



Going up 2015



Coming down 2019

Major rebuild of community cottage

The walls came tumbling down

The sound of jack-hammers will herald the start of Buninyong's new Community Hub. The old building purchased by the local Buninyong Community Bank was deemed unsafe and is being largely demolished before being re-built to become a centre of community activity.

The new building has been designed by local Ballarat heritage architect **Wendy Jacobs** and will be built and outfitted in an environmentally-friendly manner. This is in keeping with Bendigo Bank's strong commitment to the environment.

The heritage of the local streetscape will also be preserved as the front façade of the existing building will be retained, while the rest of the building will be new. The cost of the work is estimated at around \$400,000 with demolition starting in late July and building construction, by Mount Helen builder **Chris Williams** using local tradespeople, expected to be completed by early 2020.

Steve Falconer, a director of Buninyong Financial Services Ltd that owns the local Buninyong Community Bank, said that there was a strong commitment to

provide the building as a hub for local community activities.

"The internal fit out of the new building will include rooms with equipment, facilities and amenities for residents and groups to conduct meetings and the small backyard, designed by local landscaper **Paal Grant**, will provide space for outdoor meetings and a safe play space for children," he said.

The new facility should be operational by early next year – the tenth anniversary of the opening of the Buninyong Community Bank.

- Russell Luckock

Lana-Rose comes back home

From humble beginnings in that little shop in Warrenheip Street to a central-Ballarat presence in a shop adjacent to the Mining Exchange in Lydiard Street, Lana Rose Fashion has come back home to Buninyong where Tracey Spencer now operates it as an on-line business.

The idea for *Lana-Rose* started in 2010 when Tracey tried on some Rockabilly clothing and fell in love with the style and associated culture. She decided to go into business with an emphasis on vintage-inspired fashions. The name for the shop was coined from the names of **Lana**, Tracey's elder daughter and **Rose** her younger sister.

Modest

At the outset the Buninyong shop stocked a modest mix of vintage and pre-loved clothing along with the *Rockabilly* line of fashions, much beloved by the rock and roll set, and sundry other clothing lines.

But with the move to Lydiard Street in October 2015, the range of clothing and accessories expanded rapidly to include brands such as *Rockabilly*, *Psychobilly*, *Pinup*, along with 1950s-inspired menswear, accessories, hats, and swimwear.

Tracey and her business also became heavily involved in *Ballarat Beat*, Victoria's biggest rockabilly festival held in February of each year in Ballarat.



Tracey Spencer with one of her most popular lines – a full-skirted red dress with white spots.

Earlier this year, Tracey decided that with a growing list of local and on-line orders from customers from all over Victoria, interstate and overseas – many of whom came to know the business through the *Beat* and other similar festivals – she would cut out the high overhead costs of operating the Lydiard Street business and take her business on-line while maintaining a small showroom in Buninyong for appointment-only clients.

She said that over recent years the proportion of her on-line business had increased from 50 per cent to about 90 per cent.

In addition, every couple of months she plans to create 'pop-up' shops to run for about two to three weeks in Buninyong, Ballarat and other regional towns. She said that she also hopes to run 'tiki'-style events within festivals such as the 2020 *Ballarat Beat* and the *Begonia Festival*.

Much better, better park bridge Cr Ben



After community uproar at the installation of the metal 'cattle race' bridge in Desoza Park in July 2018, and after persistent lobbying by the Community Association, **Cr Ben Taylor** has acted to have the bridge restyled using solid plastic wood-look railings. Much better look and well done, Ben!

\$150,000 roads report finds East Link is a fizzer

In November 2017, following lobbying by the Community Association about the increase in heavy traffic through Buninyong, Geoff Howard MP announced a grant of \$150,000 to investigate a “link to the east of Ballarat” which he said would assist the Buninyong traffic problem.

At the time he was told by the Buninyong & District Community Association (BDCA) that an eastern link road was largely irrelevant to the build-up of heavy vehicle traffic coming through the village, and proposed that the study should also provide comparative data to the 2012 *Buninyong Traffic Impact Study*.

Research

The 2018 research work relied heavily on a two-day *Origin and Destination Study* which used fourteen camera nodes and number plate recognition technology to track vehicles from their entry point to Buninyong to their destinations and again at various exit points.

At a 9 July meeting between BDCA Executive members and senior Regional Roads Victoria (VicRoads) staff, and

the research consultants, the results of the \$150,000 study finally were released. The key finding of the study was that while “a small number of heavy vehicles might use an eastern link road... it would not have the desired outcome of removing significant numbers of heavy vehicles from Buninyong”.

It concluded that “only a modest proportion of heavy vehicle trips on the Midland Highway might transfer to a new arterial to the east” or to an upgraded Yankee Flat Road.

No surprise

BDCA President **Gayle Adams** said that this finding was not a surprise. “All along the community concern here has been not about traffic ‘to the east’ but the heavy vehicle traffic coming along the Midland Highway from Magpie and from Geelong. This is certain to get worse once the impact of the Western Link Road is felt,” she said.



Although it was listed to be included in the scope of the study, there was only passing comment about possible by-passes around Buninyong. It was reported that “construction constraints for a new Buninyong by-pass would be considerable” stemming from the nearby “hilly terrain” and the township being in a valley.

Safety

The report did concede that “other data revealed a significant amount of safety issues related to speed in Buninyong”. It recommended that “traffic calming measures and planning work are to be explored to resolve the issue of safety within Buninyong”.

Reference was made to the new “gateway treatments” – the new enlarged signage structures recently installed at each entrance to the village. These, together with revised line markings are seen to slow traffic by creating an illusion of there being a narrower gateway through which traffic passes.

The BDCA plans to further discuss the findings of the study, its various options and outcomes and commentary with Regional Roads Victoria when members have had a chance to read the full report.

Left: Some of the participants in the BDCA-VicRoads meeting (LtoR) Mal Kersting (VicRoads), Kevin Zibell, Peter Hiscock, Ian Salathiel and Robert Elshaug (BDCA).



Ballrooms v Buninyong

The 2019-2020 Budget of the City of Ballarat is a disappointment for Buninyong projects.

It is possible to find Budget allocations of:

- \$1,000,000 for the restoration of the ballroom at the Ballarat Town Hall
- \$1,000,000 for Bakery Hill
- \$1,228,000 for "IT system development" and
- \$500,000 for the "desktop replacement program"

However, there's not a specific mention of any Buninyong project to be seen in this Budget. Maybe some of the \$370,000 allocated to bicycle paths might find its way out here. But then there's also the \$270,000 for "bicycle strategy projects"!

Nothing

Council has not acknowledged the importance of the Warrenheip Street upgrade project, or the improvement needs at Royal Park, or for real action on the now-six year old master plan for Desoza Park. The 2019 scoreboard – nothing!!!

Look at where some of these major projects for the Buninyong village sit at the moment.

WARRENHEIP STREET UPGRADE:

This has been lobbied for over the past five years.

There have been two concept plans prepared, and the latest news from Council is that "costings are being undertaken".

That does little to help the BDCA and the Business Network (and supporters such as the Community Bank) go to Regional Development Victoria for funding for yet another year or two.

BUNINYONG TOWN PLAN:

Despite the fact that Buninyong Town Hall was packed for a people's planning

forum in June 2017, and then again for the Council "launch" in September 2018, and that 300 people completed surveys, and that Council trumpeted that draft recommendations would be on their MySay website in early May 2019 – nothing!

The latest from Council is that nothing can be expected before mid-2020 because the City has decided to have a new look at *city wide planning issues*.

ROYAL PARK RESERVE:

This has long been touted as a hot project by Cr Des Hudson, and was featured in pre-State election promises.

But unless there are some significant dollars tucked away in that vague \$13 million or so listed for "recreation capital improvement" we seem destined to be waiting for a while yet for action on the exciting plans down there.

OFF LEAD DOG RESERVE:

This is not exactly in the league of a village by-pass.

And while there is a much-praised one at Wendouree (which Council publications tell us has created hundreds of happy dogs and lots of happy people), what has happened here?

Cr Taylor's pre-election pledge to get this in place promptly has been gazumped by Council administration wanting to hold off until a *city wide strategy plan* on dog areas has been completed.

...

With the State Government now flagging legislation to bring in one-Councillor Wards, there might be some interesting times ahead for our Councillors.

In the meantime all of Buninyong can look forward to improvements to the ballroom, and the "replacement of desktops"!

& district
Buninyong
COMMUNITY NEWS

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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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BILL THANKS THE BLACK ICE HERO

On the morning of Monday 24 June around 9.00am, it was pretty cold in Buninyong with the temperature then around a freezing minus 2° having risen from a low of -4° earlier in the morning.

While on his usual walk around town, local bowls identity **Bill Bridges** noticed a young man with a Rokewood-Corindhap football club beanie standing on the footpath next to the sculpture near the *Old Bluestone Café*.

Bill was about to take the path there to cross the highway, when the beanie-clad young man warned him that there was a heavy coating of black ice on the pavement and that he should avoid that area.

Two falls

“The young man told me that he had earlier seen two elderly ladies slip and suffer heavy falls, and that he had rung the Ballarat City Council to get someone to come out,” Bill said.

Bill said he was especially grateful to him as he was booked to go on a Canada and Alaska holiday two days later, and felt that he avoided a potential serious injury that could have created big problems for his travel plans. The young man told Bill that his name was **Jason Hutchins**.

Old Bluestone Café owner **Marilyn Delfin** said that the footpaths around the corner area had been hosed with water earlier that morning which resulted in the ice forming, and that she too had almost fallen. One of her customers, a 60 year old man, had slipped and injured himself. She said that Council workers later arrived and hosed the footpaths again.

Using the clue of the beanie and several calls to the Rokewood area, *The News* tracked down the unassuming hero who had spent almost an hour steering people away from the dangerous location.

Jason Hutchins, 32, is a teacher at Ballarat and Clarendon College, who lives in Buninyong. He has played football with Rokewood-Corindhap for some ten years, has coached the Senior team, and currently is the coach of the U18s. His wife **Emily** is from Rokewood.

On leave

On Monday, with a new born child only a few days old, Jason was on the last day of paternity leave when he found himself in the helper role at the corner, after taking one of his other two young children to kindergarten.

He dismissed the ‘hero’ tag saying that he found out how dangerous the areas was when he ran to help a lady who had fallen, and found himself skidding on the black ice. He said that he was happy to spend some time making a small contribution to the safety of the many residents walking in that area on that freezing morning.



Above: Local bowls identity Bill Bridges.

Below: Jason Hutchins points out to *Old Bluestone Café* owner Marilyn Delfin where several people fell on the black ice.



TOWN PLAN STALLED

A decision by the City of Ballarat to take a “broader view” over the management of landscape and neighbourhood character has resulted in a delay to the release of the draft recommendations of the Buninyong Township Plan.

It is understood that the recent surprise decision by VCAT to approve the ten unit development on the corner of Geelong Road and Eddy Avenue, Mount Helen, was a factor in Council’s reviewing its town planning process to “ensure that character management objectives can be better achieved”.

Wider study

City planner **John Dyke** said that the additional cross-city aspects that will now be considered in all township plans will include:

- *Neighbourhood character study* – identifying character across the city, and how character should be protected
- *Compact City Housing Plan* – identifying priority areas for growth and limited growth areas (with consideration of capacity, location and character), and how growth will be managed, and
- *Living corridor protection review* – including a review of planning scheme controls relating to vegetation and environmental significance, including the koala overlay, and how these interrelate with the bushfire overlay controls.

These changes will also allow further work to commence on the Buninyong landscape



character assessment, as well as other planning matters to be incorporated into the final plan.

Mr Dyke said, “Since our last community engagement activities, the *Buninyong Township Plan* project has been progressing well with the completion of a biodiversity and economic assessment, and preparation of a draft *Background Paper*.”

Issues

He added that community input has helped inform a number of key issues to be addressed in the plan including access and connectivity, development and commercial opportunities, environment and local character, and open space and recreation.

Preliminary directions to be highlighted in the *Background Paper* include:

- strengthening heritage themes in urban design
- strengthening tourism by creating a destination and supporting diverse attractions

- emphasising infill housing around the town centre
- creating a comprehensive pedestrian and cyclist network
- developing and reinforcing living corridors, and
- better embedding sustainable building practices.

Now delay

However, due to undertaking the additional cross-city work first, a decision has been made to delay completion of the *Buninyong Township Plan* until this new exercise has been completed.

Council plans to update the Buninyong Township Plan *MySay* page in due course. This will include information about opportunities for the community to be involved with the neighbourhood and landscape character work being undertaken.

It is expected that the *Background Paper* and draft Township Plan will now be completed and released for consultation in mid-2020.



**BUNINYONG
BUSINESS NETWORK**
“Bringing Business to Buninyong”

Our aim is to bring together local businesses to help develop initiatives that strengthen our community.

A membership based organisation run by volunteers who are passionate about living and working in Buninyong.

Advocating shopping locally and supporting local business wherever possible, attracting more visitors and investment to our village.

If you would like more information on our members, membership benefits, initiatives and how you can be involved please get in touch.

www.facebook.com/buninyongbusinessnetwork | buninyongbusinessnetwork@gmail.com

Another Buninyong appointee as Michael heads up major group

A Buninyong resident for the past thirty years, Michael Poulton has just been announced as the new CEO of Committee for Ballarat, a major regional advocacy group,

His appointment continues strong leadership roles that Buninyong residents have played in the group in recent years. For example, **Judy Verlin** and **Janet Dore** have been recent Chairs of Committee for Ballarat, and the previous CEO **Melanie Robinson** and long-term staff member **Gayle Adams** all live in the village.

Members of the Committee include most major local companies such as Selkirk Bricks, Haymes Paints, Mars and JG King, the two Universities, the City of Ballarat, banks, hospitals, the Courier and 3BA, and many of the commercial, industrial and services firms in the Ballarat area.

Projects

With project teams working across a broad range of activities, the Committee promotes development of Ballarat and region through visionary planning and liaising with the three tiers of government in areas such as improved transport linkages, investment in local industry, technology and renewable energy and development of areas such as the Ballarat West Employment Zone, and revitalisation of the CBD.

Recently Committee completed its highly-successful *More Than Gold* media project which highlighted local identities, business leaders and other personalities who have chosen to live, work or set up

business locally, and focussed on the quality of lifestyle or business activity here. Committee for Ballarat also provides a nation-leading program of leadership development.

Fresh outlook

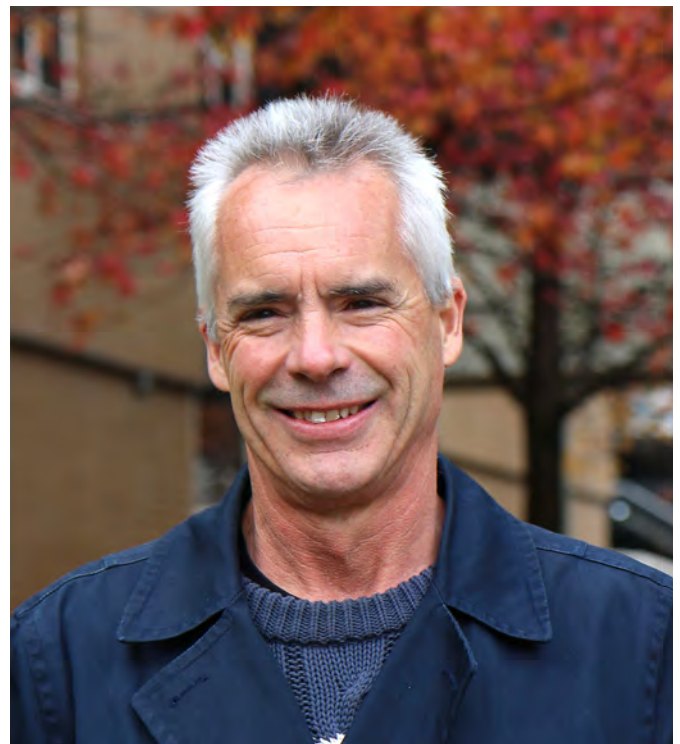
Michael Poulton will bring a fresh perspective to the CEO role at Committee for Ballarat. A short career as a primary teacher in the Daylesford area was followed by Masters degree studies at the Universities of Ballarat and also at British Columbia, and then by a seventeen year career as a University lecturer. This led to senior management roles with top-level sporting groups such as the VFL and AFL clubs, Olympic-level sport, and developing leadership in athletes, coaches and other CEOs.

A very fit 55 year old, Michael still runs, cycles, occasionally rows on Lake Wendouree, and plays first grade hockey in Ballarat.

He believes that the skills he has developed in communication, planning, and achieving goals, will stand him in good stead in his new

challenging role of providing leadership to a member-based organisation and liaising with senior politicians and officials from all levels of government.

Despite travelling widely within Australia and overseas in his previous employment, and for the past thirteen years commuting to Melbourne working with Athletics Australia, Michael has maintained his strong links to Buninyong where he and wife **Megan**, a long-term maths and science teacher at Loreto College, first settled in 1990. Daughter **Annie**, now 23, attended Buninyong State School and later Loreto. He said, "We all love living in this community."



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Two days of tree planting

HELP TO KEEP THE MOUNTAIN GREEN

Over 150 years ago, the Shire of Buninyong was well ahead of its time in moving to conserve the forest growth on Mount Buninyong. Concerned at the rate of timber felling in the region, largely to feed the mining infrastructure, the Shire's early Councillors became concerned that Buninyong's defining landmark, Mt Buninyong itself, might become yet another bare volcanic cone.

In the mid-1860s they petitioned the then Colonial Government to declare the upper reaches of the mount a Reserve for the people. This effectively protected the area east of Blackberry Lane encompassing the two crater surrounds – one on the west side of the mount below the current access road, and the other on the north east side below the down road. It also saved some of the manna gum forest on the west and south sides, now part of the reserve.

Tree losses

The Mt Buninyong Reserve is a precious resource now managed by the City of Ballarat. In recent years a combination of sustained high winds, lower than normal rainfall and the natural ageing process has resulted in abnormal tree losses. It is a matter of some urgency that more trees are planted.

Following last year's successful community tree planting weekend in the Mt Buninyong Reserve, a follow up is planned for this winter. This is being organised by the BDCA Vice President **Peter Hiscock**, who is also on the Reserve Management Committee. The tree planting days will again be organised in conjunction with Upper Williamsons Creek Landcare Group which for many years now has undertaken tree planting and other conservation work on the mount.

These groups are looking for volunteers to help to plant trees (tube stock) indigenous

to the area, and made available through the nurseries of the City of Ballarat.

If you can help, choose from two planting days – Saturday 3 August at 10 am, or Sunday 4 August starting at 10.30 am. The meeting place for work parties is the car park off Blackberry Lane in the Mt Buninyong Reserve. Bring spade or digger, a hammer or mallet and if possible a water container. Please ring **Peter Hiscock** on 0408 337 696 or **Roly Nam** on 0419 288620 if you can assist.

Shown are community members at work on the Mt Buninyong planting exercise in 2018.



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Woodstock 50 years on

In August 1969, over half a million people went to upstate New York for three days of peace and music at The Woodstock Music & Arts Fair.

On 10 August 2019, Buninyong Community Events Inc. is bringing a little Woodstock to Buninyong! Headlining the three hour show will be many local

musicians including Geoffrey Williams, Retrofitted, The Winter Berries, The Infusers as well as the Buninyong Community Choir and the Ballarat Ukulele Group.

Three hours of peace and 60s music chosen from the original Woodstock set list covering various artists, a licensed bar, encouragement to bring a plate for interval food sharing and an invitation to get dressed up in 60s garb. The night will be a fun commemoration of one of the most famous concerts in history! Tickets are available through trybooking.com/520406. Be quick! This event will sell out!



Ian leads local Freemasons

Ian Crosbie has been re-installed as the Master of Sturt Buninyong Lodge and becomes the fifteenth leader since the lodge consolidated in 1998.

The colourful installation ceremony on 15 June, attended by 40 local and district

freemasons, was conducted by the 2018 Grand Lodge Ceremonial Team.

The evening concluded with a roast meal, sweets and milk coffee.

Installing Master Andrew McPhee responds to a toast proposed to the Grand Master by Lodge secretary Ron Fleming.



streettalk

THE GUESSING GAME is over. The shop near to the post office is set to see a local butcher's shop back in Buninyong. *Greenvale Quality Meats*, which also has a butchers' shop in Creswick, is set to open up here very soon.

RECENT ADVICE from CFA's Region 15 was that the designs for the new local CFA building down next to the golf club "are now close to being finalised" by local brigade members and CFA heavies. Hopefully by now those plans have been lodged for approval with the City of Ballarat. Rapid action is expected as there is pressure to get those grant monies announced about three years ago spent ASAP.

NO DOUBT there is strong community support for the new CFA facility, but locals have two concerns. The first is that more traffic lights will be installed down there. A CFA spokesman told *Street Talk* that there are no plans for these. The second concern was the damage that might be done to the restored Avenue of Honour by construction of exit pathways for fire vehicles.

THOSE INTRUDERS who broke into the toilets at the back of the community cottage at 407 Warrenheip Street just after the safety fence was erected there recently obviously had an urgent problem! Left all of the plumbing in place and pinched the well-used old toilet pan. Hope that they are feeling better by now.

POPULAR LOCAL VET Rebecca Jennings was spotted by a *News* reporter recently, on her knees in the IGA car park attending to a sick greyhound lying on a blanket. Also heard that she was out there not long back with a fluid drip attached to a sheep suffering from the sleeping sickness disease lying under a canopy in a ute. This village is lucky to have Rebecca, her associate vet **Aimee** and the great team of nurses.

How Scotsburn farm became the home of the

Back Creek Farm

On the left hand side of the Midland Highway at Scotsburn, travelling towards Geelong, there is a large sign pointing to Back Creek Farm. Some locals might recall that it was used as a camp site for Blaze Aid workers following the 2015 bushfires. But few would know how it came to be set up there. For many years it was the 900 acre property run by Scotsburn farmer, Howard Williams.

Back in 1980, Christian College, Geelong commenced with a small number of students in the extensive buildings of a former Catholic orphanage in Highton. Foundation principal was **Daryl Riddle** and President of the School Board was the same **Howard Williams**.

During the early years of the College, as finances were tight, the maintenance and gardening tasks around the school were often done after hours by the principal, Williams, and some willing students. One day Howard said to Daryl, "We always seem to have children from the country to volunteer to help with the work."

Hands and hens

The principal surmised that it was because they had learned to use their hands. "We need to get them all up to your farm for a while, to work with you," he said. And so the seed for a farm school experience was sown.

Just a few years later in 1987, the first group of Year 9 students arrived at the



Above: Howard Williams, now resident in Tasmania, reminisces about past times at the farm with long-term Scotsburn residents John and Lyn Werts.

Williams' farm for an eight week stay. Accommodation and a farm kitchen had been built. A wood boiler was installed, and had to be kept stoked or the students would have had to jump under cold showers.

'The poultry part of the project helped teach the students the basics of good farming'

Three portable hen houses had been built each designed to house 100 free range hens – as well as an egg grading machine and feed mixers. The poultry part of the project was particularly helpful in teaching the students the basics of good farming practice, including managing finance, nutrition, animal husbandry and marketing.

Sheep and cattle

Each student had an opportunity to do the 'long blow', or 'last side', of shearing a sheep in the small shearing shed prepared for that purpose.

A large market garden and orchard gave students an insight into that industry, and groups were taken to the Victoria Market to witness the 'hurly-burly' of fruit and vegetable marketing.

The highlight for many students was the work in the 180 cow dairy enterprise,

which had been built up on the property over many years. Early morning milking, mucking out the yards and feeding young calves kept the young people busy and entertained.

Specialist staff taught the students basic fencing and noxious weed identification and control.

Guests

In the evenings guests were invited to speak to the students. **John Harbour**, the well-known Ballarat butcher, came to show how a side of mutton is cut up, what each portion is called, and the best way to cook it.

The Captain of the fire brigade visited regularly, and older farmers came to share their experiences with the students. They gave a good introduction to the display of tree pullers, horse-drawn implements, stump jump ploughs, rabbit traps and the like.

During weekends Back Creek students would walk from the farm to the tower on the top of Mount Buninyong and then home again. On Sundays they attended the Scotsburn Union Church where they met more local people. Many commented on the beautiful atmosphere of little church.

East Timor

In 1999, dairy farmers in the Tongala and Kyabram districts had been offered \$300 for each heifer calf they could produce

from their Friesian herds that had a tropical-tolerant Sahiwal breed as the sire. These calves were meant for a commercial venture in the Philippines. This did not go ahead, so no one wanted the calves.

Howard went to the district and brought home a utility load of these heat-tolerant calves to Back Creek. The Christian College students loved raising them, and soon were sending dairy cows to East Timor, where the children were malnourished and badly in need of protein.

This project was a significant introduction for the Christian College staff and students to the urgent needs of Timor Leste. After an initial visit in 2000 the achievements of the school in the district of Viqueque have been outstanding. Many Prefects and Year 10 students have since travelled to East Timor to foster closer links between the Viqueque community and Christian College, Geelong.



Above: The Sahiwal breed of cattle were crossed with Friesians to produce cattle that produced good milk and which were heat and tic resistant.

The farm experience at Scotsburn's Back Creek Farm continues to give Year 9 students at Christian College Geelong, a unique 'hands-on' experience of country life. At the farm, students work in teams with the delightful names of Farmers, Milkers, Bacon and Eggers and Chefs.

Many Year 12 graduates from the college have spoken of it as an "unforgettable time that broadened their outlook on farming and country living".



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Ernie Neale's Monthly
RAINFALL REPORT

A lovely wet June

June has followed a very wet May in similar style, by delivering 105.3 mm. This is well over the recent average of 63.8 mm and makes it the second wettest June in the past decade. It just missed out on joining the top 10 per cent of June rainfalls in the long-term record.

The last time we had two successive months of above average rainfall like this was back in the spring of 2016. This lovely wet start to winter gives confidence to BOM's recent easing of an immediate El Nino threat. However, their forecast is still for below-average winter-spring rainfall, so enjoy this lovely wet winter while you can.

Tanks have filled, dams are up and even some run-off has started. If July manages to continue the wet trend, more of the local springs might start to flow. Hopefully, Lal Lal Falls may even add its roar to the celebration.

JUNE 2019			
Date	Rain	Date	Rain
2	1.0	3	14.0
4	6.5	5	3.0
6	1.0	7	1.0
10	4.0	13-14	26.0
15	2.7	19	5.5
21	0.8	22	2.8
26	1.0	28-30	36.0
Total		105.3 mm	
Average		63.8 mm	

RSL thanks the Bennetts

Buninyong RSL farewelled two of its most active members when former Secretary Bob Bennett and wife Evelyn, a member of the RSL Women's Auxiliary, attended their final meeting on 17 June.

The Bennetts have moved into a new home at Werribee to be nearer to their two sons and other family. They had lived in Buninyong for the past fifteen years after moving here from Canberra where Bob was a senior officer in the Air Force Office within the Department of Defence.

USA post

He attained the rank of Group Captain in the RAAF where he served for 40 years including a seven year posting to the USA. After three years in California he moved to Dayton, Ohio where he was Australia's Chief Engineer supervising the major project to upgrade F111 aircraft which involved the installation of precision guidance systems and Harpoon missiles.

Bob was Secretary of the Buninyong Sub-Branch of the RSL for four years, while Evelyn was Secretary of the Women's Auxiliary for a similar period.

Presenting the Bennetts with farewell gifts, RSL President **Ron Fleming** said that Bob had a great ability to "get the job done". He cited the major and very successful project to restore Buninyong's Avenue of Honour where, as part of the team with then-RSL President **Ray Mende** and **Barry Fitzgerald**, he worked "tirelessly to make that project a huge success".

Flyover

The memorable flyover of Buninyong by the four RAAF planes on that morning was the result of lobbying by Bob Bennett.

In the Australia Day Awards in 1986 he received the award of AM in recognition of his contribution to the F111 project. He was nominated for the award by senior US Air Force personnel.



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World of fashion Jak aims to crack big time

Over the past year or so, many Buninyong people have come to know the friendly, happy waiter at *The Pig & Goose* named Jak.

But **Jak Hocking-Vogele**, 27, does not see his future career in hospitality. Rather, he aims to break into the tough world of high fashion.

He has made a bold first move in this direction by being chosen as one of eight designers from around Australia to be featured at the *Brisbane Fashion Runway*. This highly selective exhibition for young designers is scheduled for 12 October in the classical venue of Brisbane's St John's Cathedral. It is described as "the most glamorous fashion event of Brisbane's social calendar".

Six outfits

For the exhibition he is required to design six "complete" outfits including shoes, accessories and even hats. His collection will include the elegant full-length blue and white dress shown at left in the photo opposite.

Jak said that at worst he hoped to get recognition there "as a designer with potential". At best, there might be interest in his work from fashion buyers or from a fashion house that will be there.



Jak shows two of his creations to Millie Kirby, 17, at the Pig & Goose Restaurant. The dress on the left is a blue and white evening gown suited to 'red carpet' evenings and the other is a semi-formal black and floral dress suited to an occasion such as a wedding.

His interest in designing and making clothing had humble beginnings some two years ago when he started sewing winter coats for his dogs. From there he graduated to men's clothing and then to women's fashions. Now, he says, that has become an 'obsession' for him.

Label

His clothing, which he describes as in being of the Hollywood glamour style, is marketed under the distinctive label of *Sgt Yass Queen*.

Jak was raised and educated in Bendigo where his parents ran a milk bar on the

Midland Highway. After graduating from the Flora Hill Secondary College, he was awarded a dancing scholarship to Melbourne's *The Edge Performing School*. From there he moved on to teach dance in various regional centres.

Recently married to partner **Steve**, Jak lives at Smythesdale where he has a small design studio.

Patrons from *The Pig & Goose* will be watching with great interest in October as Jak attempts to crack the big-time of women's fashion.

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Buninyong Collective

Kids do their bit

Despite the recent cold wintry weather, volunteers of the Buninyong Community Collective open the doors of the Anglican Church Hall every Tuesday morning and evening, to provide community access to a range of wholefoods, including local and organic stock.

New customers can sign up as members, which is a \$50 annual fee that includes six hours of volunteer time per year. Members can then access a range of wholefoods bought in bulk and sold at just above cost price.

Grant

The Collective recently was the recipient of a *Community Impact Grant*, from the City of Ballarat. The Collective has been able to

use these funds to purchase more shelving and containers, which allows them to expand the range of goods on offer. The group is also purchasing a banner which can be displayed during open hours.

While the Collective's Committee members have been busy, the children of three of the members have launched their own projects.

Soup bus

After seeing all the people living on the streets of Auckland during a recent holiday, **Tano**, 11, and **Ava**, 8, expressed a wish to do something to help homeless people. They combined with **Sarah**, 5, **Lucy**, 3, and **Maddy**, 5, to use the Buninyong Collective as a collection point where goods can be dropped off for Ballarat's Soup Bus.

After just two weeks, the children were extremely excited to find the response to their appeal had already resulted in their large collection box overflowing with warm blankets and non-perishable food items. They took this first instalment of a dozen blankets and two boxes of food directly to the Soup Bus themselves.

Tags and tops

The group of children are also using the Collective as a drop-off point for bread tags and bottle tops. The bread tags will be donated to *Aussie Bread Tags for Wheelchairs*, a collection arm of a not-for-profit group that sells the tags to recyclers and then uses the fund to purchase wheelchairs for those in need.

The bottle tops are donated to *Envision Hands*, which uses technology to shred and extrude the plastic, before using this material to 3D-print prosthetic hands.

Any member of the public can donate at the Collective. Bottle caps with a #2 or #4 are suitable to donate, as are any plastic bread tags. Donations for the soup bus can range from non-perishable goods to blankets, warm socks (new) and toiletries.

The Collective will hold a stall during Buninyong's *Mid-Winter Market*, on Saturday 27 July. There will be the chance to win a membership along with a \$20 voucher to spend in-store.

Opening hours

Opening hours are on Tuesdays 9-11am and 5-7pm at 405 Scott St Buninyong (in the Anglican Church Hall).

- Hayley Quach

Shown at the Soup Bus are (L to R) Kristy with Lucy, Tano, Sarah, Ava and Soup Bus volunteer Lorraine Gittings.



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Funds from porridge

Students at the Scotsburn school campus have been taking part in a 'porridge morning tea' each term to raise money to help support the Mphatso Foundation which supports children in Malawi, Africa.

Jack Conroy has organised the students to bring along \$2 for a bowl of porridge. So far this year, Jack has raised almost \$180. **Jenny Bomitali** (pictured below with Jack Conroy) was up at the school recently to accept the money raised. Jenny and her husband **Bruno** will be making their way to Malawi during August.



Almost 90 kinder kids enjoyed themselves at Scotsburn towards the end of Term 2, participating in a range of activities both inside and outside. We look forward to seeing many of these students again when they commence Prep at Scotsburn next year.

Drop your tops

New 3D printers can turn waste plastic bottle tops into prosthetic hands, arms and mobility aids.

The Buninyong Mt Helen Lions Club is supporting the *Envision Hands* project by calling for locals to collect bottle tops from milk, water and soft drink bottles. Simply remove any inner lining from the tops, rinse them, collect a stack of them and drop them into the Lions Bookshop cottage or into the Op shop. The Lions aim to collect enough plastic bottle tops to help *Envision Hands* turn these into 100 hands and arms.

Train those puppies

The Buninyong Veterinary Clinic will start the first of its Puppy Schools on 5 August at the clinic in Learmonth Street, behind the UFS Pharmacy. The four week course will be held on Monday evenings between 6.30pm and 7.30pm.

The school is suited to puppies between about eight and fourteen weeks of age, and which have received their first vaccination. Another class will commence on 9 September. For registrations or more information call 5312 9727.

Book for last concert

The last of the series of extremely popular stage shows and dinners at the Buninyong Golf Club is scheduled for Saturday 3 August.

Titled *The Ultimate American Rock Show* it will feature the music of greats such as Bruce Springsteen, Fleetwood Mac, Linda Ronstadt and Creedence Clearwater Revival. Cost of the two course dinner and show is \$56, and show only \$31. Doors open at 6.30pm, and dinner will be served from 7.00pm. Book at trybooking.com/442645.

Volunteers Needed

Tree Planting Days – 3 August (10 am) or 4 August (10.30 am).

Please ring **Peter Hiscock** on 0408 337 696 or **Roly Nam** on 0419 288620 if you can assist (for more information, see story on page 8).

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Jeanette catches moments in time

Artists don't have clutter – they have 'little piles of inspiration' according to local award-winning artist, Jeanette Skrokov.

Jeanette first entered a painting in a competition just for fun and was extra pleased when she won first prize of \$1,000 for one of her paintings because treatment for her dog's teeth had just cost \$919!

Jeanette left Ballarat Girls Secondary College at age 15 with her Proficiency Certificate and went to work at *McDougall and Chisholms* (where Best and Less used to be in the Bridge Mall) doing 'ticket writing' and window dressing. Jeanette says it was like working in a scene from *Are You Being Served!* **Mr Murphy**, the 'window dresser' was 78. **Miss Farmer**,

'assistant', was 90 when she retired. **Mr Barker**, 'fabric', was in his 70s. **Mr Williams** (elderly) was in men's wear.

No training

Jeanette has drawn and painted for as long as she can remember and has no formal training. She did sell some pictures in a series of *Sunsets and Horses* when she was about twelve, but really concentrated on her art once her four children were past babyhood. For the last ten years, from her *Moment in Time* gallery in Durham Lead, Jeanette has concentrated more on oil and watercolours, winning 1st and 3rd 'choice' (they don't call them prizes there) at the Tatura Art Show four years ago.

Jeanette also produces a series of cards featuring copies of her own paintings with

Come along to sports at Elaine

The Elaine Cricket and Tennis Clubs are holding an Open/Registration Day at the Elaine Recreation Reserve on Saturday 14 September starting at noon.

There will be a free BBQ with free coaching and prizes, along with a radar gun and bowling and ball machines to test out skills.

All equipment will be supplied. All children five years and over will be catered for. **Shane** on 0448 291 074 can provide any additional information. All will be made most welcome.

the relevant historical notes about the scene on the back. Her bark 'paintings' are very popular. Using mainly melaleuca, paperbark or sugar gum, Jeanette invented her own concept and strategy.

Sovereign Hill

There is no colouring in them at all but a lot of drawing is involved first. She has now created over 600 bark pictures and Sovereign Hill, which at first took a few on consignment, soon wanted as many as she could make. By their nature, each picture is individual; they can't be mass produced.

Nowadays Jeanette is kept busy with individual orders and some of her work is available in *The Old Bluestone Café* in Buninyong.

- Cassandra Carland

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AUTHORISED BY CATHERINE KING, 5 LYDIARD ST NTH BALLARAT 3350

Gardens group have green thumbs



The relatively small, four hectare **Buninyong Botanic Gardens**, which opened in 1861, and now listed on the Victorian Heritage Register, is one of the hidden gems of the Ballarat region. The Gardens, noted widely for its collection of maples, provide a tranquil green space for locals and visitors to enjoy through all the seasons.

The *Friends of the Buninyong Gardens* group advocates on behalf of the community in matters concerning the Gardens, and promotes community participation through cultural, artistic and recreational events in the Gardens.

Funds

Funding for Friends projects in the Gardens are augmented through sales of plants raised by Friends volunteers at the small nursery located at the old Police Station, adjacent to the Gardens off Cornish Street, in the Buninyong Primary School grounds.

You'll see Gardens Friends working at the nursery 1.00pm-3.00pm on Mondays, and, if you would like to get your hands dirty,

you're most welcome to join the group. Contact the nursery coordinator, **Judith Bailey** on 0419 103 213. The nursery group also attends village markets and other events around the township to sell the plants.

The smart, new aprons worn by Gardens Friends at the nursery are now available to purchase for working around the home or as great green gift ideas - \$25 for Friends members and \$30 for non-members. Contact **Mark Jones** on 0419 580 399 for apron orders.

And you can also talk to Mark about the Friends' outreach projects at the Town Hall and Buninyong Childcare Centre, offering further volunteering activities to exercise your green thumbs.

Pictured in their new aprons about to work in the nursery are (L to R) Mark Jones, Lorraine Powell (Vice President) and Karen Hulston (Secretary)

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Two News' stars share Gold... on the water

It turns out that the new designer for *The News* team and a Grade Two teacher at Buninyong Primary School who featured on the cover of the March edition, have a lot in common. Both are rowers and each has a shiny, new gold medal.

The News' pre-print designer **Sian Blohm** and Buninyong teacher **Kirsty Nankevell** were members of the Ballarat City Rowing Club's (BCRC) Masters crew that won gold at the Victorian Masters Championship Regatta held at Nagambie in May. The crew of **Bridget Clarke, Kirsty, Lisa Mentz** and **Anita Houlihan**, with cox **Sian** calling the shots on the water, won their final over 1000 metres and proudly collected Championship medals.

Different

Sian and Kirsty took very different paths to rowing. Kirsty, a former competitive South Australian Premier League netballer is new to the sport, having only recently taken it up. She joined the *Learn to Row Program* at BCRC and was immediately hooked.

Sian was introduced to rowing at school (way back), had a break and then returned to it. Sian remembers her first regatta at Dimboola some years ago. Hers was the first crew to get to the starting line and the last to finish. At her first regatta, Kirsty actually fell into the lake while getting into the boat.

Kirsty is still excited about their gold medal victory. "Winning gold was a magical and surreal day. We had formed such an amazing bond with our coach **Meg Merrylees**. She put us through a consistent training regime (rain, hail and rarely shine on Lake Wendouree). It was a massive sense of accomplishment that our hard work had paid off! I did in fact scream, "Woo hoo" and fist pump when we crossed the finish line." "Yes, she did!" said Sian, "and deservedly so."

Sian said that "rowing gets into you – there's nothing like human power over water". Her motto is "learn to row, learn to race and learn to win". She said that Kirsty and her crew have done very well in their first year of rowing. "It was great to be a part of their achievement!"

Sian has not only been involved in the boat, but has also coached, serves on the BCRC Committee and is continually involved as a volunteer. She encourages anyone young or old who may be interested to sign up to the Club's next *Learn to Row Program* in September (ballaratscityrowing.com).



There was much excitement when Kirsty Nankivell (left) and Sian Blohm received their championship medals at the Nagambie regatta.

Both are looking forward to the coming rowing season. Their first event of the upcoming season will be the 4 km *Saltwater Regatta* at Essendon in September.

- Ray Sullivan

Beginners' tennis for all ages

Buninyong and District Tennis Association (BDTA), will be hosting an all-ages beginner's tennis tournament on 25 August, from 2-4pm at the Buninyong Tennis Centre in Forest Street.

This event aims to teach the rules of the game to new players in a social and enjoyable setting. Players will be matched with a partner and play a round-robin of short matches, before being treated to a sausage sizzle. Assistants will be placed on each court to umpire, keep track of scores and give tips to the players.

Members of local tennis clubs will be there on the day to help with any enquiries. There is a wide range of local clubs, including Ballan, Buninyong, Dunnstown, Elaine, Gordon, Grenville, Mount Helen, Napoleons, Navigators, Ross Creek and Warrenheip. The association's Summer Competition runs from the start of Term 4, to the end of Term 1 each year and clubs welcome expressions of interest from new players.

The cost of the beginner's tournament is only \$5 and registrations are now open. To register, email hayleyquach@gmail.com, or call 0403 668 029.

Top dancer steps out to Dance with Stars

The recent Ballarat Dancing With Our Stars evening at the new Civic Hall was voted an overwhelming success. It raised some \$120,000 for the Ballarat Foundation.

The fundraiser was based on the format of the popular TV show of a similar name. A local personality was paired with an experienced dancer (all of whom were associated with *The Dance Studio Ballarat*) to undertake a ballroom dance routine in front of a packed audience of some 500 diners and three judges.

Rookies

Amongst the ten local 'rookie dancer' personalities were Mayor **Samantha McIntosh**, Chief Medical Officer at Ballarat Health Services, **Rosemary Aldrich**, and AFLW player for the Geelong Football Club **Amy McDonald**.

Amy's partner was **Robert Powell**, 33, who is from a well-known Buninyong family and who was a pupil at the Buninyong Primary School before attending Ballarat and Clarendon College. Mum **Lorraine** is Vice President of the Friends of the Buninyong Botanic Gardens and involved with the Buninyong Film Festival.

Robert graduated with a Bachelor of Engineering degree from the University of Ballarat and currently is enrolled as an MBA student at Federation University.

Disasters

He is a Project Manager at the City of Ballarat where he has worked for the past eight years, particularly in assessing the impact of local disasters such as the 2015 Scotsburn bushfires. As an Army Reservist for many years, he also was involved in



relief work following the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami in Malaysia, and the widespread Victorian bushfires of 2009.

So while that background is impressive, it does not provide any clue as to why he was co-opted as a dancing "expert" to partner young Amy McDonald in Ballarat's *Dancing with Our Stars*.

What certainly is more relevant is the fact that Robert has competed in many Australian Ballroom Dancing Championships winning titles in the *New Vogue* and *Standard* sections. His partner in these competitions was **Vanessa Stephenson** from Clunes. The couple were married in June of this year, and cut their honeymoon short by two weeks to assist at the spectacular fund-raiser.

Vanessa partnered **Mark 'Hooch' Nunn** of Buxton Real Estate dancing the *American Smooth* in the competition.

Teenage interest

Robert's interest in dancing started at age sixteen when, with a school mate, he visited Ballarat's *The Dance Studio* to participate in a social class.

He said that it was "great fun" tutoring Amy for the *Stars* event across some twelve weeks. "While she had little dancing experience,

as a young athlete she was nimble, flexible and able to quickly learn the basics of the Quickstep which we had to perform on the night," Robert said.

Resident with wife Vanessa in Ballarat, Robert has another connection to Buninyong in that some four years ago he spent two months as a volunteer in Nepal helping a remote village construction project which had been organised by **Graham Kent** through his charity project group *Aussie Action Abroad*.

Now the skills of Robert Powell have been uncovered, he may well become a future 'go-to' man to get some quick-step action at the Town Hall.

(Above) Robert and Vanessa in competition mode, (Lower) Robert at work at the City of Ballarat





Primary school at Energy Breakthrough with TWO POWERFUL TEAMS

After several years of competing in a small scale solar mini-boat challenge against three other schools, the Buninyong Primary School is planning to take a quantum leap forward in making its students energy-conscious by entering two pedal trike teams in the annual State-wide Energy Breakthrough (EBT) event.

This 2019 event will take place in Maryborough between 20-24 November and is expected to attract more than 30,000 competitors and spectators to the Central Victorian city.

Waiting list

There are six sections in the competition and in the section (Human Powered Vehicles, Primary) in which Buninyong Primary School has entered two teams for the first time, there are 94 teams competing. There is a waiting list of 22 teams.

Entries are judged on three criteria – on presentation, Design and Construction

involving a 20 minute presentation and on time trials around the specially designed circuit.

In addition to the Human Powered Vehicle sections, there are categories for Energy Efficient Vehicles, Pushcarts and a Try-athlon

Energy Breakthrough was started in 1991 and provides opportunities for students, teachers, parents and local sponsors to work together to construct a vehicle, machine or other innovation that is seen as an 'energy breakthrough'.

Costs

The costs of the program for the two Buninyong school entries will be some \$10,000 with funds coming from sponsorship, fundraising events and from

participants who will be expected to contribute towards the cost of food, transport and team clothing.

Income from sponsorship will go towards purchase of two EBT trikes, team entry fees, cycling equipment and team shelter gazebos. Interested sponsors should contact either **Aaron Coulter** or **Lou Marr** at the school. Community members can support the school's EBT teams by watching for various fundraising events in coming months.

