



Buninyong & District
Community
NEWS

Edition 456, February 2019

FIRES BLAZE AGAIN

Almost exactly three years after the horrific local bushfires of 2015, another major fire erupted in bushland south of Buninyong on 6 December burning through 40 hectares of scrub and grassland. The temperature was 31° with a northerly wind blowing.

CFA crews were called out at 2.35pm. By 3.00pm eight units were tackling the blaze which had started in the general area of Nashs Road and Scotts Lane and was heading

towards Pryors Road. An hour later 20 CFA units, four aircraft and bulldozers were fighting the blaze.

Warnings

With the fire out of control for several hours, up to nine aircraft were called in to assist and warnings were issued to residents of Scotsburn, Durham Lead and Grenville.

A relief centre was established at the clubrooms of the Buninyong Football Netball Club.

With temperatures in the mid-30s forecast for the following day, twelve crews worked through the night to maintain control lines. While a shed and a car was destroyed, houses, residents and livestock escaped.

Next day a town meeting attended by about 200 residents, was held at the Buninyong Town Hall where senior CFA officials and police gave updates and advice about the fires.

The cause of the fire is yet to be established.



RECORD CROWD AT PARK CAROLS

Fingers were crossed during afternoon rehearsals for the 2018 Lions Community Christmas Carols as the thunder rolled and the raindrops kept falling. But the skies cleared, the Lions Club fired up the BBQs and well over 1000 people arrived for the entertainment.

Gabrielle Hodgson from 3BA was the MC, *Sing Australia* provided the choral backdrop for the community carols, Linda Young from Ballarat South Uniting Church provided the Christmas Message

and local entertainers once again generously gave their time.

With the Buninyong Community Bendigo Bank covering all the costs of setting up the event and Trevor and Alison from Buninyong Foodworks providing all the food for the barbecue, \$2627 was raised for the 3BA Appeal. Buninyong-Mt Helen Lions Club President Gary White said the night was a huge success with a record crowd and wide support from across the entire community.

Cassandra Carland



Steve has the Willys

Amongst the 307 vintage and rare cars on show at the *Crown Hotel Annual Car Show* in December were several from Buninyong enthusiasts including a 1926 Willys Offenhauser Ford speedster owned by Steve Kennedy.

Steve has lived on the outskirts of Buninyong for nine years and during this time has put together a collection of "bikes, old cars and stuff." He said that he brings out the 1926 Willys quite often as he is a member of a small Horsham-based motoring group which calls themselves the *Crank Handle Monkeys*.

Steve said that he doesn't take the Willys on long trips because the flat-racer style restored car "isn't the most comfortable thing to ride in."

This was the eighth annual car show organised by the Crown Hotel's Josh Streeter who said that it was a "great day - with cool cars, cool people, and cool music."

In the hotel's car park a giant inflatable slide kept many youngsters entertained, and live music came from the blues band *Johnny Rooster*, while in the bar, musician Doug Jolly was in action.





These three young women (L to R) Alex, Lily and Alice, were among a group of about fifty who attended a farewell to retiring teacher Peter Innes

Young mums to miss Peter

When some people retire from a job after 45 years, they are farewelled by company heavies who make long-winded speeches, surrounded by a bunch of old colleagues looking forward to their own superannuation cash, gardening five days a week and a gold watch.

Not so with well-known local **Peter Innes** when he finished up with the Education Department just prior to Christmas. Instead he was farewelled by a group of young mums, some with a tear in their eye.

His farewell was not marked by bubbly and canapes in the company Board Room or in a swank restaurant, but with a home-made morning tea in an unprepossessing but special 'community' house in Leawarra Crescent, Delacombe.

Unique

This house is unique to Victoria as it is a campus of the Yuille Park Community College. For twelve years or so Peter and his staff ran a community-based educational program for groups of up to

35 young mothers who had left school early, often due to pregnancy.

Peter said, "The staff acted as grandparents, parents and teachers to the mums. We saw it as a privilege to have been able to help these young women change their futures."

One of the young mothers, **Lily** said that along with friends **Alex** and **Alice** (see photo), they had each been coming to the program at the Delacombe house for the past eight years. "We were all sixteen, and Peter helped to get us back into education so well that we all now have good jobs."

Alice now is a nurse, Alex manages a store and Lily works for the City of Ballarat.

Formerly, Peter Innes was a Councillor with the City of Ballarat for ten years, and before that Shire President and Councillor for the Shire of Buninyong prior to its amalgamation in 1994. He also taught at the Buninyong Primary School between 1984 and 1994.

He now will busy himself with family, travel, golf and almost certainly some more community involvement.

RSL thanks Vic Bradley

The Buninyong RSL has recognised **Vic Bradley's** 70 years of RSL membership with the recent presentation of a certificate by sub-branch President **Ron Fleming**.

After a time with the Ballarat RSL, Vic joined the Buninyong RSL in 1947.

A World War II veteran, Vic has filled many senior positions both locally and with the district RSL.



2019 CYCLE EVENT MOVES APPLAUDED

One of the things that make Buninyong a great place in which to live is the hard work and enthusiasm its residents put into so many community events, activities and projects. And over the past couple of months there have been plenty of these.

Take the recent major cycling championships. Working with Council and the event organisers GTR Events, were members of the Community Association, the Business Network, many shopkeepers, groups like the CFA, the Men's Shed, and Friends of the Botanic Gardens, kids from local schools, and the residents who took the trouble to decorate homes or gardens.

And of course there were the Lions Club volunteers staffing the BBQ at the carols and opening the bookshop to visitors to the bike races.

At last

It was a breakthrough year so far as getting cooperation for more community activities and participation from Council staff, from the event organisers and from Cycling Australia.

For about ten years the Community Association has been pushing for inclusion of some form of community events in the township or in Desoza Park as part of the weekend's activities. This year the setting up of an outdoor cinema in the park with

food and ice cream vans was a great step forward. The 500 or so people who turned up on a chilly evening certainly thought so.

Sure it could be made better - perhaps with some music or other on-stage entertainment while waiting for the film to start, but this year's effort was a giant step in the right direction.

Recognition

Then there was the hay bale signage (see story on p 19). Local groups have long been frustrated at the year-after-year refusal of cycling race organisers and the City Council to acknowledge in their event branding the fact that 80 per cent of the cycling takes place in Buninyong!

This year, hay bale signs aside, there was a much better recognition across the wider and local media and in various communications that this event largely takes place in Buninyong, not Ballarat.

While not forgetting about overall Council support (dollars, street presentation, attendance of Council heavies and the like), lots of praise is due to Council staff such as **Mark Bruty** and **Heidi Zukaskas**, and to GTR's CEO **Daryl Herbert** and his staffers such as **Justin Lane** and **Nick Swanton**.

Let's hope that these people are still centrally involved next year, and that the great advances made in the 2019 event are built upon.



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Gayle Adams, Michelle Corcoran.

Editor: Barry Fitzgerald

Design: Sara Mangere

Reporters: Cassandra Carland, Ray Sullivan, Russell Luckock, Amy Darby Walker, Rita Russell

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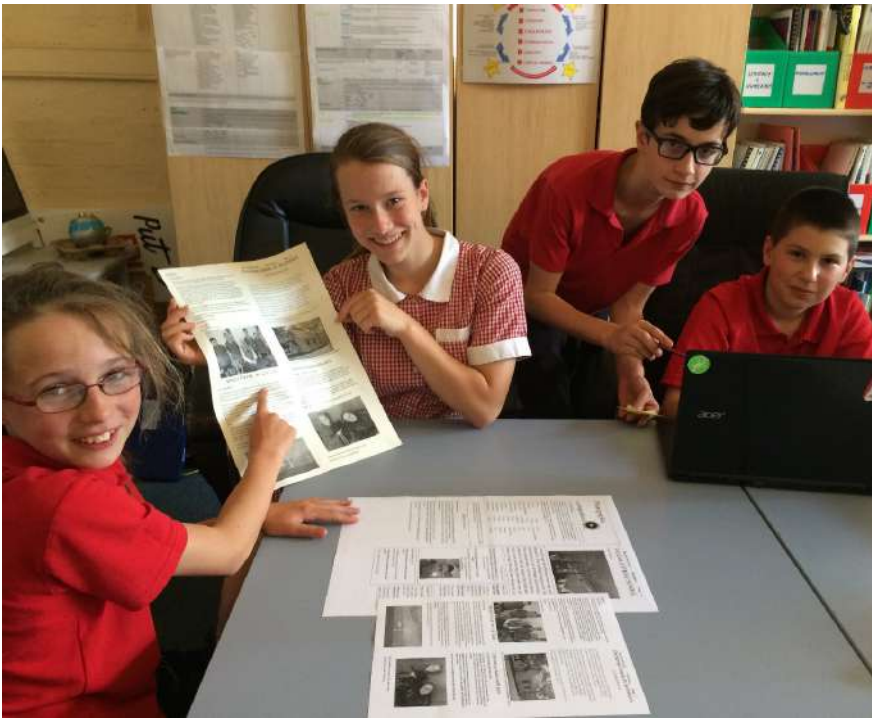


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The school newspaper's editorial committee - Anna Inglis, Blake Ryan, Lorelai Henderson and Nick Barton.

streettalk

LONDON NEWSPAPER *The Telegraph* ran a report on the recent sad death of Buninyong's **Ruth Strauss** (McDonald) wife of former English cricket captain Andrew Strauss. Amongst glowing tributes was the note that "Ruth came from a family who owned a farm in the outback of Victoria near Ballarat."

FAR BE IT for this humble chronicle to point out a problem to the local Council. But the correct spelling of our next door suburb continues to be confusing for them. Along Geelong Road there are varying signs relating to Mt Helen and to Mount Helen. It seems that the official source – the *Office of Geographic Names* – makes it clear that only *Mount Helen* is acceptable.

OVER THE PAST FEW months our local BP servo claimed to be offering the lowest-cost petrol this side of Saudi Arabia at around 120 cents per litre. While Ronnie was not slow to let everyone know of this, many locals were very pleased to take advantage of the great deal down at the local pumps.

A TEAM OF SURVEYORS were spotted at work on that vacant land east of the golf clubhouse over several days late last year. The odds of the local CFA brigade being relocated down there are shortening dramatically particularly as we hear that the gap between the offer and the asking price is now shrinking.

A LOCAL LADY panicked recently when she found that she needed an extra \$2 to complete the bathing of her dog at the BP garage dog wash. Choice was to leave her dog unattended to get another \$2 coin, or to unchain him and start all over again. A kind man washing his Mercedes nearby noticed her distress and kindly handed over a \$2 coin. **Verlie** and her dog thank him again.

WATCH OUT. There's now a new very long stretch of 80kph speed limit in place on the Midland Hwy in the Clarendon area. A News reporters was pinged there despite protesting that someone had deliberately knocked most of the 80 signs flat to the ground and that they weren't visible.

Newspaper project by Lal Lal students

Lal Lal Primary School students have created their first-ever newspaper to distribute to the community.

The idea for the newspaper came about when students were learning about factual writing. It was decided not just to tell the stories of things that happen at school but also to bring these stories to a wider audience through a newspaper.

The Editor of the *Ballarat Courier*, **Eugene Duffy** was invited to the school to talk about his job as editor and how a newspaper is produced.

His most important messages were to always research the facts and never assume anything, as well as to keep asking questions as a reporter and in life.

Committee

An Editorial Committee consisting of grade 5 and 6 students was formed to plan, edit and put together the newspaper.

All students contributed articles for the paper including: cooking pages, editorials,

Vox Pops, recent events, cartoons and puzzles.

One thing they learnt was that it is important to 'just get it done'. The amount of work involved in coordinating the tasks and ensuring the articles were ready in time was much greater than was expected.

‘Always research the facts and never assume anything, as well as keep asking questions.’

Parent Jonathon Inglis helped greatly with formatting the paper ready for printing.

The newspaper is being distributed to local community businesses and families. If you would like a copy of this free paper, please contact the school on 5341 7580

WORKSHOP GETS PLAN UNDERWAY



The History and Heritage group at work under the guidance of John Dyke (centre)

City Council planners started the formal part of the Buninyong Township Plan project with a workshop held at the Buninyong Town Hall on 1 December 2018. Council staff facilitated each of several discussion groups comprised of the 80 residents who attended the session which ran for over two hours.

Issues discussed in these groups concerned (i) town centre/village feel, (ii) growth and development, (iii) green/open spaces and facilities, (iv) history and heritage, and (v) biodiversity.

Tract Consultants are now analysing the results from these workshop groups and also the survey responses.

Project co-ordinator **John Dyke** said that the response to the resident survey had been “particularly strong” with 201 responses received on-line and another 109 hard copy surveys returned to the Council.

He now plans to meet with various local interest groups to discuss issues of particular concern to them. He commenced this process with a meeting with the Buninyong Cemetery Trust in late November at which the Trust stressed the need for future planning to take account of the need to have land set aside for future needs of the cemetery, and other development issues impacting on the historic cemetery.

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Cemetery puts a call out a **CALL FOR HELPERS**

It takes a team effort to keep Buninyong’s historic cemetery looking as good as it does for the families of those buried there and its growing number of visitors. The team includes volunteer Trust members, gravediggers, and a bloke who is there every Monday cutting grass, spreading topsoil, trimming plants, and clearing rubbish and old flowers.

Dads Army

Graeme Penhall, 74, is the cemetery’s maintenance person. He started there after retiring from a security/cleaning role at SMB’s Barkly Street campus in 1997. Centrelink required him to put in two days per fortnight in a ‘community service’ role and then from 1999 he worked full time there for about two years.

When he started with his work at the cemetery he was part of a volunteer local Dads’ Army which included personalities such as Alan Bath and Derrick Leather. “I think I’m the only one left not in full-time residence here,” Graeme quipped. While various locals have helped out over the years his mate Boots, a nine

year old cross-bred dog is now his only helper each Monday.

The Cemetery Trust is now seeking a couple of more volunteers to put in a few hours on a Monday morning to assist Graeme. “It’s very satisfying work keeping the cemetery looking neat and tidy,” Graeme said. Anyone who could help should contact the Trust Secretary Frances Winnell on 0415 929 571.

(Above) Graeme Penhall and his dog Boots take a rest after some grass cutting in the memorial section of the cemetery.

(Below) Russell Williams and a team of Men’s Shed members get the new bridge over the creek into position



Bridge now over Dell

One of the final stages in the construction of the *Dell of Memories* corner at the Buninyong Cemetery, the erection of a simple wooden bridge across the rockery and pond areas, was completed just before Christmas.

The bridge was made and erected by members of the Buninyong Men’s Shed under the guidance of former builder Russell Williams. Russell is also a member of the Buninyong Cemetery Trust.

It was installed just prior to the heavy rains of mid-December when the waters of the small creek were running a banker over the rockery area of the Dell. The project was then completed with the spreading of mulch to help the newly planted trees and shrubs become established.

The *Dell of Memories* is a special area of the cemetery where persons who have a loved one buried or whose ashes have been interred or spread elsewhere can go to remember them. Plaques commemorating the loved one may be affixed to one of the large rocks in the area and there is a seat where time can be spent under the shady old oak trees.

Community members are invited to inspect the new project which is in the south-east corner of the cemetery.

Richard Hutchinson Rennie

Master builder of Buninyong

One of the leading figures of Buninyong in the nineteenth century was the builder and contractor Richard Rennie. Born in Durham, England in 1816, he was lured from his native land in 1854 by the prospect of gold. By trade he was a stonemason and bricklayer.

At the age of 38, he left behind his wife and six children to try his luck in Victoria. Perhaps he planned to bring them to Australia when he had made his fortune, but the family was never reunited.

Contracts

Rennie first appears in Buninyong records when he won the contract to construct the Court House on 22 December 1857, for 745 pounds. The *Government Gazette* noted that this was his first government contract. However, his obituary in the *Ballarat Star* on 22 October 1906 states that his first contract in Buninyong was in 1856, to build the old Church of England church in Scott Street.

It was the start of a long and distinguished contracting career, and many historic Buninyong buildings remain as a testament to him.

New family

In Buninyong he met **Jane Riches** (nee Stanbury) who was born in London in 1833. Her first husband was **Robert Riches** and they had two sons James, John and a daughter Fanny. Richard established a new Australian family with her, and between 1859 and 1871 Richard and Jane had eight children, only three

of whom were registered.

Richard and Jane were finally married on 5 December 1888 at All Saints Church Northcote. Both spouses reported that their previous spouses were dead. However Richard's first wife Ann did not die until 1890. It was also possible that Jane's husband was still alive, for a Robert Ritchie (Riches?) died at the Ballarat Benevolent Asylum in 1899.

Link

In 1890, Rennie's English daughter **Emmeline Oliver**, commenced corresponding with her father, urging him to return home. He didn't paint a rosy picture of Australia, nor reveal that he had a large family in Australia!

But though he told his English family times were hard, he had in fact been doing very well as a builder, helped by his six Australian sons.

Among his credits here are the Uniting Church (1860), National Bank (1860),



Methodist Church in Warrenheip Street (1866), the Buninyong State School (1873), the Crown Hotel (1885), the Presbyterian Manse in Scott Street. (1885) and the new Town Hall, Court House and Shire offices in 1886.

As well he built a number of private residences and shops, including Whykes Butcher Shop (1897), and possibly Dr Longden's home, as well as Clifton Villa.



He was also responsible for many buildings in Ballarat and surrounding districts.

Public figure

He was a leading public figure in Buninyong, serving as a Councillor for seven years during the 1870s. He was also a shareholder in the *De Soza mine*, which proved a very good investment.

It is surprising that he did not build a brick house for himself. Instead he built a small weatherboard house on a large block between Learmonth and Scott Streets, opposite the Botanical Gardens. (He was a keen member of the Buninyong Bowling Club.) Though the house was modest, it apparently had a beautiful garden, planted out by the famous local nurseryman, **Francis Moss**.

Sons

His son **Alfred** (born 1859) established a livery stable in Ballarat which was described in *Ballarat and Vicinity* in 1894 as being on the corner of Grenville and Little Bridge Streets.

The same article describes his father Richard as ‘the largest contractor in Ballarat’.

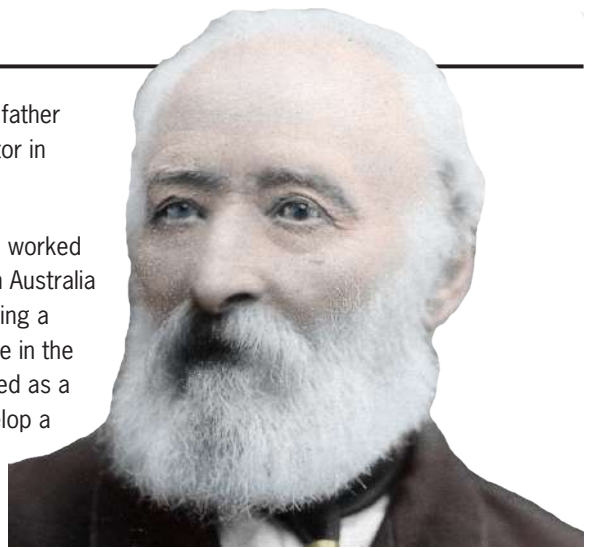
Another son **Richard**, who had worked with his father, went to Western Australia in the depressed 1890s, following a gold rush as his father had done in the 1850s. Richard was quickly hired as a bricklayer, and went on to develop a highly successful contracting business in Perth.

Richard Hutchinson Rennie died on 22 October 1906, aged 87. In his will he left his house and land (allotments 4,5,6,7 of Section Seven, Learmonth St, Buninyong,) valued at £300, to his wife Jane and then to his sons **Alfred, Frank, John, Albert, and Richard**. His only other wealth was £70 in the bank.

Cemetery

Jane died in 1912, aged 78. She is buried with Richard in the Episcopalian section of the Buninyong Cemetery.

His house and land was later sold to the Eason family who ran some cows on the



block. The house built by Richard had bluestone foundations, and was built of timber, with wooden shingles and a galvanised iron covering. The old house was finally demolished in 1991, but the bluestone foundations remain.

His story leaves some interesting puzzles. How did he balance his life with two large families on either side of the world? And why did the master bricklayer not make his own house out of brick?

*Anne Beggs-Sunter,
Buninyong and District Historical Society*



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Michaela off and running

Most teenage boys would jump at the chance of a trip to Thailand over Christmas, but the two sons of new MP for Buninyong Michaela Settle decided that they preferred to stay at home “and do lots of things as a family.”

After a frantic few months during which they went door-knocking, handed out leaflets, and were cared for by their grandparents who moved in for a while, the boys, aged 17 and 15 were happy to chill out at the Ballarat home with their mum.

While they had a fair idea of what was coming during the long election campaign, it was a shock for the boys to buy and get dressed up in their new (first) suits and ties for the formal sitting and swearing-in ceremony of new parliamentarians held on 20 December last year.

Many tasks

Michaela said that since the declaration of the poll on 2 December there had been many tasks to tackle. These included setting up an office, engaging staff, getting printing and signwriting done and working closely with the Office of Parliamentary Services which has the role of explaining and putting in place the details of such things for members of parliament.

She shares an office with colleague **Jaala Pulford** in Main Road, Ballarat. This was also the location of the office of former MP **Geoff Howard**. In a strange twist Michaela recalled that she used to baby-sit Jaala when both their families were living in Castlemaine.

Michaela said that her main interests as a politician will continue to relate to regional development, and ‘regional equity’ which



will seek to redress disadvantages suffered by country areas in matters such as education and health.

“I intend to spend as much time in the community as I did during the campaign,” she said.

Votes in your booths

While the result of the election for the State seat of Buninyong has been known for some time – with the ALP’s Michaela Settle being a comfortable winner – the analysis (right) has been made of the results at seven of the local polling centres for both the 2018 and the 2014 elections.

In the 2018 election there were 41,754 votes cast, 91 per cent of enrolled voters. Of these 3160 (7.6 per cent) were informal votes. This was a big increase compared to the 2014 election where 4.8 per cent of votes cast were informal.

Another marked difference between the two elections was also seen in the number of ‘early’ or pre-poll votes cast. In 2014 the number was 9604.

At the 2018 election this rose by 63 per cent to 15,701 votes or 37.6 per cent of all votes.

This trend will have major implications for political parties in the future as to when they release policies and promises.

FIRST PREFERENCE VOTES AT

Party	Year	Candidate	Buninyong
ALP	2018	Settle	914
	2014	Howard	974
Liberal	2018	Kilmartin	600
	2014	Taylor	944
Greens	2018	Zibell	207
	2014	Goodfellow	357
Animal Justice	2018	Morrison	61
Vic Socialists	2018	McKendrick	13
Family First	2014	Geyer	33
Country All	2014	Keays	24
Independent	2018	Colbert	71
		Eckel	14
		Watters	28
Nationals	2014	Smith	143



Andrew has ‘no regrets’

Unsuccessful Liberal Party candidate for the local State seat of Buninyong, Andrew Kilmartin, certainly couldn't be accused of not putting in a maximum effort to win the seat at the recent election. He reckons that he spoke to some 7000 residents face-to-face and door-knocked on about 3000 houses.

Andrew said that while he would now be looking to getting back into the workforce as a journalist, he intended to keep involved with politics by helping to rebuild the base of the Liberal Party in the Ballarat area. “Losing **Josh Morris** as a local parliamentarian will be a big blow. He was

a tremendous support to me and a great worker for Ballarat and Western Victoria,” he said.

He said the long pre-poll period put him under great strain having to stand outside the polling venues for about ten hours each day across a two week period.

Cost

While he stood at considerable personal cost, Andrew felt that his campaign in a ‘fairly safe’ ALP seat resulted in “lots of promises of investment and funding that would otherwise not have been forthcoming”. He said he had no regrets about standing, and that he would continue

to press within the party for the Buninyong by-pass planning to be supported.

Andrew said that at present he was kept busy doing a long list of chores around the Ballarat East house he shares with partner **Abby**, a local real estate agent.

SELECTED CENTRES 2014/2018

Mt Clear	Napoleons	Magpie	Elaine	Meredith	Sebastopol	Total ¹
626	283	206	126	208	812	18,965
785	289	209	113	180	1,039	15,984
386	173	124	126	173	362	11,921
631	226	184	106	166	580	12,829
159	49	29	15	50	89	3,542
198	64	44	28	59	207	4,017
50	19	6	11	17	74	1,581
20	4	3	4	3	14	397
32	22	13	7	10	89	950
17	15	6	6	13	46	622
41	10	17	3	10	58	1,285
13	18	6	2	3	15	407
8	8	6	6	7	9	436
59	33	18	28	24	119	2,301

¹Total votes across all polling booths in the electorate

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FOODWORKS
Buninyong

Kids close to recent bushfire found Airport visit amazing

During the December bushfire in their district, many of the students at the Scotsburn school campus were close to and keen observers of the aerial fire support given to the firefighters.

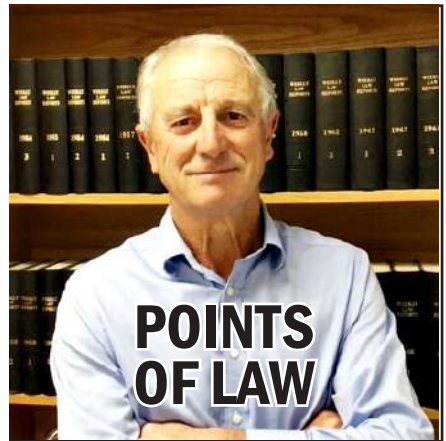
Soon afterwards the students were very lucky to be able to show their gratitude to the men and women who protected their properties by visiting the Ballarat airport. There they got to meet the air crew and tour the air base, including aircraft, which they found amazing.



Mallacai Winsor at the controls of a water bomber

This opportunity had a range of impacts on the students. They got to develop a broader understanding of the emergency resources that go into protecting the community, they were helped to work through their own emotional response to the fire, they gained a sense of protection and security for the future, and for some older students some career prospects emerged.

The students also delivered letters of appreciation that they wrote in class prior to the excursion. A big thank you to **Randall Dreger** from the Buninyong Community Bank who covered the cost of the transportation for the excursion, and to **Daryl Chibnall** from the Ballarat Airport for making the visit possible.



The spelling is not quite the same, but the sin of being uninvited on another person's property may still call for forgiveness from the property owner.

Forgive us our trespassers

Trespass is not limited to entering upon another person's land without permission but also includes doing something which causes interference with the land.

Signs stating *Trespassers will be Prosecuted* are meaningless as persons can only be prosecuted if they commit a crime. But they do act as a warning.

A person who trespasses can be sued even if no damage was done. It is also trespass to dump rubbish on someone else's land or to dig a hole under it.

There is a crime of trespass which covers public places and private places where a person refuses to leave after a warning and do not have a lawful excuse for being there.

If a person trespasses on to your land you can evict them but using no more force than is reasonably necessary. Alternatively, a Court Order can be obtained. Some people have a right to come onto private land such as Police with a warrant, Fire Brigade and meter readers.

Dean Cinque

Sad death of Ruth Strauss

In the week prior to Christmas many in the village were saddened by the news of the death at her parents' Buninyong home of **Ruth Strauss (McDonald)**, wife of former English cricket captain **Andrew Strauss**. She died of a rare form of lung cancer at the age of 46.

Born and raised in Buninyong, Ruth became a well-known stage, film and TV actor. She married Andrew Strauss here in 2003. They have two children Sam 13, and Luca 11.





Very dry year...but late northern cyclone helps

The approach of Christmas 2018 was marked by weather bodings both dire and sustained. Spring petered out with the lowest rainfall on record. November's 51.3mm brought the rainfall for Spring to a worst ever 93.8mm.

Then along came *Cyclone Owen* to visit Queensland. Every few years we receive the happy fallout from cyclonic events unleashed up north, particularly off Queensland.

They cause chaos there, but every now and then deliver the side effect of streams

of very moist air heading south. The resulting welcome rain here was preceded by a flurry of storm and flood warnings, rushed hay carting and roof and spout clearing.

Our *Cyclone Owen* fringe event delivered 66.3mm over five days, and the dry earth absorbed the lot. So, generally, Buninyong and district ended up enjoying a mild and green Christmas.

The rainfall graph for the whole of 2018 drives home how erratic, frail and under-par the year's rainfall was. Only May and December delivered above average rain,

with many of the other months coming in with less than half average falls. Our total of 570.2 mm failed our decade average by over 100 mm and joins three other years in the last six that came in under 600mm.

Maybe a trend is afoot? One or two drier years in close succession doesn't change averages much but a cluster of four like this could signal an alteration.

Certainly, BOM is forecasting under average rainfall for the first quarter of 2019 so things might be dry for a while yet.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2018	35.6	11.0	27.9	29.6	90.4	48.9	73.6	69.0	25.0	20.5	51.3	87.4	570.2
Average	40.7	34.5	39.9	52.4	59.4	63.8	69.7	72.8	71.6	56.8	67.0	46.3	674.9

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Durham Lead boy cracks the ton

Gerard's big innings

In cricketing terms, well-known district local Gerard O'Loughlin has played a great innings, notching up a century with his 100th birthday celebrated a few weeks ago.

Born in Durham Lead on 8 January 1919, the sixth child of a local farming family, he attended the Garibaldi School – a half mile walk across the paddocks.

He joined with the family in the farm's chores of tending sheep, milking, butter churning, looking after the horses, stooking hay, chopping fire wood, and digging potatoes.

Long day

Gerard was sent to secondary school at Ballarat High. His daily trip to high school involved saddling up and riding a horse seven miles to Buninyong, releasing it into **Nagle's** back paddock, and then catching the bus eight miles to school.

He excelled academically and in sport. Gerard was captain of the First XI cricket team, Head Prefect of the boys, and set a long-lasting athletics record for 880 yards.

He aimed to become a teacher, and after time as a student teacher and training at Melbourne Teachers' College, at the age of 21 he was put in charge of Mt Emu State School where fourteen children were enrolled.

Following Japan's bombing of Pearl Harbour in December 1941, Gerard volunteered for military service early in 1942. He was soon 'called up' and became a Gunner in the 3rd Division, 2nd Field Artillery. His unit was posted to New Guinea then to Bougainville. There were some 9000 Australians and 65,000 Japanese on Bougainville.

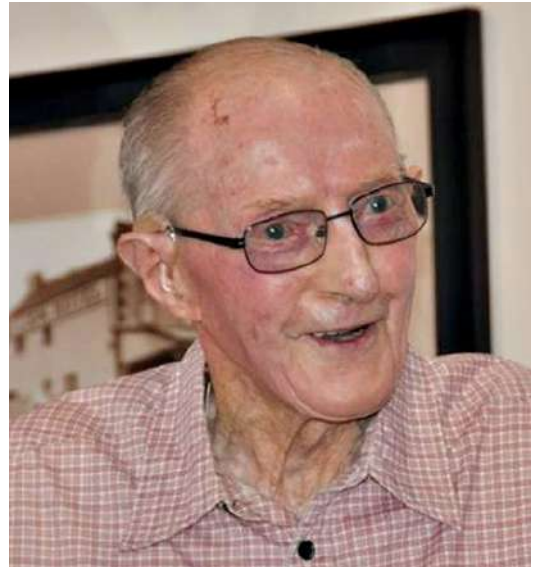
Using drawing skills gained in teacher training, one of his tasks was to draw maps for use by officers. Thankfully after 1599 days military service including 892 overseas, Gerard was discharged.

Family

Later, at a St Patrick's Hall dance, he was introduced to Ballarat girl **Nell McMahon**. They married in 1951 when Gerard was a relatively old 32 years.

Twelve months later he was a father, full time teacher in Ballarat, involved in community and church charity work, and following the Geelong Cats. The couple had seven children.

He taught at Ballarat schools including Mt Pleasant, Dana St, Wendouree West, and Urquhart St before moving to Geelong, where he taught for eight years before retiring.



Gerard celebrated his 100th birthday with a family party at the Western Hotel.

After retirement Gerard and Nell purchased a small farm block at the edge of Shelford where they established a house, vegetable and flower gardens and ran a small herd of cattle.

But by 1995 they decided it was time to move closer to people and services and Ballarat became home again. He now still lives at home in Lake Wendouree.

Gerard has experienced all of the ups and downs of life with the death of family members, the terrors of war, battling through tough and unfair situations, and has come out sometimes bruised but still going strong.

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Darren opens Asian kitchen

It seems a giant step for a quietly-spoken young environmental engineer from Putian, a city of 1.2 million people in Fujian province (on the east coast of China about half way between Hong Kong and Shanghai) to move to Australia and to open an Asian restaurant in Buninyong.

But that's just what happened in late November last year when 30 year old **Darren Dong** (pictured above left) opened the *Yummy Kitchen* in Learmonth Street.

This venture was made much easier by his being in partnership with another immigrant from China, **Tony Gan**, who has been in Australia for some ten years and who has operated the *Noodle Canteen* restaurant in Howitt Street, Wendouree for the past five years.

Migrate here

Because of a long-standing friendship with Tony Gan, Darren and his wife moved directly to Ballarat when they migrated from China in 2015.

Darren said that while Tony encouraged him to set up a hospitality business somewhere in the Ballarat area, it was his own decision to site the business in Buninyong which he "fell in love with" on his first visit here.

The *Yummy Kitchen* is open between 10.30am and 8.30pm seven days each week. While most of the business now centres on take-away meals from the extensive menu, there is also dine-in seating for about twelve persons. This will be significantly expanded with the addition of more tables and chairs in the considerable vacant space along the eastern wall after an initial settling-in period.

Start up of collective

Last year a small group of local residents floated the idea of a food co-op for Buninyong. A Committee of Management was appointed in October.

After finding a local venue through the Anglican Church, *Buninyong Community Collective* opened its doors for the first time in November.

The collective has begun stocking a range of local, organic and natural wholefoods. Members are encouraged to shop using their own containers, to reduce the amount of food packaging waste.

Products are available at just above cost price. It is also a way for the community to come together and work towards common goals of sustainability and low-waste lifestyles.

The collective is prioritising local producers, as well as sourcing organic, biodynamic or spray-free goods. Products that have already been stocked include *Powlett Hill Flours* and *Pasta from Campbelltown*, *Manna Hill Olives* and Olive Oil from Mt Egerton and *Sultana Girl's Organic Sultanas* from the Murray River area.

Membership

Membership costs \$50 per household for the first year providing start-up funds and the purchase of new stock. Subsequent years will cost \$20 per year. Members are expected to commit to six hours of voluntary work over a 12 month period.

The collective now plans to introduce local, organic fresh produce to the range of goods available.

The *Collective* can be found every Tuesday from 9-11am, and 5-7pm, in the Anglican Church Hall, located at 405 Scott St Buninyong. For other information check the website buninyongcommunitycollective.org.au or Facebook site facebook.com/groups/buninyongco.op/

Hayley Quach





Not Cinderella's

Not glass slippers... but a pair of size 7 sandals and a hat were left behind at the Christmas Carols in Desoza Park and can now be claimed at the Lions bookshop.



Thursday dinners

The Golf Club's popular Thursday night Dinners are back on the local social calendar on a monthly basis, with the next one being on Thursday 21 February.

Art classes back

Trudy Nicholson is resuming art teaching to upper Primary and Lower Secondary students in February 2019. There are limited places available so book a place asap. Adults will be resuming their sessions in February. For further information call Trudy on 0407 613 038.

Expo here again

The sixth Smart Building and Living Expo is again set for its usual Royal Park venue on Sunday, 24 February between 10.00am and 3.30pm.

Featured will be building lifestyle products, waste solutions, solar and insulation products, and permaculture and landcare displays. The sustainability group BREAZE will have a display of their current projects.

There will also be activities for children, food vans, displays of electric vehicles and e-bikes and 'can do' help in the community hall. Come along for the facts, food or fun! The Expo is an initiative of the Friends of Royal Park group.

BABBA here

The popular musical show BABBA is coming to the golf club Saturday 9 February.

For 24 years, BABBA artists have been thrilling audiences with their superb re-creation of 70s super group ABBA and the legacy of hits they left.

No matter how old or young you may be, the show and the music is timeless.

To book tickets for yourself or book a table please follow the link - www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=44087

Local golfers at Rosebank's 25th party

Several Buninyong golfing identities were amongst the residents who recently celebrated the 25th anniversary of the establishment of *Rosebank Retirement Village* at a well-attended afternoon tea party in the community centre.

Shown in the photo (below) are present and former members of the Buninyong Golf Club 95 year old Edna Welsh (front left) and (L to R) Ken Carpenter, Wilma Hobbs and David Stephens, and Joan Stephens (front right).



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Shakespeare back in the Gardens



Local's lead role in regal love play

A sixth generation member of a pioneer Buninyong family and a recent graduate with a BA (Acting) from Federation University will play the lead role of Rosaline in the production of *Love's Labour's Lost* to be staged in Buninyong's Botanic Gardens early in February.

The actor is **Melissa Lawrence** whose relatives, the **Attwood** family, have lived on property high on the Simpson Street hill since the 1860s when the property was of 100 acres. Her mother (**Christine Attwood**) and father built their present home on the land in 1989.

Melissa, 22, said that she auditioned for the role after hearing about the production

from **Kim Durban**, Director of Acting at Federation University. "I was excited to do so because one of my friends **Chelsea Matheson** played the lead role in the 2018 'gardens' Shakespearean play *As You Like It*."

As well as roles in various Fed Uni productions such as *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and in film pieces, Melissa said a recent highlight was working as an extra in the shooting of the feature film *Ride Like a Girl*, the story of Ballarat's **Michelle Payne**, which is about to be released.

Melissa sees a move to Melbourne in the future to seek work in TV, film or on stage. From there she said that she would be

happy to "tour the world" with her work. In the meantime, Melissa said that "it's awesome that we now have theatre in Buninyong!"

Director

Director/producer for the coming staging of *Love's Labour's Lost* is the experienced **Susan Pilbeam** who has produced the Shakespearean plays *The Tempest* (2017) and the 2018 version of *As You Like It* in the Buninyong Botanic Gardens.

In the cast of this year's production will be **Tim Harris** and **Mika Wallace** who starred in the 2018 'gardens' production. Also among the cast will be other actors employed at Sovereign Hill.

Susan has worked in teaching performing arts at the Victorian College of the Arts, at Victoria and Federation Universities and at Holmesglenn TAFE.

Dates

There will be eight performances of *Love's Labour's Lost*, being on Fridays 8 and 15 February at 7.00pm, Saturdays 9 and 16 February at both 1.00pm and 7.00pm, and on Sundays 10 and 17 February at 1.00pm. BYO seat/rug and a picnic.

Tickets are available through *trybooking* and cash sales only, prior to performances. \$25 adults, \$15 concession, \$5 children and \$50 family. Running time 70 minutes. More information on [Facebook.com/ArtsBuninyong/](https://www.facebook.com/ArtsBuninyong/)

Susan said she planned to bring yet another Shakespearean play, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, to the Buninyong Gardens setting in 2020.



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Two years on Vet clinic's strong growth

When Dr Rebecca Jennings opened Buninyong's first veterinary clinic in April 2017 she promised to offer "friendly and professional service" to the animal owners of the district.

Living at Mt Helen and with close family ties to the Navigators area, Rebecca knew Buninyong and surrounding areas very well, and has certainly been well-accepted into the local business community. She

said that she was "really grateful for the support received from this wonderful community."

With positive word-of-mouth feedback from local pet owners, the business has grown so well that Dr Jennings now employs three full time support staff, three part-time staff as well as a second veterinary surgeon.

While most of her practice involves small animals, she has also treated the occasional goat, snake, bird and ferret. Shown (left) is **Drayco** a ferret whose owner brought him from Lexton for a vasectomy operation. Rebecca said that this operation was more appropriate for ferrets, rather than castration, as it enabled male animals to still 'mate' with females and enable them to remain healthy.

The clinic offers flexible opening hours between 8.30a and 5.30pm on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays, and between noon and 7.00pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.



Dr Rebecca Jennings cuddles Drayco the ferret who seems quite happy despite his recent operation.

\$4000 from sale of fruit

On 4 January as the mercury hovered near 40 degrees, the No 23 Masonic Committee's annual fruit sale still attracted strong interest and raised over \$4000 for its charity projects.

Three tonnes of bulk apricots and nectarines brought in from Ardmona the previous day were repacked into 5kg boxes over three hours that afternoon by a team of 21 members and the friends of Freemasonry.

The fruit sales have continued for over 50 years with all proceeds supporting a range of charitable needs within the Buninyong and wider Ballarat districts.

Lodge members Peter Stacey, Alan Glasson, Cyril Hill and Doug Williams have weighed many tonnes of fruit over the years in the cause of charity.



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Drone image- Russell Luckock

Adam's hay bale magic goes out to world's TV

After many years of local groups urging Council and cycle championship organisers to come up with some signage that could be seen from the helicopter telecasts of the race, sent nationally and around the world, Buninyong certainly made its mark in 2019.

This was thanks to the amazing hay bale sculpture skills of Bo Peep farmer **Adam Fraser**. After approaches from Buninyong's **Roger Permezel**, and with support from Council's **Mark Bruty**, Adam constructed the huge sign on a property on the Mt Buninyong Road.

Adam said that he used 500 small bales of grass hay to construct the sign measuring about 60m by 40m. It took

some ten hours to construct. The picture above shows the sign from a height of 60 metres above the course. He also built the academic 'owl' logo at Federation University and the three little 'minions' set on the hill-top section to add to the bike race colour.

Big bear

About twenty years ago his father John constructed a huge bear out of hay bales on the roadside of his Bo Beep property near Lake Burrumbeet. Known as *Big Ted*, the bear has been seen by thousands of passers-by ever since.

The Cycling Australian Road Racing National Championships were telecast in Australia across the SBS network and relayed to 63 countries overseas.

Cycle champs 2019

They said....

"We have been waiting to ride this course. It was great taking part and feeling part of the event. I couldn't believe that spectators up on the mountain were cheering and calling out our names." **Carol Cooke - (Para Cyclist, T1) Gold medallist.**

"Buninyong - what a wonderful town you have here! It's fantastic. Our crew love coming up here. Great accommodation, meals, coffee. The people we meet year after year are so friendly and the course is first class - unique." **Matthew Keenan - Australia's leading cycling commentator.**

"I was totally spent when the three front guys got away. I thought we had set Cam (Cameron Meyer) up for a win. But I can't help feeling happy for my brother-in law, the Big Ox." **Luke Durbridge, Mitchelton-Scott team. Dual Australian Road Race champion**

"I have been coming to Buninyong for four years now. This is the best sporting event of the year. I love the people. I wish more communities could be like this. I will keep coming as long as I can." **Jim - visitor from Tasmania**

"This has been amazing. We wanted to grow this event after the first effort last year and this has met all expectations. The community has really bought into it this year. Involvement has been great but we can do better." **Sam Henson - Head of Campus, Federation University**



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Buninyong's dual national cycling title winner

Old champ still rides the race circuit

The 2019 Australian Road Cycling Championships saw thousands of cycling fans lining the Buninyong streets and the slopes of the mountain to support their favourites. But there was one spectator, from Buninyong, who knew a lot more about the championships than most.

Three years ago 78 year old **Kerry Hoyle** and his wife **Judith** retired from their farm at Middle Creek and moved to Buninyong not only so he could be part of the excitement of the events, but also so that he could be near to and ride the circuit.

Dual winner

It is easy to see why Kerry wanted to be in Buninyong. He was the winner of the Australian Road Cycling Championships in 1966 and 1973, was runner-up three times and third on four occasions.

Kerry rides the championship circuit three

times a week and has even added a Yendon loop to the course, saying he wanted to make it a bigger challenge.

He still rides the bike that he rode in his title victories. Kerry said today's bikes are lighter and have better gearing but he claims those of his generation had better tyres.

The present highly-organised team racing and support is way beyond what was available in Kerry's era.

Then teams were State-based and Kerry's NSW team had an old ute following them loaded with parts and tyres with the rider's initials on them.

Kerry also rode in thirteen Sun Tours, with overall classification placings of fourth and fifth being his highlights.

Sponsors

Sponsorship is another huge change in cycling. When Kerry started as a 16 year old there were only two Australian professional teams, **Russell Mockridge's Healy** team and **Sid Patterson's Malvern Star** team. His sponsorship "pay" was seven pounds a week.

Kerry had the opportunity to ride in Europe but at the time he had a good job and he wasn't prepared to resign. It was impossible to get into a French or Italian team so Belgian teams were the only options open to foreign riders. A second offer came when he was married with three children so again that was not an option for him.

Kerry still retains a keen interest in all things cycling and is a veritable encyclopaedia of cycling information both historical and current.

Kerry believes the race will always be held Buninyong and claims there is no place like it anywhere else in Australia.

Ray Sullivan



Kerry Hoyle was a keen observer of the time trials run along the Mount Mercer Road and close to his Buninyong home. (Lower) In his racing days.

