

Edition 466, December 2019

FESTIVAL TIME

Busy week in the village

Despite the cool weather, during the last few days in October, Buninyong certainly was a happening place and was headlined by the many activities of the Buninyong Festival in Desoza Park.

With 109 arts, craft and information stalls, 19 food trucks and food vendors, an animal farm, jumping castles, live music, art activities, and active displays, Desoza Park was packed with action across some seven hours on Sunday 27 October.

The on-stage program was headed up by the *Buninyong Community Choir*, musician **Geoffrey Williams**, local rock band *Retrofitted*, local dance school *Dancemakers*, the enigmatic voices of *The Winter Berries*, and a local production of *Hansel and Gretel* pantomime. Another stage at the other end of the park was added this year with many wonderful local musicians such as **Gregory Storer**, *The Infusers*, **Ash Marshall**, Ballarat



(Above) Kelly Cronin with Sophie, 4, and Allegra, 3, enjoyed playing with the goats at the Animal Farm. (Below) Lisa Cressey joins in the fun with the SuperHeroes.

Ukulele Group and the Hardies Hillbillies. The Superheroes were a highlight of the program delighting young and old, with the crowd estimated at 4000 people.

Gardens organised three superb gardens to be opened to the public. Some 1200 tickets were sold and 2900 visits made to the gardens.

The Crack the Crater Mt Buninyong Run Challenge was also introduced this year with 179 runners braving the cold and slight drizzle.

The Buninyong Art Prize and Exhibition ran across three days in the Town Hall, and earlier in the week there was the release of the Buninyong promotional video in the same venue.

The huge task of overall organisation of the weekend was undertaken by **Lisa Cressey** and her *Buninyong Community Events Inc.* teams as well as the partnering with local community groups to bring a great local focus weekend to Buninyong.



There was a Youth Zone at the Buninyong Skate Park, a Car Boot Sale at the Buninyong Primary School, and a free documentary screening of *Mooramong* in the Town Hall. *The Friends of Buninyong Botanic*



Little ones remember

Children from the Buninyong Kindergarten lay a wreath in memory of the war dead.

New Christmas tree art show

In 2018 some creative heads got together and started the *Buninyong Christmas Tree Farm*. They worked with the Buninyong Men's Shed to make over 500 timber Christmas trees using recycled wooden pallets.

One of the most popular elements of the farm was the Art Series trees. Local artists were engaged to apply their artistic talents to the timber trees – and the results were amazing. People loved seeing what the local artists had produced and over 90 per cent of the Art Series trees were sold.

Success

The 2018 *Buninyong Christmas Tree Farm* sales resulted in over \$9,000 going to the local Men's Shed and over \$600 to the Ballarat Soup Bus.

The popularity of the 2018 Art Series trees has now led to the 2019 Christmas Tree Art Exhibition. Again local artists have been engaged to take up the challenge to be creative with the trees. The trees will be exhibited, and for sale, at the Buninyong Town Hall over four days, opening on Thursday 29 November. It will be an art-show with a difference!

Last year's entries included painting, collaging, crocheting, decorating with plants, and sculpting. Come along to view these trees and even purchase a unique tree for yourself. For enquiries – 0409 954 283. Facebook: *Buninyong Christmas Tree Farm*. Email: miranda555@mail.com

Local artist Trudy Nicholson shown with two examples of Christmas Tree art.



CFA responds to *News* questions about new Station

\$2,000,000 CFA PROJECT SET FOR MARCH START

The biggest capital works project seen in Buninyong for many years, the building of the new CFA station in Learmonth Street West adjacent to the golf clubhouse, is scheduled for a March 2020 start with a target completion date of October.

The anticipated total project costs, including all site and other project costs, is expected to be approximately \$2 million, according to a CFA Media spokesperson who was responding to a series of questions put by *The Buninyong News*.

As requested, architects' floor plans and elevation drawings were provided to *The News* and some are reproduced here.

Wide access

With three large doors facing Learmonth Street, the building will be 571 square metres in area, and will have a large concrete apron at the front of the building. About half of the building is given over to the large fire-fighting units.

The sketch below shows that on the eastern wing of the building there is provision for a laundry, IT room, storage and a workshop. On the western wing there is an office, shower and toilet facilities, two 'turn out' rooms, a large multi-purpose space, a meeting room and even a dedicated area to house the historic *Merryweather* fire cart. Funding for this display room has been provided by the Community Bank.

Size

The total size of the CFA site is 3600 square metres, and at the rear of the main building there will be a paved parking area for 20 cars, a two bay garage, a concreted area for hose-washing, and a large gravelled area for overflow car parking when the facility is in use or for protracted emergencies.

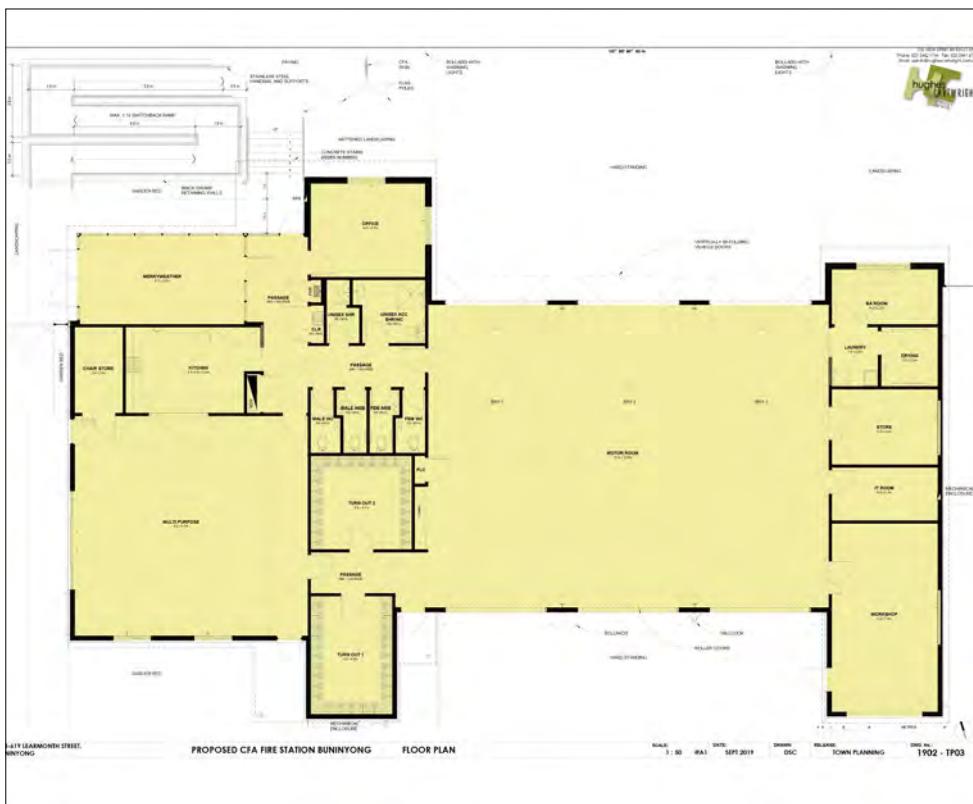


In response to a *News* question about the impact of the vehicle exit/entrance on the grassed Avenue of Honour reserve between the service road and the Midland Highway, the CFA advised that "a narrow crossover between the two roads will pass between two existing (Avenue) trees".

The landscaping plan provided shows extensive planting around the boundaries

and the retention of some existing mature trees.

Buninyong-Mount Helen CFA Captain, **James Witham** said that members of the local brigade were "really excited" about the final plans which would give them much needed space and modern facilities. "We all are looking forward to October next year," he said.



Gardens on show

On a Spring weekend, despite inclement weather, many turned out to see three superb and very different private house gardens around the village.

Organised by Friends of the Buninyong Botanic Gardens, with support from the Community Bank and a dedicated team of local volunteers, the event billed as Open Gardens Buninyong attracted some 1,200 visitors most of whom attended all three gardens.

Mossmont

As featured in the October 2019 edition of *The News*, **Veronica** and **Steve Carter's** 1853 estate Mossmont drew keen interest including the Gothic Revival homestead, a sugar maple avenue, an orchard of nut varieties, all within an authentic re-creation of the eight acres of garden as its creator, nurseryman **Francis Moss** had originally designed 166 years ago.

Upon moving into the 1857 Anglican Vicarage a few years ago, **Lois** and **Holly White** set about renovating the delightful cottage-style garden which is overseen by

massive 160 year-old oaks. New plants and revised garden layouts have been introduced that are stylistically appropriate and historically sympathetic.

Lois and Holly invited visitors to view their art and designer pieces for home décor on display in their studio L'Orangerie. Talented artists from the Ballarat Gardens botanical illustration group were also in attendance creating colourful works at their sketch pads.

Views

Up above Hastie's Spring around 2005, **Suse** and **Stuart Crumpler** discovered ten acres of cow pasture abutting native bushland with expansive views to the south-west. Their garden surrounds a splendidly crafted contemporary home. Working with the elements some thousand trees, mostly exotics, have been planted and bespoke garden hardware adorns the various functional spaces within the budding landscape. As visitors breathed in the exhilarating country air, they imagined the scene in another 150 years.

Buninyong's Bev Nicholls enjoyed her stroll through the grounds of Mossmont.



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**Buninyong & district
COMMUNITY NEWS**

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

Published monthly

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All contributions (copy, letters, photographs or advertising) must be submitted **before the twelfth of each month to buninyongnews@gmail.com**. Enquiries to 5341 2844.

Copy should not exceed 400 words and a maximum of two photographs per item may be submitted. 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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Printed by Baxter and Stubbs, Ballarat.

Available online in full colour at:
buninyong.vic.au/news/newsletters

Member of the Community Newspapers Association of Victoria



Authorised by M Settle MP, 15 Main Road, Ballarat. Funded from Parliamentary Budget



Shown planning the Community Picnic are Community Bank Manager Randall Dreger (left) and FOBBG President Roger Permezel.

Keep 9 December free Community picnic set to go

A few weeks ago there was a great community weekend of activities in Buninyong. Local residents, clubs, associations and special interest groups all banded together to show-off and share the lifestyle of the village.

Now, with Christmas in sight, the Bendigo Community Bank, together with the Friends of Buninyong Botanic Gardens (FOBBG), are inviting all community friends, groups, volunteer organisations, and customers to join in a celebratory end-of-year picnic in the gorgeous setting of the Buninyong Botanic Gardens.

"It's an opportunity for all village groups, committees, teams and members to get together and celebrate another year of participation in and contribution to the Buninyong community. The Community Bank would also like to say thank you to all for helping make Buninyong a vibrant, engaged and caring community," Bank Manager **Randall Dreger** said.

The Community Picnic will be in the Buninyong Botanic Gardens starting from around 6.00pm on Monday 9 December, 2019. Here's what you will want to know.

The details

Bring a picnic hamper or basket with food and drink, and include a picnic rug and chairs for your chosen spot on the grass under the garden's magnificent trees.

- The barbecues will be fired up, and Lions' members will be offering free sizzling sausages from their mobile catering trailer
- Free soft drinks and spring water will be provided
- There will be activities (with prizes) for little (and big) kids

To help with planning for the activities, and also for the free sausages and drinks to be provided, please let the Bank know if you and your family are planning to attend. Call into the bank or phone 5341 8066.

Come along, and just have fun!

Buninyong & District
Community Bank Branch
 Bendigo Bank

Friends of
BUNINYONG
Botanic Gardens

INVITATION

BUNINYONG COMMUNITY PICNIC

Bring along your picnic hamper and celebrate the end-of-year with your community club & association members, recreation & sports teams, other locals & neighbours.

**Buninyong Botanic Gardens
Monday 9 December @ 6pm**

Must RSVP to attend

streettalk

PUZZLE. Many have been curious about those wire safety screens on the west side of Warrenheip Street in front of Desoza Park set up around a strange small black object sticking out of the ground. It's the location of the village's first charging station for electric vehicles.

ACTION. Word from two reliable sources inside Council suggests that finally there may be some action coming soon on the Warrenheip Street upgrade works. It's been pushed hard by the BDCA for six years, with the Business Network and the Community Bank coming on board more recently.

LOSS. The recent sale of historic Clifton Villa will see the mid-December departure of the Holcombe family to a new farm home in Newlyn. **Jemma** and **Gus** (who now has an expanded role with Meridian Energy) will be missed around town.

TENDER. Recently spotted some exciting news amongst tenders being called by the City of Ballarat. Tender No 145 (which closed on 20 November) is for Construction of two soccer pitches at Royal Park, Buninyong.

FAMILY. The son of one of Buninyong's oldest families, Fr **Andrew Hayes**, made a flying visit from Ararat to celebrate Mass at the local Catholic church recently. He's the son of **Jack** and **Marg Hayes**, and a brother of John who will be remembered as the man behind *Tiggy's Restaurant*.

AWARD. *The News* continued its run of State-wide awards at the recent conference of community newspapers. Its editorial (October 2018) *Is Buninyong Really a Part of Ballarat?* won a gong.

Edition 466, December 2019

Buninyong & District Community News 5

Ed knows his travel

The travel industry has boomed in the past decade with 'deal' companies such as Luxury Escapes and Trip-a-Deal, together with 'cruise specialist' companies, running hard against established businesses such as Flight Centre and Webjet and the many and varied smaller travel companies on the High Streets of our cities.

But now in Buninyong there's a travel manager who operates from his home, or the local coffee shop, or at the home of a client, bringing with him his travel 'office' in the form of a powerful computer able to access mainstream travel bookings through the world-wide Amadeus system.

Career

Ed Bradford, 42, and family have lived in Buninyong for three years, but he has packed a lot of travel experience into his varied career. In younger days he was a dive-master on the Barrier Reef, a travel coach



driver in Sydney, a snow guide in Canada, and spent five years as a coach and truck driver for Tucan Travel in Peru and Europe. Overall, he has travelled to or lived in 47 countries.

In more recent years a stint at Deakin University as an Events Manager was followed by several years working for Flight Centre in Ballarat after his family relocated here from Bacchus Marsh. His wife **Suzie** is a paramedic at Ambulance Victoria, based in Ballarat.

Support

Ed is now "an independent travel manager" working independently but supported by the *TravelManagers* organisation. So while he is his own boss, has his own clients, and makes his own travel arrangements, he is able to tap into the buying power of *TravelManagers* with its 590 'travel managers', and associated House of Travel, the largest independent travel company in Australasia.

He said that an effective travel agent not only needed to be able to access all travel information, deals, airlines, cruise lines and the like (and he does that through his strong computer links) but also must

provide personal service and a "tailored" experience. "I'm aiming to do just that here in Buninyong," Ed said.

Look up his website – travelmanagers.com.au/edbradford – or phone him on 0413 137 202

Choral and floral party

Ballarat Choral Society is on a mission – to raise funds to sing in Austria in 2021!

The Choir has arranged a Christmas Garden Party on Sunday 8 December, 2pm - 6pm in one of Buninyong's longest-established and prettiest gardens at the old bluestone Brewery beside the Gong.

With a full programme of acoustic music and afternoon tea, there will be stalls of plants, produce, bric-a-brac, and books, along with sausage and vegetarian sizzles and activities for children.

Groups performing include a Buninyong ukulele band, *Measure for Measure*, The Crossovers, **Ewan Barker** on Uilliann pipes, **Rodney Broadbent** on trumpet, and **Helen Wells** on lyre.

Admission is \$5 for adults and free for children. For additional information please contact **Merle Hathaway** on 0419 32442 or 5341 2751



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Buninyong community*

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The interesting life of a local police officer



NO, SEAN'S NOT FROM IRELAND

Over the past few years Senior Constable Sean Almeida has become a well-known face around Buninyong. When not chasing speeding drivers, grabbing drug dealers, or following up calls from residents about "suspicious" people or vehicles, he has built up close relations with many local businesses, groups and residents.

At only 160 cm tall and with a dusky complexion, Sean does not fit the usual stereotype of the police officer seen in Australian TV police dramas. But he certainly brings to the job a personal and professional background and experience that gives him strong credibility with those with whom he works and comes into contact with.

School and work

Sean, 45, was born in Mumbai, India. He was educated in a Catholic school there, with English as the principal language. He remained in that city until he was about 26 years of age, working in the aviation industry involved with the transport of cargo and with military aircraft.

This experience saw him move to Dubai in 2000 and then later onto Abu Dhabi where

he had wide ranging responsibilities for a company of which Emirates Airlines was a subsidiary. His role involved supervising on-ground aircraft activities ranging from aircraft movement, ground staff, scheduling, and cargo handling.

That link to Emirates Airlines proved fortuitous for Sean, as in 2004 his wife **Beverly** had moved to Australia to undertake studies for a (second) Master's Degree in IT at the University of Ballarat. She obtained a position with IBM. She had "fallen in love with Australia" after spending some time here in 2001 undertaking a research project sponsored by her-then employer HSBC.

Frequent flyer

So from 2004 to 2006 Sean flew to Australia several times each year to visit his wife. In 2006 he moved here permanently with his first job working for the Bacchus Marsh Produce Company both at the Footscray Market and in Ballarat. Then followed stints as a house parent after his first child was born, and later a role in IT with IBM at Technology Park.

But "from the age of six" Sean had always wanted to be a police officer. So

in 2007 he commenced the long process of making application to join the Victoria Police. He graduated from the Police Academy in mid-2010, and was posted to Ballarat. His links to Buninyong started in 2013 with a six month posting here, followed in 2017 with a 'swap' with a fellow officer. Finally in 2019 came his permanent appointment to the Buninyong Police Station.

Irish links

With wife Beverly currently working for NAB (in both Melbourne and Ballarat) in the area of "incident management" with a particular concern about computer hacking, the family lives on a 10 acre property just out of Buninyong.

Sean "loves country policing" and particularly working in Buninyong where he has established excellent relationships with local businesses and residents. He seems likely to be seen around town for many years to come.

So what about his very-Irish first name (and those of his children **Erin**, 13, and **Flynn**, 10). Sean says that apart from a very distant link to Ireland through his wife's grandmother...there is none whatsoever!

First art show voted a winner



Trudy Nicholson (left) chats about the entries with Art Show judge Rebecca Joyce.

The inaugural Buninyong Art Show held in the Buninyong Town Hall for three days during the recent Festival was voted an outstanding success by the many attendees and participating artists.

The gala opening night saw over 100 locals and visitors gather in the hall to enjoy a quiet drink and wander around to view the 147 entries. Judging of the entries in six categories was carried out by the Assistant Curator at the Art Gallery of Ballarat, **Rebecca Joyce**.

Ms Joyce said that there was a high standard of entries in all six categories. These were Local Content/landscape, Abstract, Animals, Seascapes, Portrait, and Still Life. In each category prizemoney of \$350 and vouchers were on offer.

Over the three days some 500 people visited the art show and eight paintings were sold.

Local artists **Annie Ross** and **Trudi Nicholson** arranged the show in conjunction with **Lisa Cressey** who did a magnificent job across the weekend coordinating the many events and activities which made up the Buninyong Festival.

Winners of the various sections, together with the titles of their works, are listed below.

SEASCAPE

1st Prize - **Vicki Weetman** - On the Coast at Aldinga

2nd Prize - **Peter Latchfield** - Port Campbell

Commended - **Jon Crawley** - As Evening Falls – Lorne

Commended - **Sasha Dusanovic** - The Mooring

STILL LIFE

1st Prize - **Jane Reyne** - Hawthorn

2nd Prize - **Jennifer Sutterby** - Aureatte

Commended - **Michelle Noyce** - Vase of Flowers

Commended - **Yvonne Wells** - Global

PORTRAIT

1st Prize - **Donna Saunders** - Immersed in Thought

2nd Prize - **Rachel Power** - Anywhere But Here

Commended - **Imani Rodgers** - Amanda

Commended - **Holly Baker** - Shannon No. 4

ABSTRACT

1st Prize - **Kate Wise** - Rising

2nd Prize - **Brigid Corcoran** - Saint Anne & Her Horses

Commended - **Colleen Simmons** - Tideline

Commended - **Valerie Pitt** - Do You See What I See

LOCAL CONTENT

1st Prize - **Jon Crawley** - Historic Buninyong

2nd Prize - **Anthony Mitchell** - Crown Hotel

Commended - **Barry Walters** - Near Buninyong

Commended - **Casey Benson** - From the Outside

ANIMALIA

1st Prize - **Lyn Cooke** - Ballarat Birds

2nd Prize - **Sonya Duffy** - Lexie ...the Border Collie

Commended - **Brigid Corcoran** - St Anne and Her Horses

Commended - **Rachel Jackson** - Black Cockatoo on Perch

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Imani Rodgers - Amanda



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Video captures heart of village



An evocative short 'vignette' or video which captures much of the essence of Buninyong and its surrounds was released in late October at a public screening in the Buninyong Town Hall.

Commissioned by the Buninyong Business Network (BBN), and funded by the local community bank, the video was produced by local media expert **Jane Walsh** of Mass Motion, the Ballarat-based design studio.

With a musical backing, the 80 second video contains gentle and fleeting images of rural scenes, cycling, view of the mountain, walking, street scenes, businesses, and gracious homes and old buildings.

About 150 people, including local MP **Michaela Settle**, enjoyed the presentation which was well catered for with a free sausage sizzle provided by members of the local Lions Club.

BBN President **Simon Coghlan** said that the vignette was a great way to promote Buninyong and was really suitable to make available to accommodation and tourism providers, relatives in distant places or as a souvenir for visitors.

It is readily available on YouTube by Googling Buninyong Vignette.

Shown singing his Buninyong 'anthem' is local primary school music teacher Steven Skilbeck, with Jane Walsh and Simon Coghlan looking on.

Attwoods wines new cellar door opens at Glenlyon

The June 2018 edition of *The News* featured a story on the fledgling local vineyard, Attwoods Wines, located in Scotsburn. Now just eighteen months later Troy and Jane Walsh are opening their first cellar door at Glenlyon Estate, near Daylesford.

They have been making their wine at this established vineyard and winery for twelve months and are looking forward to the first harvest from the 25 year old vines in 2020.

It's a beautiful setting, 40 acres of rolling hills overlooking a large dam, surrounded by native bush and wildlife. The cellar door and restaurant, already in place from previous ownership, has undergone a stylish renovation so customers can again enjoy the indoor/outdoor spaces for a glass of wine.

It's open between now and Christmas, for tastings (and nibbles) with a view to opening a full restaurant early next year. It's a great opportunity to taste the full Attwoods range, with some new releases, exclusive to the cellar door. Open 11am - 5pm weekends only until 22 December.





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- Cosy wood fire

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"Bringing Business to Buninyong"

Neville French opens his studio Potter of place and perfection

You're quite wrong if you think that turned pots of clay are only for holding food, flowers and your keys. For ceramic pottery is also an aesthetic form that holds its own as a beautiful member of the Fine Arts genre.

Nowhere is this more apparent than in **Neville French's** Buninyong studio where he turns porcelain clay on his potter's

wheel into exquisite objects of art which have been widely exhibited through Australia and overseas including at the prestigious Victoria and Albert Museum in London, the Nancy Mangolis Gallery in New York and the Galerie Rosenhauer in Germany.

His work has been acquired by the Grassi Museum in Leipzig and the National Gallery of Australia in Canberra.



Neville grew up in Maryborough, and later completed a Diploma of Fine Art at the Ballarat School of Mines under the tutelage of **John Gilbert** who then became a skills mentor. Then followed a year of overseas study in England, France and Italy that opened his eyes to the technical possibilities in this ancient art form.

From his research for a Masters of Fine Art degree from RMIT came knowledge of the chemistry to produce the colours of the glazes that he wanted. Further learning came via the mentoring of **Ian Currie** in Brisbane to learn Japanese techniques, and of **Gwynn Hansenn Piggot** (née John from Ballarat) with wood-firing and marketing experience from her time at the ancient pottery centre at La Borne in France.

Exquisite

The choice of different clays in their various colours, composition and chemistry, combined with a whole range of glazes and glazing techniques as well as kiln-firing timings and temperatures, produce exquisite artwork.

Fine porcelain clay, created from a mix of silica with feldspar as a flux and kaolin as the stiffener, could be fired at temperatures of 1,350 to 1,400 degrees centigrade in a wood-fired kiln. The wood-ash gives beauty to the glazes that Neville has experimented with and developed from eucalypts and other sources to give colour and texture effects to the resultant pots.

Place

A keen sense of place comes into the creation of his pots, and Neville travels widely to capture the uniqueness of the Australian landscape; its mountain shapes, its dusty plains, its 60,000 year history of habitation.



**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.



Lake Mungo is a favourite location with its lunettes, its archeological record, its vastness, dryness and blowing sand.

There the shape of an ancient tree –

they built with embedded timbers in the European style.

– Russell Luckock

(Opposite) Potter Neville French at work in his studio on the southern edge of the Buninyong township, and (above) among his works at the recent Open Day.

now gone – but the conical shape remains as the roots tied the earth together when the surrounding soil was blown away and this becomes the shape of a uniquely Australian pot that reflects our history and our landscape through the combination of clays, glazes and firing regimes that he has perfected over the decades.

Neville and his wife **Elizabeth** are long-term Buninyong residents and live in a load-bearing mud brick house that



Buninyong Mt Helen Lions and Combined Churches

Community Carols

Desoza Park
Saturday, 7 December



A great family evening of entertainment

Sausage Sizzle & Kids' Activities
from 4.30 pm

Carols
from 7.00 pm

Sing Australia Choir, local artists and Father Christmas

BUNINYONG CHRISTMAS TREE ART EXHIBITION

OPENING HOURS

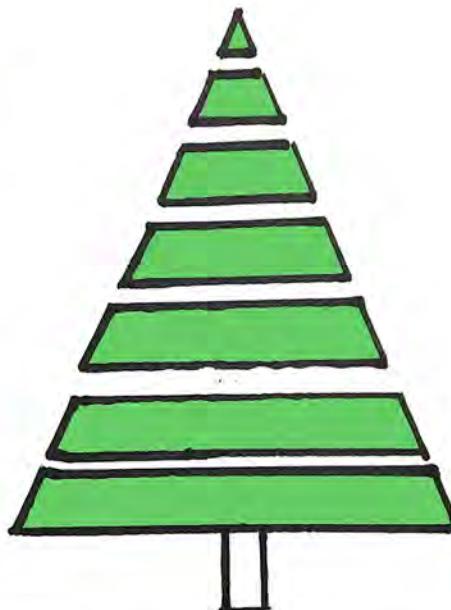
AT THE BUNINYONG TOWN HALL.

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 28th (opening night @ 5pm snacks & bar)

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 29th 11am to 7pm

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 30th 11am to 7pm

SUNDAY DECEMBER 1st 11pm to 4pm



New kids, new BBQ, and older visitors at Scotsburn

The students at Scotsburn are excited now that their new outdoor learning and BBQ area is complete. After much fundraising in recent times, the fantastic new outdoor space is sure to get plenty of use. Already the students are organising a sausage sizzle to launch the new facility.

The space will be used to complement Friday rotation group activities, cooking programs and extensive learning opportunities that occur daily throughout the campus. Thanks go to **Ken** (Buninyong PS Maintenance Worker) and **Rick Innes** (grandpa of current students) who worked on the project to complete it in such great fashion.

New Faces

There are nine new smiling faces at the Scotsburn Campus for 2020. It has been fantastic to see the partnership between parents, kindergarten educators and school teachers, continually seeking

ways to improve the cross over between Kindergarten and primary school.

The greater this partnership, the more settled and happy the students are when they walk through the gates on Orientation Day and at the beginning of the school year. For many new students, transition mornings are a chance to make new friends, have a look around a classroom, meet some teachers, have fun and check out the playground. For mums and dads too, the chance to have a chat and meet other parents is just as important.

What an amazing response there was recently for the annual *Grandparents and Special Friends Morning*. The feedback

from guests was quite overwhelming. They loved spending time at the school and were just so impressed with its presentation. It's not often that grandparents and special friends get to visit, but they always love it when they do.

Lachie and Jack give the thumbs up to the recent *Grandparents and Special Friends Morning* and the new BBQ space.



PRD

nationwide

Buninyong



Phil Crosbie 0407 542 289



Neville Dooly 0419 307 882

We know this district!

The Buninyong & District market is still strong

Some examples of our recent sales ...



Somerville Street, Buninyong
\$570,000



Hoveys Road, Durham Lead
\$395,000



Cornish Street, Buninyong
\$687,500



Delaland Avenue, Buninyong
\$560,000



Buninyong-Mt Mercer Road,
Durham Lead \$410,000



Forest Street Buninyong
\$699,000

5341 2200

511 Warrenheip Street, Buninyong

prd.com.au

Dog park discussed at Council meeting

A fenced dog park for Buninyong was the topic of a recent public meeting called by Ballarat City Council at the Buninyong Town Hall. Over 20 persons attended the consultation session. There are over 650 dogs registered in Buninyong as of April this year, demonstrating a clear need for such a facility.

Clare Douglas-Haynes and **Kathryn Doreshenko-Pempell** (Animal Management, City of Ballarat) outlined the recently-released *Dog Controls in Public Spaces Strategy*, which recognises that dog parks provide not only a place for dogs to be exercised off-lead, but also provide a means to promote responsible dog ownership and etiquette.

Council is also able to undertake compliance activities such as education and awareness campaigns, proactive patrols and enforcement activities.

Several community members explained how, having moved to Buninyong in recent years, they have made most of their local social connections through walking their dogs.

Mount problems

The under-utilisation of the current off-leash area on Mt Innes, and whether fencing this area would make it more attractive to dog owners, was discussed first. The general consensus was that this was an unsuitable space due its being on the highway, amongst farmland, not within walking distance of the village centre (which would require many people to drive there and then there not being any suitable space to park cars), and the area itself being on a steep hill.

The meeting then moved on to discuss other spaces that might be suitable closer to the village centre. Several were identified. The Council officers agreed to consider these within the framework of the *Dog Strategy* and in consultation with residents living close by.

An online survey is available for anyone wishing to contribute their opinions at mysay.ballarat.vic.gov.au/fenced-dog-park-survey



Blooming garden

The Buninyong Community Garden is now in full bloom and is jam packed with the season's crops. Lettuce, broad beans, peas, radish and plenty of herbs to add extra flavour, are being picked.

Tomatoes, carrots, other root vegetables, zucchini, sweet corn and other leafy greens are 'in'. There is an abundance of bee-attracting flowers including poppies, borage and sweet peas, which make the garden look particularly colourful.

Pots

The yoghurt pots that can be seen there have been found to be an ideal way to protect seedlings from frost and snails, and will be removed as the plants mature. The garden is organic and avoids using poisons.

Residents are invited to call by and talk to the keen gardeners there about obtaining a plot or food-growing in general. The Community Garden is at Royal Park, corner Warrenheip and Hedrick Streets. Gardeners are there on most Wednesday mornings from 9:30am. To enquire about the garden phone **Liz** on 0419 589 433.

Above: Marie, Liz and Bob checking on the garden.

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COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Strong advocate for the village

At its AGM held on 24 October, the Buninyong and District Community Association (BDCA) reviewed its activities and involvement in community projects over the past year.

The Association has liaised closely with Council on a range of village issues and had some small wins with the Desoza Park Bridge, new historical signage and the erection of more appropriate signage at the local childcare centre. It has also been an important partner in the Township Planning Process which, regrettably, has been deferred to allow Council to resolve broader planning issues.

The proposed roadworks/installation of safety barriers (with the consequent loss of important vegetation) has been another area of focus. Following a briefing on the project and several meetings with VicRoads representatives, the Association continues to campaign – including meeting with the Minister for Roads – to ensure that the tree loss is kept to a minimum while ensuring that safety issues are addressed.

Election forum

The State election forum, arranged by the BDCA in the lead up to the State election, provided an opportunity for the community to meet and hear from their local candidates and for the Association to highlight its priority projects.

A project of the Association for some five years, *The Buninyong & District*

Community News, is an important part of village life. As well as sharing information and ideas, *The News* showcases community businesses at a time when it is important to shop locally, investing in the community and protecting local jobs.

More advocacy

There are some important issues where the Association has been active but which require further advocacy work; these include the Warrenheip Street upgrade, off-lead dog park closer to the village centre, improvements to Yendon No 1 Road, and a heavy vehicle by-pass to improve safety and amenity in the village.

Under the leadership of its newly-elected Executive – **Gayle Adams** (President), **Kevin Zibell** (Secretary) and **Robert Elshaug** (Treasurer) – the Association will continue its advocacy on behalf of the village community. Some planned projects include the production of a new visitor guide for Buninyong (in conjunction with the Business Network) and establishing a walking trail along Union Jack Creek in honour of Neil McCracken.

The Community Bank's support both to *The News* and more broadly to the local community was acknowledged.

The Association understands that working together, the community can retain what is special about Buninyong and district while embracing progress.

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AND INSTAGRAM

Council team talks local projects

There was a flurry of Council-arranged community meetings in Buninyong in early November. These concerned Ballarat's "identity", a proposed dog park, and a general community "engagement" session.

On 6 November a large team of Council staff were at the Town Hall.

Big team

Council representatives included **Peter Appleton** (Community Engagement), **David Turley** (Planning), **Kelli Moran** (Economic Development), **John Dyke** (Heritage) and **Clare Douglas-Haynes** (Animal Management). Fifteen community members attended the discussion and briefing session.

Topics included the Buninyong Township Plan, updates for a community garden and soccer facility upgrade at Royal Park, the Desoza Park toddlers' play space, options for a new off-lead dog park and the *Ballarat is Open* project.

This meeting closely followed two other Council-arranged meetings in Buninyong. One specifically was concerned with the



dog-park issue, the other concerned with the *Ballarat is Open* project.

Poor turn out

Only two community groups – the Community Association and the *Friends of Buninyong Botanic Gardens* – and several members of the public attended the *Ballarat is Open* workshop which was arranged by Kelli Moran from Council's Economic Development team and using two consultants. These were **Paul Black** and **Lisa-Marie Deema** from Ballarat-based Splendid Studio.

This project, which commenced soon after the Council assumed control over Ballarat's tourism and visitor activity and 'visitor economy', aims to obtain "a better understanding of what our various brands and identities are" and how the city is and should be presented to others.

After a review of twenty of the most recent 'community consultations' the following is a summary of key views of residents about the city. Residents drew attention to:

- a love of the cultural, natural, historic and architectural heritage
- the great lifestyle, strong sense of

community and sense of friendliness

- a growing 'capital city' of Western Victoria but ensuring growth is sympathetic to its heritage
- its being artistic, creative, and elegant but also progressive and innovative

The hoped-for result of the project will be "a framework for developing marketing campaigns, future strategies, council plans, projects and activities".

Shown chatting before the "community engagement" meeting are Simon Dennis, Clare Douglas-Haynes (City of Ballarat), Maureen Rogerson, Belinda Wardle, and Community Engagement Manager Peter Appleton.

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CALL EMMA: 0468 487 952

Merry Christmas.

From all of us at Buninyong & District **Community Bank®** Branch, best wishes for the holiday season and thank you for your loyalty and support.

Drop into your nearest branch at 401B Warrenheip Street, Buninyong or phone 5341 8066.



Buninyong & District **Community Bank®** Branch

Top acting teacher starts classes here

A highly experienced actor who studied Performing Arts at Ballarat University in the early 1990s, and who recently appeared in the local production of *Hansel and Gretel*, is starting up classes in Acting in Buninyong from early next year.

Adam Turnbull has been teaching for different companies in Melbourne for about 25 years but started his own business, ATA Acting Studio, nine years ago. His studio has taught hundreds of actors of all ages and levels of experience.

Past students have had great success, scoring lead roles in film, TV and stage shows such as *Neighbours*, *Matilda*, *The Elephant Princess*, *The INXS Story* and *As the Bell Rings*.

ATA Acting Studio will run a Senior holiday acting workshop on Wednesday 15 January and a Junior holiday acting workshop on Thursday 16 January. Regular Term classes will be run on Tuesday nights starting Tuesday 28



January. Classes will place emphasis on self-development whilst building professional acting skills.

All Classes and workshops are at the Buninyong Town Hall. For bookings and enquiries call 0419 593 257 or visit the website ataactingstudio.com. Adam plans to move to Buninyong in 2020.

(Above) Adam Turnbull, acting teacher.

Ernie Neale's Monthly RAINFALL REPORT

October just damp

October is the month which has suffered the greatest decline in rainfall in recent decades. In the 1940s and 1950s it averaged 93mm; in the 1960s and 1970s 79mm, and in the 1980s and 1990s 81mm and for 2000 to 2019, 69mm.

This October we scored only 42mm. There were plenty of damp days but none over 10mm. Now that a sub-average October has followed on this year's sub-average September, it seems inevitable that this Spring will be a frail one. November would need to deliver almost 100mm to turn things around.

Fortunately, October's temperatures did remain mild, with only one day exceeding 30°C. This delivered great growing conditions, enough to defeat our ride on mower. It joined the seasonal surge of malfunctioning machines at our overwhelmed repairer. Hopefully it will be fixed in time to tackle November's final barrage before everything dries off for Summer.

OCTOBER 2019

Date	Rain	Date	Rain
5	2.4	15-20	25.1
7-10	5.3	25	0.5
12	0.3	26-28	8.4
Total		42.0 mm	
October 2018		20.5 mm	

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you name it we print it...
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 booklets invoice books **posters** envelopes **stickers/labels...**
 ...the list goes on.





More blue plaques

In 2014, twenty blue plaques were affixed to historic buildings around the Buninyong village. Each told the history of the building or a building formerly on the site.

The blue plaques project, which has proved of great interest to visitors and locals alike, was a project of the BDCA, the Historical Society and funded by the Community Bank.

Now another twelve sites have been selected, and after funding of over \$3000 was again allocated by the Community Bank, more blue plaques will be put in place early in 2020. The plaques will be of high quality enamel.

RSL Hall fix

The RSL Hall was been stripped of its Honour Boards and pictures recently, and was closed as Council undertook major renovation work inside. The timber floor is being fully replaced and the ceiling repaired. Shown below are **Brian Parker**, **Ron Fleming** and **Max Thorne** carrying out one of the heavy Honour Boards.



Scotsburn carols

On Friday 6 December, the Scotsburn Union Church will hold its annual *Carols Under the Trees*. While the carols start at 7.00pm, all are welcome to come earlier and have a picnic tea. Supper is provided but please bring a chair. The church is located on the left hand side of the Midland Highway at Scotsburn.

An Anglican Christmas

At the Buninyong Anglican Church (corner Warrenheip and Scott Streets) Christmas services will be on Christmas Eve at 5.30pm, followed by a free BBQ, and then on Christmas Day at 9.00am.

Both services are very child friendly and go for a bit over an hour. More information is available at buninyonganglican.org.au or from the Minister, **Mark Schnerring**, on 0401 022 107.

Good work from Masons

Sturt Buninyong Lodge arranged a \$5000 Freemasons Foundation donation to Uniting Ballarat Breezeway Meals program for the purchase of food.

The Lodge has supported Uniting Ballarat over many years with blankets, food and fruit. The distribution of charity is a major principle of Freemasonry. Funds for this work are raised through its annual New Year fruit sale.



Signs up

With the support of the City of Ballarat Gardens Coordinator, **Darryl Wallis**, three new detailed 'local history' signs are now in place around Buninyong. Two replaced the old weathered signs which were at the old Burial Ground in Learmonth Street, and at the site of the old Buninyong railway station in Forest Street in front of the Men's Shed.

The third sign has been erected adjacent to the bronze 'discovery of gold' plaques in Hiscock Gully Road about 600 metres from the Midland Highway. This was another cooperative project between the Historical Society (which prepared the text and illustrations) and the BDCA which did the lobbying.

Personal. The way travel should be.

Hi, I'm Ed, personal travel manager living right here in Buninyong.

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Crater cracked by 180 runners

The 2019 Crack the Crater event held as part of the Buninyong Festival attracted some 180 entrants of all ages and abilities to tackle the daunting task of running (or walking) up the steep slopes of Mt Buninyong.

Prizes for the four categories were donated by eight local sponsors, with great assistance coming from course announcers, ambassadors and marshalls, and traffic management from **Fulton Hogan** and **Tony Coxall**.

Winners in the various categories were:

GOLD - Men - **Ash Watson** (38m 49sec), Women - **Karla Treweek** (47.01)

SILVER - Men - **Brett Holloway** (41.06),

Women - **Melissa Flanagan** (41.30)

BRONZE - Men

- **Isaac Gillett** (21.46), Women - **Greta Ashley** (23.48)

KIDS - Boys **Archie**

Grant and Girls - **Paige Tuddenham**



(Above) Junior Winners were (Left) Paige Tuddenham, 8, shown with mum Sam, and Archie Grant, 8, shown with mum Carmen.

(Below) Runners of all ages and fitness on track along the mountain paths.



Buninyong Vet Clinic

 An advertisement for Buninyong Vet Clinic. It features two women, one holding a small pug dog. The clinic's logo, "BUNINYONG VET CLINIC EST. 1977", is displayed in a diamond shape. Text on the ad reads: "for friendly and professional health care for your pets" and "316a Learmonth Street ph: 5312 9727".

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For the fourth year, the Community Bank is collecting toys for the Salvation Army's Christmas Appeal. Toys can be dropped off at the bank up until Tuesday 17 December. The presents will be distributed to children and families by The Salvation Army in time for Christmas.

Please only donate new, unwrapped items. Sadly, the gift you donate may be the only present someone receives this Christmas. Christmas isn't only about receiving gifts, but this is one way we can help families feel special.

Every year the bank is overwhelmed with gifts for younger children, especially soft toys, but always runs out of gifts for teenagers and parents. Gift vouchers are ideal gifts for teenagers and to also give a parent who is struggling to be able to bring the joy of purchasing a gift for their child's unique personality and interests.



BUNINYONG

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING NIGHT!

A few locals spent the night drinking Eggnog and decided to get festive this year. So, we are throwing open our doors for a festive evening of shopping & being merry. Enjoy a festive night in Buninyong with some bubbles & local Christmas shopping.

Three Times Blest

Warrenheip Street
Clothing, gifts & everything in between.

Maggie & Kate

Warrenheip Street
House made Christmas tarts, hampers & tastings.

Saltbush Kitchen

Commercial Lane
Australian bushfoods, gifts & tastings.

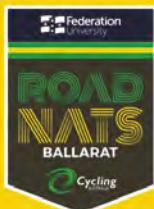
Christmas Tree Exhibition

Buninyong Town Hall
Local artists showcasing their festive talent.

FREE GLASS OF BUBBLES AT EACH SHOP!

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 29th 2019 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm

Why not make a night of it? Dine out locally at The Shared Table, The Red Door Pizzeria and more. Bookings recommended. #Loveyourlocal



FESTIVAL OF CYCLING

Join in the fun at this year's Federation University Road National Championships. This year's Championships run from January 8 until January 12, providing the perfect school holiday entertainment.

WEDNESDAY 8TH

Community Ride and Skills course
Location: Federation University

SUNDAY 12TH

Ballarat Champion Ride
Location: Golden City Hotel

FRIDAY 10TH

Sturt St Hill Climb
Street Party
Big Screens
Family Activities
Location: Sturt Street, Ballarat

**PLUS ALL THE
ELITE RACING
ACTION
FROM AUSTRALIA'S
BEST CYCLISTS**

SATURDAY 11TH

Twilight Gran Fondo
Community Ride
Bunny Mile (Running Race)

FREE Buninyong Community Night

- Moonlight Cinema
 - Food Trucks
 - Face Painting
 - Jumping Castle
 - Plus heaps more!
- Location:** De Soza Park



Community events on again

CYCLING CHAMPS COMING

The Cycling Australia Federation University Road National Championships will return to Ballarat and Buninyong from 6 to 12 January 2020.

On top of the exceptional racing that will be on display, the whole family is invited to take part in the festivities. From community rides to everyone's favourite the Buninyong Community Festival and the always popular Gran Fondo ride, you won't have to be a diehard cycling fan to have a great time.

Festival

Headlining the festivities is the Buninyong Community Festival in Desoza Park on Saturday, 11 January. Food trucks, face painting, a jumping castle and an open-air cinema are just some of the family-friendly activities on offer.

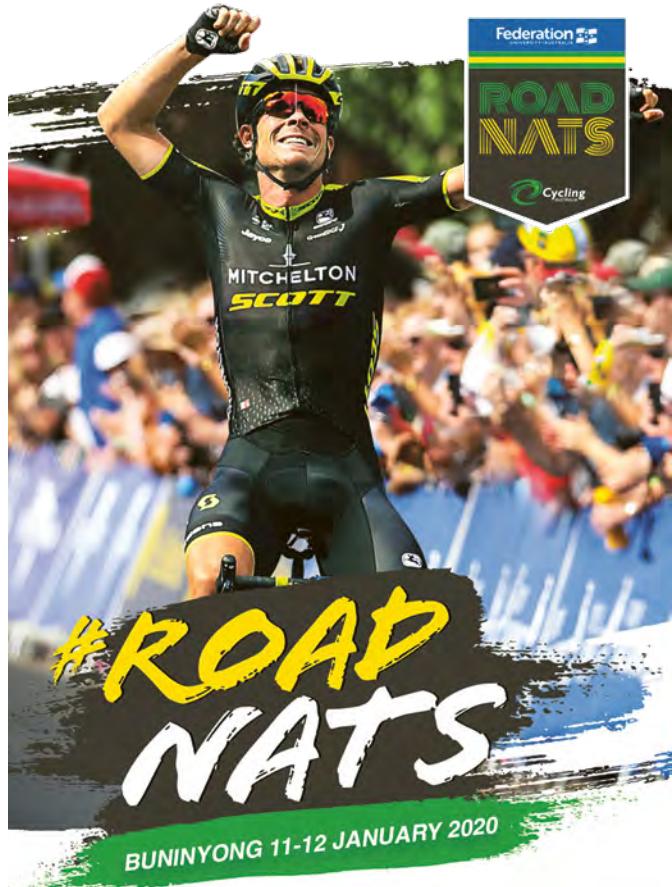
There will be two movie showings – an early kids' movie for all the youngsters at

6pm followed by a later showing of the new *Mary Poppins* film at 7:45pm.

Same course

Prior to the Buninyong Community Festival, the Gran Fondo National Championship will give riders the chance to take on the same course that will decide Australia's new Road Race National champions. Make sure to sign up and ride the iconic Mt. Buninyong course before heading to the rider's bar for some complimentary food and drink.

The Community Rides kick off on Wednesday, 8 January with a Parklands



Winners of the National Championship celebrate.

Ride followed by a Skills Course and Bike Check for junior riders. This is a great way to learn some simple tricks of the trade when taking care of your bike. There will then be rides for all levels on Friday and Saturday's Gran Fondo and Sunday's Champions Ride.

Sturt Street

Friday sees Ballarat's Sturt Street transform into a cycling drag strip as Australia's best club and elite riders take on the famous criterium course. Fixie races and the all-new Sturt Street Hill Climb will pave way for the Elite Men's and Women's Criterium.

All the elite action from the Criteriums, Time Trials and Road Races will take place across the entire week so there is no shortage of entertainment.

So, make sure all is ready in about six weeks' time for all the action of the 2020 Cycling Australia Federation University Road National Championships from 6 to 12 January. For more information head to: roadnationals.org.au

Shannon Malseed was a popular winner of the 2018 Women's Road Race.

