should be building bridges not walls* and *If you were hosting a dinner party, who would you invite?*

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From bacon and burgers to books

About eighteen months after selling the iconic local café, the *Krooze Inn* that he ran with his wife Janeen for some nine years, Alan Sternberg has now decided that his future will be as an author rather than as a barista.

For Alan one of the results of the years at the *Krooze Inn* was a significant deterioration in the condition of his back. "Standing at a coffee machine or at the hotplates all day resulted in my having recurring serious back spasms," he said.

Now he has just completed his first book *The Distinct Disadvantage of Being Normal* which he describes as "an eclectic mix of very short stories, predominantly humorous, for adults who have never grown up."

Hospital

The origins of the book go back over twenty years when his son **Brent** spent many months across three years at the Royal Children's Hospital after a liver transplant.

Alan said that he began writing stories in a visual diary "to entertain myself and to relieve the boredom" as he was the only person allowed to sit with his immune-suppressed son in an isolated room.

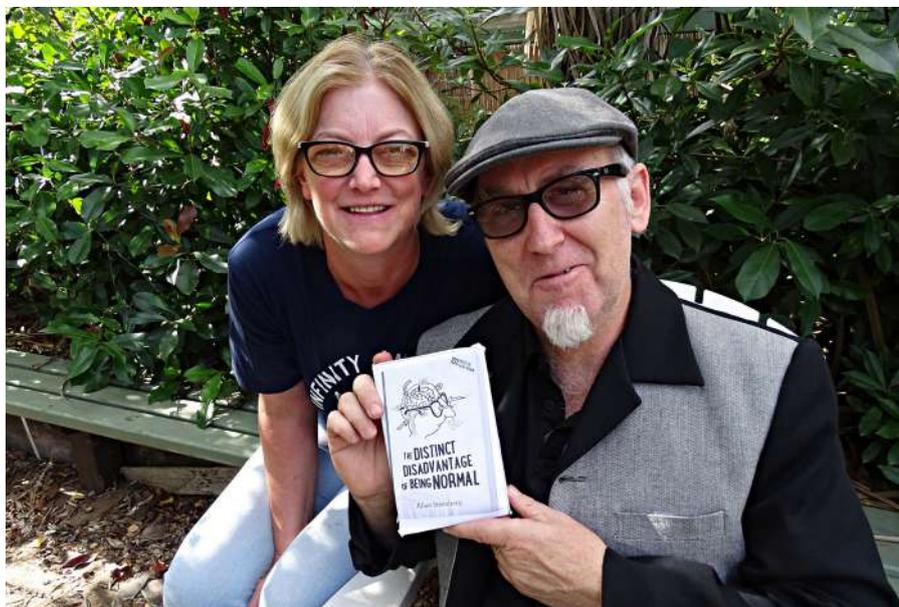
Later, with the large numbers of people coming through his Mount Helen café, many of them expressed interest in his stories and often enquired what he was going to do with them. Eventually, a friend **John Eagle**, a former Buninyong potter and art teacher at the North Ballarat Technical School, told Alan that "these are good, you should put them into a format where others can read them."

Editor

Then another *Krooze Inn* customer, former Federation University **Associate-Professor Bradley Mitchell** offered to assist by editing the stories for publication. The result of all of this is that the book will soon be on the presses at *Fontaine Print* in Fremantle, and is expected to be launched locally in a few weeks' time.

Now long-term Buninyong residents, the Sternberg family home can still be found by looking for their black and white 1968 *HK Kingswood* that was a long-standing landmark on the Geelong Road parked in front of the *Krooze Inn* with the big surfboard on the roof.

These days wife **Janeen** can be found down at the Foodworks' store where she is the manager of the meat department.



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Martin Scuffins (above) with a wedge-tailed eagle, and (lower left, p11) a Barking Owl resting happily on an arm as he waits for a treat.

HOME OF THE WILD BIRDS

The Australian Hobby Falcon spotted us and started 'calling'. The birds are excited...food is coming! The noise became ear piercing and it was getting difficult to talk. I was visiting the Leigh Valley Hawk and Owl Sanctuary not far from Buninyong, run by Martin Scuffins and his wife Talia.

Martin was only six years old when he knew that his interest in birds would be lifelong. In his early years the family was living in Ross Creek with his sisters being involved in gymkhanas and pony clubs.

Not interested in horses, Martin's interest in birds started when a black shouldered kite landed in a tree near him one day.

Home

These days the couple's ten acre sanctuary is home to a variety of birds, some wild-born, some ex-Zoo stock, some from interstate and international wildlife parks, some rescued after injuries.

The most common causes of injuries to wild birds involve power lines, barbed wire, large glass windows, cars, and more

recently, solar wind turbines. Victoria is the most difficult State in which to rehabilitate injured wild birds. Here Victorian birds have to be euthanased if they cannot be released into the wild.

The birds are fed foods such as rabbit (\$5 per rabbit), quail for the falcons from a quail farm in Warragul, (\$1.50 per quail), rats from a licensed pest controller, (Martin also breeds his own rats), guinea pigs from a breeder who has 'rejects', and even meaty kangaroo bones from Coles - really good to wear down the beaks of the eagles.

Plane gone

The birds are weighed every day to prevent excessive weight gain and their food is monitored carefully. Sometimes the family throws food up into the air for them to catch as they would in the wild. One day Martin's son was playing with his model aeroplane and threw that up into the air and a fledging caught it and took it away. He never saw that plane again.

In the falcon breeding enclosure which is kept separate from the others, Cleo, a female Peregrine falcon, is also getting noisy. Martin hopes that she will establish her territory here and be willing to mate. The females are dominant and much larger than the males and have been known to kill smaller males.

Cleo has a new mate arriving soon from Healesville but, sometimes, it is necessary to resort to artificial insemination to protect the males. The *Hobby Falcons* can fly for several kilometres and Martin attaches a backpack radio transmitter so that he can track them when they 'fly free'. He watches their whereabouts on Google

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Maps and attracts them back to base by swinging a 'lure'.

Individuals

Like all species, birds have their individual characteristics. The *Nanking Kestrel*, which weighs about 170 grams, hovers over roadsides in the wild looking for food. Its eyes move at 80-100 sweeps per second so that it sees every slight movement, colour and ultra violet, and can also see 'scent trails'.

The Sanctuary is not open to the public. Instead there are off-site 'encounters' for the public at places like the Garibaldi Hall and *Narmbool*, and displays can be booked for community groups, and clubs, and living history displays. Martin also occasionally goes to Kryal Castle.

For more information contact Martin (0427 414 623) or check the website www.hawkandowl.com.au

Cassandra Carland



New practice to open here

After eighteen years working in the fields of hypnotherapy and counselling in Melbourne, Elaine resident Vera West will open a practice in Buninyong, based at the Ridge Clinic, in a few weeks' time.

Vera lives on a broad acreage property at Elaine with partner **Mark Gallo** who has operated the well-known glass/leadlight business, *The Leadlight Gallery* on the Midland Highway there, for some twenty years.

After working as a High School English teacher at Oakleigh Secondary College for several years, Vera was so greatly impacted by reading the book *The Journey* by **Brandon Bays**, that during periods of maternity leave, as well as training in hypnotherapy and counselling, she trained with Bays and became a Journey Practitioner.

Memories

Bays' approach, adopted by Vera, involves taking clients back to examine suppressed or subconscious memories which may be a cause of current emotional problems or traumas.

She also trained at the Academy of Hypnotic Science. She holds other certificates in Health and Nutrition and has experience in volunteer work in palliative care at Caulfield's Bethlehem Hospital.

Initially she will be conducting her practice in Buninyong on two days each week while maintaining a Melbourne office. Vera plans to offer counselling and self-inquiry sessions, individual and group meditation, and treatment for problems such as relationship issues, anxiety, depression, trauma and abuse, anger issues, bullying and low self-esteem.

Her Buninyong practice will be open in early April and inquiries or bookings can be made on 0411 208 288



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The Buninyong crew at work at Voice FM (L to R) John Clarke, Cassandra Carland, and Anne Wood

Buninyong volunteers help bring A welcome voice to the airwaves

Buninyong seems to generate volunteers of all kinds involved with groups such as Lions, CFA, Freemasons, various sporting Club committees, Boomerang Bags, Buninyong Community Association, and of course the team at the Buninyong News.

One organisation which may be less well known but covers a wide area and counts some Buninyong residents among its group of volunteers is the Ballarat FM radio station 99.9 Voice FM. In this team are Buninyong locals **John Clarke, Anne Wood** and **Cassandra Carland**.

Originally set up under the auspices of Vision Australia to assist visually - impaired folk keep in touch with happenings at the

local level, it broadcasts 24 hours a day seven days a week and is proud to be a part of this community.

Over time the listening audience has expanded and now includes any residents who are able to tune in to Voice FM, not only the visually impaired.

Courier News

One of the most popular programs is *The Courier on The Air*, broadcast each weekday between 12 noon and 1pm, and which focuses on reading local news from the pages of *The Courier*. This hour not only benefits the visually impaired but also new residents for whom English is a second language. With *The Courier* in front of them they can follow the words being read out on the radio.

Before each program goes to air two volunteer readers spend some hours looking at the various articles in *The Courier*, cutting them out, timing how long each one will take to read and checking pronunciations.

Notices

Sometimes reading all the Deaths and Funeral notices can take almost a third of the available time and so decisions have to be made about which general articles must be left out. The Deaths and Funerals notices are reputed to be the most popular part of the hour and some listeners joke that they are always relieved to not hear their names read out.

There is a roster of some thirty volunteers involved in the team of readers, together with six or so volunteers who look after the technical side of putting the program to air. Some volunteers read once or twice a month, others more often. All enjoy the time spent at the microphone and the friendships which come from it.

Satisfying

Volunteers say that it is an immensely satisfying experience - 'Best part of my week', 'feels so good when the hour goes well', 'love it when a listener rings in to say 'well done' are comments often heard.

No prior experience is necessary, training and support is always available and the only requirement is a clear unrushed voice.

There's always a need for more folk to take on the task – just contact reception@voicefm.net.au or John Clarke at clarke3357@gmail.com if you'd like to get involved.

Cassandra Carland

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AUTHORISED BY CATHERINE KING, 5 LYDIARD ST NTH BALLARAT 3350



Golf Club dinner a hit

In February the second of the 'new look' monthly dinners proved to be very popular with over 140 diners enjoying the two-course meal and associated entertainment. The dinners are held on the last Thursday of each month.

These will continue at least until the winter months with the next Dinners being scheduled for Thursday 28 March and on Thursday 25 April (Anzac Day). Cost is \$25 for a two course meal.

At the February dinner President **Ron Delaland** called recently-retired groundsman **Chris Tatt** to the stage where a presentation was made to him by a golfing mate **Clete Paige**.

Tatt had been employed at the club for 27 years, and is an A Grade golfer having won numerous Club, district and state Championships



Eagles to soar again

After the sell-out BABBA show at the Buninyong Golf Club in February, another smash hit production The Eagles Story, will be on stage there on Saturday 6 April. At the BABBA show there were 230 show/dinner tickets sold and another 50 standing room tickets.

The Eagles legend began in California in 1971 with The Eagles Story tribute show being put together in Melbourne on 2010. It features five of the city's most in-demand and respected musicians and vocalists. They are Pete McCarthy, Gary Young, Ash Osgood, Cres Crisp and Steve Wells.

Many of the band's most famous hits will be featured including One of These Nights, Lying Eyes, Peaceful Easy Feeling and Hotel California. The dance floor at the club's upstairs showroom will be open. Doors at the Buninyong Golf Club will open at 6.30pm, Dinner will be served from 7.00pm and show-time is at 8.30pm. Cost of show and dinner is \$57 and standing-room/show only tickets are \$31. Group bookings are welcome.

Online booking can be made through - <https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=440131>

Tatt's hot

Golfers consider it an amazing feat to shoot a score less than one's age. Champion Buninyong golfer **Chris Tatt**, 67, recently did it easily with a score of 63 off the stick.

Off scratch, he had ten pars, seven birdies and an eagle to top off a brilliant round. With 45 Stableford points he easily won the day's competition.

Hello, hello, hello....

Since the mid-1800s Buninyong has had a proud tradition of on-site police presence, including both foot patrol and mounted personnel. Already, **Buninyong & District Historical Society and the Victoria Police Museum hold interesting records of policing services and events around Buninyong.**

But now, a group working on a township police history project is seeking additional historic information, photographs and memorabilia dating back to the first legal precinct in Cornish Street in the 1850s, and also concerning various police sites around the township, mounted police engagement, and other activities over the past 160 years

Anyone able to provide any content or material, or who would like to assist in preparing text and records, please email contact details to Acting Snr Sgt **Peter Anderson** at buninyong.uni@police.vic.gov.au

Thanks for harvest

The next service at Scotsburn Union Church will be at 10.00am on Sunday 7 April when we will have our annual Harvest Thanksgiving service.

Our speaker will be from the Salvation Army and all the donated food will go to support those in need.

Scotsburn Union Church is located on the Midland Highway at Scotsburn opposite the Scotsburn Primary School. All welcome.

Students share stories of camp with Masons

Mt Clear Secondary College students Jayden Wallis and Alistair Sims were participants at the Lord Somers Camp for boys, while Aurora Snibson attended the Lady Somers Camp for a week in mid-January 2019.

Their attendance was jointly sponsored by Sturt Buninyong Lodge and the Freemasons Foundation. At the February meeting of the Lodge, Aurora and Jayden shared their week long experiences with Lodge members over supper.

Camp participants came from a variety of backgrounds, locations, schools, industries and, as individuals or in teams, undertook activities to extend their mental

and physical abilities. The camp values of fun, friendship, care, acceptance and belonging were designed into all aspects of camp life.

Ms **Beth Burgess**, Mt Clear College teacher and student leadership co-ordinator accompanied the students on their visit to the Lodge, explained the selection process and the impact the camps have on participants.

The camps, located on the Mornington Peninsula, were set up by Lord Somers in 1931 when he was Governor of Victoria, and the Buninyong Lodge has co-sponsored the attendance of six students over the past three years.



Lodge Secretary Ron Fleming welcomes students Jayden Wallis and Aurora Snibson together with teacher Beth Burgess to a recent supper at the Buninyong Masonic Lodge.

BDCA working for township

Buninyong is a proud and strong community. As far back as 1954, there have been groups such as the Buninyong Improvement Committee which have advocated on behalf on the village. Today, the Buninyong and District Community Association (BDCA) continues that tradition of promoting and participating in activities for the betterment of Buninyong and neighbouring communities.

Tangible results of the BDCA's efforts can be seen in around the town in the four village entrance signs, the new tourism signage, the street vines, the Town Hall precinct project, the historical building signs, the tourism guide and the new look *Buninyong and District Community News*. Less visible is the work behind the scenes and the advocacy around current issues affecting our community such as Council's Buninyong Town Planning project and the heavy-vehicle bypass.

Regular State Election and Local Government election candidate forums have also been organised by the BDCA to provide an opportunity to meet those seeking to represent our community.

This year, the BDCA - with its working groups of Planning and the Environment; Heritage, Arts and Events; Village Projects; and Membership and Promotion - will be focussing on the Buninyong Town Plan, village beautification, funding for bypass planning and the Greenhill Road development.

The BDCA next meets at 7.30 pm on Thursday, 2 May at the Buninyong Town Hall. All are welcome to attend the meeting and to join the Association.

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Bank board in balance

The highly successful Buninyong Community Bank has been operating for over eight years and following the 2018 AGM now has three newly-elected women as members of the Board.

Samantha Elshaug, Joanne Innes and Andrea Mason joined Lydia Mzondo who was appointed to the Board eighteen months ago. Amber Balazic was a former director and after many years as both bookkeeper and later a director, Amber retired last year.

Bank Board Chairman Richard McDowell said that the Board has been focused on making sure it has “the right people, in the right roles at the right time to keep the bank progressive and relevant. Plus as a representative community organisation, we

want to be a positive example on matters such as gender balance.”

The new Board has commenced at a critical time with consumers on high alert after the findings of the Hayne Royal Commission.

Newly-appointed director Sam Elshaug said “I think all of us new Directors are very excited about joining the Board, with respect to the excellent business the current and previous Boards and the staff have developed. With so much consumer distrust in big banks at the moment, the Community Bank concept is a real alternative for local people.”

In just over eight years the bank’s Community Investment program has seen more than \$700,000 returned to Buninyong area groups.

AROUND THE CHURCHES EASTER 2019

ST PETER AND PAUL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fisken Street, Buninyong
Contact **Margaret McCarty** 5341 3243
1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays at 10.30am
2nd and 4th Sundays at 9.00am
Easter Sunday Mass, 21 April, 10.30am

UNITING CHURCH

Learmonth Street, Buninyong
Contact **Carlyne Nunn** (from early April)
Services: Buninyong:
Sundays, 9.30am
Meredith: 2nd Sunday 11am
Sebastopol: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 11am

ANGLICAN CHURCH

Cr Warrenheip & Scott Sts, Buninyong
Rev **Mark Schnerring** 0401 022 107
www.buninyonganglican.org.au
Sunday Services: 8.30am and 10am
Children’s Sunday School Program,
Sundays at 10am (for pre-school and lower secondary school children)
Easter Services: Good Friday, 10am,
Easter Sunday, 10am

BAPTIST CHURCH

Learmonth Street, Buninyong (at the Uniting Church)
Services: Sundays, 11.00am
Contact **Bruce Morley** 0400 966 677

SCOTSBURN CHURCH

Midland Highway, Scotsburn
Contact **Heather Stokes** 0438 131 778
Services: 10am first Sunday in month



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2019

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Buninyong
Town Hall

Collective growing and active

The Buninyong Community Collective is continuing on its successful path. The group has now been running for nearly six months.

Anyone can become a member of the collective, and shoppers can bring their own containers to purchase goods such as olive oil, rice, flours, tamari (a gluten-free version of soy sauce), sultanas and nuts.

Recently, fresh produce was added to the collective, with a local grower setting up a stall with her vegetables for sale during the morning session each week. **Georgina Chew** a market gardener from Yendon, offers a seasonal array of organically grown, fresh produce to collective members. Shoppers who cannot make the morning session, will be able to order directly from *SunnyPatch Farm*, and collect their orders in the evening session.

Group discount

Members of the collective have also been able to obtain a group ordering discount from *Castlemaine's Food Garden*. Depending on how many members order, and the offering of a local verandah as a collection point, this discount will be able to continue into the future.

Buninyong Boomerang Bags has joined forces with the collective and is holding workshops each Tuesday when the collective is open. No experience is necessary.



Suzanne Nunn, President of Buninyong Sustainability, presents Kristy Gainger (Buninyong Community Collective), along with Lucy and Sarah Gainger, with a cheque for \$700 raised from the Smart Building and Living Expo raffle.

The Collective also took part in the recent *Buninyong Smart Living and Building Expo*. Members were active in collating a number of prizes for the raffle, the proceeds of which *Buninyong Sustainability* has generously donated to the Collective. These funds will be used to purchase more storage containers so that the collective can increase its range of dry goods on offer to members.

Next

The next steps for the collective are looking at opportunities for members to donate their excess garden produce,

formalising reciprocal rights with both *Ballarat* and *Creswick* Collectives, and investigating adding more gluten free options to the range of goods already available for purchase.

To join the Collective call in during opening hours (9-11am, and 5-7pm, Tuesdays) at 405 Scott St, Buninyong (in the hall of the Anglican Church) Membership is \$50 for the first year, and \$20 annually thereafter. See buninyongcommunitycollective.org.au or our Facebook page, for more details.

Hayley Quach

contact us today...

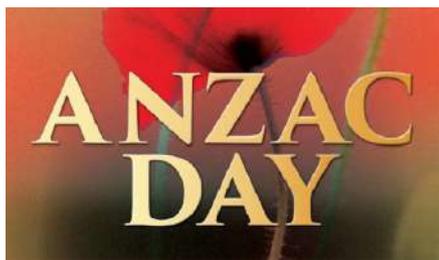
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ANZAC Day service set



The annual ANZAC Day service will again be held in RSL Park on Thursday 25 April 2019 commencing at 10.15am. All Buninyong and district residents are cordially invited.

The RSL reminds all that in times of increasing tension around the world, it is important to remember those servicemen and women who sacrificed their lives in the past, together with current members of the ADF who help safeguard the freedom enjoyed today.

The service will conclude at 11.00am with a march to the Town Hall and back, after which light refreshments will be provided in the RSL Hall by the RSL Women's Auxiliary.

New lady members

The Buninyong RSL Women's Auxiliary is seeking new members to join the group to assist with various support roles such as fund-raising, and catering for the ANZAC and Remembrance Day services.

You do not have to be a relative of a service person to join the Auxiliary. The group meets on the third Tuesday in May, August and November at the RSL Hall at 10.00am.

President **Joan Antosiewicz** (0409 174 605) is happy to give more information or to hear from those who are interested.



Cooler month but very dry

This year, the start of February was unusual because it came with a distinct drop in temperature. Our very hot January had only five days under 25° while February followed up with fourteen.

Rain also fell in the second week of February - 18.7mm in total. This reduced the fire risk, settled the dust and revived plant life.

Overall, the Summer figures were quite routine. Daily maximum temperatures averaged 27.7° and we received 114.1mm of rain across December, January and February, almost spot on the recent Summer average of 117.1mm. However, the *distribution* of the heat and rain through the past six months was anything but routine.

The record dry Spring, usually our wettest season, meant that Summer arrived with country already dry and tanks and dams low. The rain in early December came as a relief and eased conditions considerably, but then the heat arrived. Almost no rain fell from mid-December to mid-February, through a record consistently hot January.

Two daily reminders of this are the fire trucks frequently parked outside the CFA station, ready for action. The other, often seen refilling nearby, is the local water truck going flat out delivering to all those in the district who are running out of water.

FEBRUARY 2019			
Date	Rain	Date	Rain
7-8	6.5	9	6.6
10	0.5	12	4.5
13	0.3	14	0.3
Total		18.7mm	
Average		34.5mm	

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dog problems

This is a reminder to those who walk their dogs in Desoza Park, Buninyong, particularly a group of people who regularly walk several dogs there (with some off-lead), usually in the mornings.

The City of Ballarat has very clear rules about where dogs 'must be on a lead' and the walking track in this park is one of those places. Not only is there is a sign in the park showing that this is a requirement but dogs must be on leads on 'any walking path or shared footpath'.

This also includes footpaths in public streets and applies to all dog owners.

Ian Dodds, Buninyong

Editor's Note: It seems that the writer has a small, aging dog that he likes to walk in Desoza Park but there have been several occasions when uncontrolled barking dogs have aggressively approached. It has been necessary for the small dog to be lifted out of harm's way. Complaints have also been received about dogs tied to seats near the Buninyong Pizza shop. Not sure of the problem there... perhaps tripping pedestrians!

Outsiders

My quick response to *The News* editorial (*Council inaction, landlords lead to street's slow death*) in the March edition is that it is obvious that the Council thinks that Buninyong is NOT part of Ballarat. Look at the placing of the two *Welcome to Ballarat* signs on the south side of Ballarat.

One is just before Sebastopol on the Midland Highway, and the second is between Mount Helen and Mount Clear. What else can you say?

Luc De Keulenaer, Durham Lead

Corporate bowls cuts across ages



One of the most successful community events in Buninyong at this time of the year is the Corporate bowls competition which runs on Thursday evenings at the Buninyong Bowling Club for six weeks during February and March.

With 26 teams entered this year and over 130 people participating, this event has become so popular that there is now a waiting list for new teams wanting to join in the fun.

Idea

The idea of having teams of novice players from the local community and businesses was the brainchild of **Simon Avery** who saw this as a way of improving the Club's finances and increasing membership.

That was fifteen years ago. And today, over 50 per cent of the Club's current membership is comprised of people who originally joined in the Corporate Bowls competition. The emphasis, however, is not to use pennant members of the Club, who might be seen as well practised, but for them to sponsor teams who don't play at a competitive level.

For young and old alike, the event is fun. At one time, there were three generations of the one family, father, daughter and

grandson all playing in teams in Corporate bowls.

Season

For six weeks, the greens are buzzing. Lots of noise and friendly banter, and delicious smells fill the air. At times games are delayed as some players look to the bar or to the sausage sizzle to improve their skills!



The final round of the competition sees many players (especially the non-winners) getting into costume to add to the atmosphere.

Students

Bowls used to be considered a game for 'oldies' and retirees but this is no longer the case. Three experienced members of the Club under the direction of **David Driffin** are training a team of Grade 5 and 6 students from Buninyong Primary School to enter the Victorian Lawn Bowls Championship.

In fact, the game has become so popular with the students, that in 2018, indoor bowls became part of the physical education programme at the primary school.

Any members of the community can go along to try their hand at bowling on a Wednesday afternoon. However, the Club does offer non-competitive social bowls membership for an annual fee of \$40. This includes full access to all facilities, including the bar, the social club and also indoor bowls in winter.

Rita Russell

(Above) Brian Simmonds brought out his holiday gear.

(Lower) Witches Rita Russell, Ken Cook, Dale Ayers haven't left any room on their broomstick for Gordon Reynolds



Promising season over

After a strong start, Buninyong Cricket Club's first year in the A grade competition saw performances fall away a little in the second half of the season.

The Club can still be proud of the team's efforts. They finished in the middle of the field with seven wins and 42 points. Buninyong's Third XI was the only team to make finals.

Finals for bowlers

Two Buninyong pennant bowls teams, the strong Division 3 and Division 5 teams, comfortably won their Grand Finals recently. The Division 8 team was runner up.



In the mid-week competition further success came the way of Buninyong's Division 1 and Division 3 teams at the Grand Finals held at Central Wendouree two weeks ago.

"These four premierships, along with our top Pennant team staying in the district Championship division next year, have wrapped up a terrific year for the Club," said President **Wayne Morgan**.

Looking for a feed

There's no need to go to Anglesea to see wildlife on a golf course.

It seems the lack of grass in Buninyong's bushland has encouraged local kangaroos to venture onto the golf course again for a feed.

A mob of about twenty were recently spotted around the 11th green.

We know the district!



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O'Loughlin to coach Bombers

Senior role seals pact between good mates

At the end of last football season Shaun O'Loughlin was appointed as new senior coach of the Buninyong Football Club. It marked a full circle for Shaun as he grew up in Buninyong, attended Buninyong Primary School and spent a lot of time at the football ground, particularly hanging around the coach's box on match day as a child.

Shaun said that it is likely this is where he got his desire to get into coaching one day.

After a football career cut short with a broken leg while playing with Wendouree Lakers, Shaun certainly has made the transition into coaching in a big way. He has already compiled an impressive list of coaching achievements in his football CV.



These include coaching and mentoring stints at the Ballarat Football Club, North Ballarat Rebels, Melbourne Football Club, Goldfields Junior Academy and recently as the head coach of the Ballarat Interleague side.



He has also been heavily involved in the development of girls and women's football at AFL and regional level. Shaun is a Level 3, AFL accredited coach, which is an invitation-only course and almost at the top of football coaching accreditations.

Dual pact

By taking on the coaching role at Buninyong Football Club, Shaun is fulfilling a vow he made as a young man with fellow Buninyong boy and childhood friend **Shannon Murphy**. Shannon was a great mate of the O'Loughlin boys and grew up alongside Shaun and his brother **Steve**, playing junior sport together and sharing a love of football.

Many years ago, Shannon and Shaun made a pact to one day be joint coaches of the Buninyong Football Club. According to Shaun, "Shannon was one of the most talented sportsmen ever to come out of Buninyong." He was tragically killed just over 20 years ago. Shaun sees his appointment as allowing him in some way to fulfill this pact.

Shaun is looking forward to helping the club work towards achieving that elusive

grand final victory. He said the side will look a little different from last year's grand final side with about six players moving on for various reasons. But he believes that the quality of on-field and off-field replacements will ensure another positive year for the football club.

Community

Finally, Shaun stressed the importance of the community in the development of all sports in the town. In the off-season, the football club has made a concerted push to be in touch with Buninyong people in an effort to generate greater community interest and involvement.

"As a family-friendly club, seeing more families and community members coming through the gates would be wonderful for the great town of Buninyong," he said.

Away from the football field, Shaun is a highly-regarded teacher and coordinator at the Scotsburn campus of the Buninyong Primary School.

Ray Sullivan

(Above : Coach O'Loughlin gives some advice to Ned Gilbert prior to a practice session)