

Buninyong & District Community **NEWS**

Edition 461, July 2019



Film Festival success p2

*Luke Hura, famed animal trainer (movies Red Dog and Oddball),
and dog Trinnie, with Festival volunteer Charlie Holland*

Scholarships presented Busy mum gets help from bank

In addition to providing funding to boost the RSL's scholarship scheme for local primary school children, the Buninyong Community Bank also assists older students at TAFE and at University level.

Recently the Chairman of the Bank Board, **Ian Corcoran**, awarded three TAFE scholarships to the value of \$1,000 each, and a few days later awarded a scholarship valued at \$7,000 to a first year higher education student studying in the area of agriculture or the environment.

The latter valuable scholarship was won by Federation University student **Christine Diamond** who is studying for the degree of Bachelor of Environmental and Conservation Sciences.

Long hours

Christine is the mother of two small children, one 19 months and one at primary school. Her partner works 50-60 hour weeks and is on call 24/7 so the majority of parenting duties fall to her. She works part-time balancing study, work and family life ensuring she performs at a high standard.

Her job pays for the baby's childcare fees while she attends classes, leaving the family at a financial loss. Her son also suffers allergies waking frequently overnight in discomfort and requiring paediatric appointments which are also costly. The Community Bank scholarship will ease the financial

pressure a little and allow her to purchase a uniform, laptop and other course-related materials.

Passion

Christine is extremely passionate about the environment and sustainability, something she incorporates into every day family life. She volunteers for *Sea Shepherd*, participating in beach clean ups, runs a Facebook page 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Ballarat', participates in Clean Up Australia Day and National Tree Day with her children, and generally tries to live as sustainably as possible.

She works in a hairdressing salon that promotes sustainability as part of Sustainable Salons Australia. She is in the process of helping her employer create more positive changes to lessen the company's impact on the environment.

Chairman of the board of the Buninyong Community Bank, Ian Corcoran, presents Christine Diamond with her scholarship certificate.



Good reviews but HERITAGE CLASH HITS FESTIVAL

Puppy dogs, impromptu Peter Garrett impersonations, and Studio 54 cocktails were amongst the mix of memories of the 2019 Buninyong Film Festival.

The lighting up of the Buninyong Town Hall in yellow, the yellow banners, and red carpet rolled out once again delighted audiences in the last weekend in May.

Stand out

Audiences at this year's festival were treated to an interesting line up of excellent films – the stand out film being *Capernaum* on Saturday morning about a 12-year-old Lebanese boy suing his parents for giving birth to him.

Audiences were invited to rate every movie using a token Starbox system and *Capernaum* received the highest rating at 4.8 stars.

Trainer

Luke Hura, Australian animal trainer, entertained audiences with his little dog *Trinnie* showing everyone the tricks she can do and how he trains his animals for the big screen.

Coinciding once again this year with Ballarat Heritage Weekend, a free heritage film was added as well as two historical walks around Buninyong, all of which proved very popular.

But the Committee will move the 2020 Film Festival date to avoid a clash with Heritage Weekend as it impacts on Festival numbers.

AGM

The Buninyong Film Festival AGM will be held on Monday 5 August at the Crown Hotel, after a meal at 7.00pm. The Committee would welcome interested new members.



New firm opens on main street

Buninyong's newest business, Whitehill Financial, opened just a few weeks ago in premises at 2/405 Warrenheip Street, Buninyong.

The Director of the financial planning business is **Cameron Klutke**, 35, a Buninyong resident of three years. Cameron said that he and his colleagues aimed to build a reputation as “providing the fairest and most honest expert financial advice in both Buninyong and the greater Ballarat area”.

In addition to Cameron, the team at Whitehill Financial includes **Mitchell Bogdanov**, a Commerce graduate from Deakin University, who lives in Bacchus Marsh, and **Tanner Jordan**, Ballarat born and bred, who graduated with a Bachelor of Business degree from Victoria University, majoring in Banking and Finance.

Switch

Cameron Klutke graduated with Applied Science (Honours) Geology from the University of Ballarat, after which he initially worked as a geologist at Ballarat Goldfields for five years. He then transitioned into the finance industry, where he worked in Melbourne and Sydney at stockbroking firms and major investment banks such as the Royal Bank of Canada as an equities analyst.

More recently, with his two business partners, Cameron worked in a Ballarat financial planning firm for two years before the trio decided to set up Whitehill Financial in Buninyong. “We know that there is quite a gap in the local market for financial advice. Some farmers and retirees may benefit significantly from advice in this area.”

In the community

The team at Whitehill Financial use their specialist knowledge to provide advice in areas such as superannuation, self-managed superannuation funds, investments, estate planning, insurance and more.

“We are serious about becoming a highly-involved, respected and long-term part of the Buninyong community,” Cameron said. They have already become a member of the Buninyong Business Network and the Buninyong Community Association.

Having only opened at the start of June, the business has already attracted local clients. Residents are invited to call into the office or call the team on 5312 9758 to have a free no-obligation chat.

Two of the team at Whitehill Financial. (L to R) Mitchell Bogdanov and Cameron Klutke check on the new signage at the Warrenheip Street business.



GOOD NEWS that one of the vacant shops in Warrenheip Street has been taken over by a financial advisory group. Also with that SOLD sticker on the former *Celebrate* shop adjacent to the Post Office the guessing game has started as to its future. Is a sushi bar a possibility?

IN LAST MONTH'S edition of *The News* readers were urged to get onto the Council mysay website, look at the Buninyong Town Plan's draft recommendations and get their comments in. The draft was to be online on 6 May. But May and June have come and gone with no sign of the draft. However sources tell me information will soon be available on Council's website.

HOWEVER THE WEBSITE did carry full details of Council's draft 2019-2020 Budget. Despite indications from the three South Ward Councillors that they had pressed for local funding such as for the Warrenheip Street upgrade project, two readings of the 80 page document failed to find any capital allocations for Buninyong. But we did spot the \$1 million earmarked for the restoration of the ballroom at the Town Hall in Sturt Street!!

TALKING OF COUNCIL one senior staff member who always responds to requests to come out to the village to look at problem areas is Parks and Gardens Coordinator **Darryl Wallis**. The BDCA and Historical Society had him out here recently to view the tattered or missing signage at the Old Burial Ground and at the old railway station site. He also took on a few other jobs (extra Avenue trees and that trio of jobs on Learmonth Street – buckled post, bluestone pitchers and missing trees and garden beds near UFS).

THE HIGHWAY PATROL and local police have been very active lately ping ponging motorists ignoring the 60kph strip along Learmonth Street west of Winter Street. Hopefully some of those out-of-town lead-foot tradies and truckies will get the message.

GORSE SPREAD IS BIG FIRE RISK

When Europeans first arrived in Australia in the late 1700s, in their efforts to recreate something of their homelands, they brought in plants like blackberries and gorse, and animals such as rabbits and foxes. In England, and then in Australia, gorse was used by farmers as hedges, by miners as a binding agent, and also in horseracing for fences over steeplechases.

The eventual results of this can readily be seen today in the local area where gorse infestation is widespread.

One of the worst examples of this is on the creek flats east of Geelong Road near Greenhill Road, Mount Helen, where the gorse has spread rapidly and now covers some 60 per cent of the low-lying land there.

Unchecked

The Buninyong & District Community Association (BDCA) has lodged complaints with both the Municipal Fire Prevention Officer and with Agriculture Victoria over the rampant spreading of the noxious plant in this area.

BDCA spokesperson **Linda Zibell** said, apart from the environmental impact of the gorse, residents are seriously concerned about the gorse being a significant fire hazard. She said that the Emmaus Primary School which borders

the large landholding to the north, and even the Mount Helen CFA station to the south could be at risk if a fire started.

The Biosecurity Officer from Agriculture Victoria responded to the BDCA that they had written to the landowner and that they could only act "if an alliance of landowners was formed to create a gorse plan and then have the landowner participate in this plan."

Penalties

However, research by *The News* has shown that Section 70B of the *Catchment and Lands Protection Act (1994)* enables the Department to "serve a notice on the landowner... giving directions for the control or eradication of the prohibited weed." Penalties are prescribed should action not be taken within a specified period. Simply to "write a letter", seemingly ignored, falls way short of "giving directions."

Why the Council and Agriculture Victoria officers have chosen not to impose these directions on the Geelong Road landowner remains a mystery.

In the meantime, every one of the many, many hectares of gorse down there on the creek flats will go on producing up to six million seeds each year ready to be blown or be carried by birds to somewhere else nearby!



Buninyong & district
COMMUNITY NEWS

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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.

The views expressed or information provided in this publication are not necessarily those of the Buninyong and District Community Association or of the Buninyong Community Bank, including any officers, members, agents or contractors.

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Mount Helen's quiet Five star cat hotel

If you visit the *Mount Helen Cattery*, located just off Moss Avenue you could be forgiven for thinking you had mistakenly walked into a five-star hotel! Warm and cosy, with soothing background music, and scented air fresheners puffing away, this really is a great holiday home for cats.

Nestled on a landscaped ten-acre site, the cattery was bought by **Miranda** and **Adam Brayshaw** just over four years ago and they clearly love it. Whilst Miranda initially trained in horticulture, her great love of animals led her to becoming a volunteer with the RSPCA. Husband **Adam**, an electrician, is only too happy to help out with the duties at busy times.

Move

After purchasing the business in 2015 they moved to Buninyong from Redan where they had kept cats, dogs and chickens as a hobby. So when the opportunity arose to combine their passion for animals with a business venture, it was a chance too good to miss.

'The cat pens have garden views'

There are two catteries, Cattery One with 23 enclosures, has the office area in the open 'living room' in the centre of the cattery, which is where each cat has its individual 'time out' and cuddles. The pens are spacious, with a second floor sleeping box, accessed by a scratching ramp.

There are both single and double pens which can be linked so that two or more cats from one family can share the space and they won't feel lonely. For cats that aren't able to climb up to bed, they can snuggle up in a tepee! Pens also have garden views. 'Residents' can sit on the window ledge and either snooze or watch what is happening outside.

In Cattery Two, where there are ten pens, the floor plan is similar but the single and double pens and outside areas are larger to cater for younger, more active cats which like to climb and play or for families of up to six cats.

Set in a lovely, well-tended garden the outside area has different levels and elevated 'look outs' for the cats to climb to and this cattery is ideal for long stay cats, the longest stay being ten months!

No cat would be unhappy at having to spend some time in this 'hotel'. Most are placed there whilst their owners are away on holiday, travelling, or relocating, with school holidays being the busiest times – at Christmas there can be up to 47 cats in residence!

Business

There is no rest for Miranda and Adam though, as the cattery is open every day of the year. Visitors are welcome but if you do want to have a look around, it would be advisable to phone beforehand (ph 5341 8097).



Rita Russell

Spending time at the cattery on work experience, Sim McKew gives a cuddle to one of the resident cats.

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Thanks Sara, welcome Sian

The production of *The News* each month largely falls to its team of volunteers. Barry Fitzgerald is the editor and chief news gatherer, wife Gayle Adams handles the advertising, accounts and business matters (and keeps the Editor in check), and the team of four reporters (Ray Sullivan, Cassandra Carland, Russell Luckock and Rita Russell) regularly file their stories on local events, happenings and personalities.

After stories and photographs are sorted out, and a layout of the paper put together, it's then over to a designer who gets the paper print-ready and, after checking of drafts by Barry and Gayle, sends it off to the printers. It's a hectic schedule each month.

Since July 2017, the design work, partly paid by a grant from the Community Bank and part-voluntary, has been handled by Sara Mangere, youngest daughter of Buninyong identity Pastor Bill Sutcliffe. Sara lives in Mt Helen with husband Tawanda, an expatriate Zimbabwean, whom she met while working overseas, and their four girls aged from two to nine years of age.

Recently Sara was appointed to a full-time role as manager of *Nextstep Disability Services* in Ballarat and has had to say farewell to her work on *The News*.

She has been replaced in the design role by Sian Blohm who conducts her own small business, *Design Studio Ballarat*. Sian said that she is looking forward to working with *The News* team. She also has links to Buninyong through her



involvement with the quarterly magazine *Junkies*, edited by local podiatrist Selena Buckingham.

Sian also is an accomplished rower and coach, most recently with Ballarat and Clarendon College.

In a quieter moment at home Sara Mangere with Azara, 2, husband Tawanda with Nyasha, 3, pet dog Santa, and seated at front Tiara, 8, and Soraya, 9. The two older girls attend Buninyong Primary School. Photo Kate Healy, The Courier, for Committee for Ballarat's 'More Than Gold' series. (Right) Sian Blohm now involved with The News.



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AUTHORISED BY CATHERINE KING, 5 LYDIARD ST NTH BALLARAT 3350



A scholarship followed to do a Master of Education degree with a focus on Curriculum Development and Indigenous Education. Eric's interest in the latter was not surprising given that some 60 per cent of his students were of indigenous descent.

Family Life

His future wife, Dominique, also taught at the school, and after two years they left to return to her home state of New South Wales.

Eric initially worked as a musician, but soon Canowindra High School had him working in their music department. Further roles included teaching in the Special Education and Music Departments at Mudgee High School, and as the Director of Music at the New England Girls' School in Armidale.

He won another scholarship to the University of New England where he completed a Diploma in Modern Languages. Then followed stints teaching music and Indonesian at Walcha Central School and Saint Mary's Catholic Primary School.

He commenced studies in Steiner Education due to the focus on the creative arts within the curriculum. "I strongly believe that the creative arts have the capacity to support, influence and engage our imagination, learning, and healing. I really wanted to work in schools that aligned with this belief and philosophy," he said.

Steiner schools

Before commencing as Head of School at Ballarat Steiner School, Eric undertook class teacher positions at the Central Coast Steiner School (Fountaindale, NSW), and at Chrysalis Steiner School (Bellingen, NSW).

It is the first time that the Ballarat Steiner School has had a Head of School. He said that "due to increasing statutory and compliance requirements that need to be undertaken and completed, added to the school's growth in student numbers, the College of Teachers and Committee of Management decided it was time to have a Head of School."

With his wife Dominique and two children, Eric lives in Ballarat. In addition to his administrative role at the school, he also teaches music, choir and Indonesian.

From the Creek to the Mount Eric heads up Steiner School

Commencing as Head of School earlier this year at the Ballarat Steiner School, Eric Hopf, 41, has had wide experience in education that has taken him across four States and Territories of Australia.

Born, raised and educated in Tennant Creek in the Northern Territory, (population 2991 and some 989 km from Darwin), Eric's journey, since completing high school, has taken him to many places. At high school he was encouraged to go on to University, and applications were sent out to various parts of Australia.

Success

"Universities were far beyond our reality in Tennant Creek," he said, "but when January came around, so did some offers."

Encouraged by his parents, Eric moved to South Australia and studied at the

University of Adelaide where he completed a Bachelor of Music and a Graduate Diploma of Education.

After graduation, he returned to Tennant Creek as his father had been injured in a mining accident. Hearing of his return, his old high school Principal offered him the Music teacher position at the school.





Corey Loader (centre) with senior scout leaders from all over Australia (L to R) Hon. Michael Baden Powell; Ken Bryce, Scout Leader, 1st Macedon; Mark Harris, Scout Leader, 1st Beaufort; Joan Baden Powell.

Scout leaders salute

The terrible impact of the 2015 Scotsburn fires has been well-documented in the local community. But for one Buninyong teenager, the disaster provided a further opportunity to use his talents to help in the recovery process.

Now aged 18, **Corey Loader** has known some pretty rough times himself. He is autistic, suffers from low muscle tone, and has had to deal with bouts of depression. But that didn't stop him from helping out with the post-bushfire 'recovery' dinners and the tree planting work that his community organised.

This voluntary community work was just part of the extensive achievements that led to his 2019 Queens Scout Award – the

highest award in the scouting movement which boasts some 20,000 members in Victoria and 100,000 across Australia.

Have a go

Despite his problems, Corey certainly is not afraid to have a go at challenges. For example, he is taking flying lessons, uses his mobility scooter to join in long hikes organised by the Scouts, and even undertook travel to Japan to attend a Scouting Jamboree for young people with special needs.

He has also shown creative talent by developing a small business making dog beds from recycled tyres.

Corey received his Queens Scout Award at a recent function at the Scotsburn Hall

from scouting 'royalty', Michael Baden-Powell, the grandson of the legendary Lord Baden-Powell who founded the scouting movement in 1907. Michael has befriended Corey and at Scotsburn spoke of Corey's journey through scouting, his struggles, his achievements and their friendship.

In addition to guests from interstate, Corey received messages of congratulations from as far away as Brazil, Japan, the UK, India, Indonesia, Scotland and New Zealand.

In August Corey will also travel to Government House in Sydney to join other recipients of the special award.



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New book on 'invasion' of district

My country...all gone

A fair-haired bloke with an Irish heritage, whose forebears came to Buninyong in the 1850s, and who at one time owned the Buninyong Hotel, and also with a grandfather from Yendon who fought in World War I, is a most unlikely background mix for a national expert on Aboriginal history.

But that is just part of the story of Federation University's **Associate Professor Fred Cahir** who a few weeks ago launched his latest book – the 350 page *My Country All Gone – the White Men Have Stolen It* – during Ballarat's Heritage Week.

Now aged 56, he has worked with Aboriginal communities in Victoria and the Northern Territory in many settings and roles during more than thirty years. He has been nationally recognised and awarded for his research, teaching and publications in the area of Aboriginal history.

Unusual

But Dr Cahir's interest in this area had unusual beginnings. In 1983, a 20 year old Fred Cahir foolishly tried to ride back to Victoria from Perth to Victoria on a bicycle, and became stranded on the Nullabor Plains for several days with no food or water, and with no knowledge of survival skills in that environment.

He vowed then that should he survive he would learn all he could about bushcraft from Aboriginal people.

His subsequent work, studies and teaching have focussed particularly on the Wadawurrung people in the Victorian goldfields region.

New book

Cahir's compelling new book, heavily based on the white invaders' diaries, station records, and memos from the mid-1830s and 1840s period, includes significant sections on their interaction with the Wadawurrung people of Buninyong and nearby areas.

Most of these 'invaders' had arrived at Indented Heads by ship from Tasmania and

then came overland with their flocks of sheep from Geelong to areas like Buninyong and district.

While Cahir's book reveals how the Wadawurrung actively resisted the white invaders coming onto their lands, it also points to surprising interaction between the two groups through the three waves of colonial invasion that took place in this district.

Trade

In this area, this relationship took many forms such as trade, work, various forms of cultural exchange and even in learning one another's languages. For example there was trade of food such as flour and meat in return for work (most properties' workers were predominantly Wadawurrung) and possum skin cloaks, and for vital help with survival skills (such as looking for stray stock and permanent waterholes) in the harsh new countryside.

Living lonely lives, the white shepherds from Europe enjoyed the company of and interaction with the Wadawurrung. The relationship can also be seen in the names which were adopted for many of the local properties (*Boninyong, Narmbool, Mooramong*).



The book is now available from *Ballarat Books* in Armstrong Street (\$55.95) or by contacting the author at f.cahir@federation.edu.au.



Conscription, court martial and the Tower of London

The strange case of Buninyong's feisty army chaplain

Thomas Joseph O'Donnell (1876-1949) was born at Buninyong, the son of Irish immigrants Moses John O'Donnell, farmer, and Mary nee Buckle. By 1875 they were renting the Rev Hastie's farm at the foot of Mount Buninyong, where they raised their family of seven children, with Thomas being the fourth child.

In February 1880 a devastating fire destroyed their harvest, which was not insured. Soon after in 1883 Moses O'Donnell died intestate, leaving his widow and their seven children in a parlous state.

Courage

Mary courageously carried on the farm, with help from her neighbours in sowing her potato crop. But again disaster struck again when a fire started nearby in Mr Coates' stable and coachhouse. The fire soon spread, and a large portion of Mary O'Donnell's crop was burnt.

She again was in desperate circumstances, but somehow Mary battled on, with the children attending the Buninyong State School and probably Sunday school at St. Peter and Paul's Catholic Church. Young Thomas later proclaimed that he had a vocation to the priesthood. There is an O'Donnell who matriculated in Ballarat in 1893. Evidence is that he trained initially at the Sacred Heart Monastery for missionaries at Kensington in Sydney.

Priesthood

By 1905 it seems that he was in Tasmania and was later sent by Archbishop Murphy of Hobart to All Hallows College, Dublin to complete his studies for the priesthood.

Rev Thomas O'Donnell was ordained in 1907, and posted to serve as a priest in Tasmania.

During the 1916 Conscription Campaign he spoke out publicly for the 'Yes' cause, his statements apparently catching the

attention of **Prime Minister Billy Hughes**, as when the 1917 Campaign was in full force, Rev O'Donnell suddenly appeared on platforms in Melbourne. It was said that he was brought to Melbourne to stand against that eloquent opponent of conscription, **Archbishop Daniel Mannix**.

Rev O'Donnell became a sensation on 14 December 1917, on the eve of the second Conscription Referendum, when he declared at a packed meeting in Melbourne that he was going to the Victoria Barracks to sign up as an army chaplain, and if he could not do that, he would sign up as a private soldier.

War service

He was accepted as a chaplain to the 11th Battalion, AIF, now with the blessing of the Catholic Chaplain-General, Daniel Mannix, and departed for France in February 1918, where his battalion faced a severe test with the last German offensive on the Hindenburg line.

He acted with gallantry, and was recommended for a Military Medal. In late 1919, still waiting repatriation, he took a trip to Ireland, to visit friends and relatives. He



Picture of Father Thomas O'Donnell courtesy of the Archdiocese of Hobart, Museum & Archives

carried a pistol that had belonged to **John Mitchel**, the Young Ireland rebel leader who had been transported to Van Diemen's Land in 1849 after the failed Irish rebellion.

Under watch

In Dublin, O'Donnell met **Arthur Griffith**, the founder of Sinn Fein, and presented the pistol to him. That meeting caught the attention of the Irish Special Branch, who placed him under surveillance.

He stayed at the *International Hotel* in Killarney where on 10 October, he had a loud and excited conversation about the Irish political troubles with an Ulster businessman at dinner.

In the room was a British army officer, who listened in to the Australian officer, and took notes. This British officer then reported O'Donnell to the military authorities in Dublin, who arrested and imprisoned him, without any specific charge, but mentioning his use of 'seditious language in a public place.'

Tower of London

He was held for ten days in the Dublin gaol before being escorted to London by an AIF officer and placed in the Tower of London. The next day he was allowed to leave on 'open arrest', under the authority of the Australian military authorities.

On 26 November 1919 Father O'Donnell faced an AIF Court Martial at the Westminster Guildhall, before a packed public gallery, on a charge that on whilst at the *International Hotel* in Killarney, he had used 'disloyal words regarding the Sovereign'. The prosecution sent witnesses from Ireland for the trial, which lasted three days.

He was found 'not guilty'. The Melbourne *Catholic Advocate* gave a full account of the trial reporting that "there is not a Catholic who does not rejoice at the triumph of Fr O'Donnell over English militarism in Ireland."

He was demobilised in England in December 1919 and travelled to Rome, and returned to Tasmania in 1920, just when Archbishop Mannix was preparing to travel to the USA, Rome and Ireland.

His turn

Dr Mannix had publically defended O'Donnell before the court martial hearing, and soon it was the turn of O'Donnell to return the favour to his old Conscriptio opponent. En route to his homeland, Mannix was intercepted by the Royal Navy off the coast of Ireland, and not allowed to enter the country. Rev O'Donnell spoke out for him, and also for the Irish Republican cause.

While all this high political intrigue was proceeding, O'Donnell's mother Mary was living in Eyre Street, Ballarat. Things did settle down, and the priest went on to a long career in Tasmania, where he died in 1949.

His important link to early Buninyong had been lost until research for the restoration project for the Buninyong Avenue of



Honour revealed that he was a member of the AIF, born in Buninyong, had served with distinction in World War One, and had been court-martialled into the bargain.

(Pictured at left) Father Thomas O'Donnell, and (above) the International Hotel, Killarney, where his 'anti-English' conversation was overheard.

Anne Beggs-Sunter



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Freemasons fund new health equipment Machine brings speedy blood tests for mums

The Ballarat Health Services Maternity Unit will be able to purchase an *i-Stat Machine* thanks to \$4000 from Sturt Buninyong Masonic committee and \$6000 provided by Freemasons Foundation.

The *i-Stat Machine* is a blood-analyser. Its portability, ease of use and capability of performing a complete panel of tests from a single platform is a game changer for the Maternity Unit.

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Photo: Doug Williams, Julie Lodge, Maternity Unit Manager and Ken Jenkin at the presentation.



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Craig's a travelling man

Buninyong businessman, Craig Stepnell, 37, found his passion for travelling after spending a year backpacking through Europe when he was eighteen.

Now after fourteen years in the travel industry, he recently set up his own travel agency, *Savenio Ballarat*, in Macarthur Street.

The Buninyong Probus Club invited Buninyong resident Craig to be their guest speaker at their May meeting.

His travel experiences are quite broad, stretching from Auckland to Iceland, and Chile to Kenya. He has visited 44 countries so far, has been on more than ten cruises including river cruises, over 500 flights, and hotel inspections in each city he has visited around the world. But there is still so much on his 'to-do' list.

Options

Having asked for some information from the Club Members about their travel preferences, Craig's topics covered a range of options and ideas. These included travel within Australia and overseas, female-only travel, train holidays, river cruises, ocean cruises, coach tours and independent travellers.

Several short videos demonstrated how much the comfort, security and enjoyment of travelling has changed over the years and also the variety on offer.

Craig Stepnell outside his new premises in Macarthur Street, Lake Wendouree (opposite the old Cemetery).

Cruising choices now involve whether the traveller wants a smaller, more intimate vessel with fewer passengers and more luxury, or the four-storey high ships with up to 5000 passengers and which carry helter skelters, roller skating rinks, bowling alleys, shopping centres, cinemas, casinos and theatres.

Choice also abounds in tours specialising in particular interests such as art, food, gardening, golf or history. Craig mentioned a trip which was organised for a family to find the individual grave of an ancestor killed during the Second World War.

It was an entertaining and informative session and gave the Probus members much to talk about, especially those who had filled in a form with the chance to win a night's accommodation at Crown Towers, donated by *Savenio*.

Craig and wife, **Jacqui** moved back to Buninyong about eight-years ago to raise a family. Buninyong was an easy choice as it was where Jacqui herself was born and raised. Now with three young boys, they look forward to sharing their love of travel with their young tribe – Singapore was the latest stamp in their passports.

Cassandra Carland



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Ernie Neale's Monthly
RAINFALL REPORT

Record weather chaos

Buninyong is having one of its most chaotic runs of weather ever recorded. The last twelve months have delivered a record dry Spring, the hottest January on record, and then the driest opening quarter on the books.

Now we've bounced to the wettest May ever recorded, with 182.1 mm for the month, smashing the previous best of 163 mm. Most of this came from an astonishingly large and slow-moving front that hovered over the state for a couple of days around 10 May. This deluge would be the most distinct Autumn break ever, in a day taking us from bone dry to slush. We even had some snow late in the month.

Despite its erratic pattern of delivery, we have now received 252.1 mm this year. That's over the 226.9 mm recent progressive average, but still less than the long-term January to May average of 270.9 mm. We've had massive rain, but we also had a lot to catch up.

With Ernie on vacation Roly Nam checked the gauge during the month.

MAY 2019			
Date	Rain	Date	Rain
2	44.0	4	2.0
5	1.0	6	1.0
9	16.5	10	69.5
13	3.1	20	1.5
25	2.5	27	26.0
28	2.5	30	5.5
31	7.0		
Total		182.1mm	
Average		59.4mm	



Red Door hosts its first wedding

What started off as a booking for a casual meal to follow a wedding at Creswick on Sunday 9 June turned into a full-scale wedding ceremony and lunch at Buninyong's Red Door Pizzeria.

Semi-regular customers **Hannah Cozens** and **Darren McGuinness**, who first met three years ago, had asked Red Door owner **Trevor Whitworth** if he would open at Sunday lunch time to enable them to have their 36 guests join them for a casual meal and drinks following their wedding which they planned to hold earlier in the morning at Creswick.

Restaurant tables were covered in lace table cloths made by the bride's Nana, and featured beautiful arrangements of home-grown and native flowers.

The bride's three quarter length full white dress, and the dress of the couple's sixteen month old daughter **Luella** were made from the 100 year old wedding dress of Hannah's great, great grandmother.

Red Door's Trevor Whitworth (rear) looks on during the formal signing of the wedding register by Darren McGuinness, his new wife Hannah Cozens with baby Luella, and the civil marriage celebrant.

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New guide coming

Work has started on the fourth edition of the *Buninyong Visitor Guide*. It will be a joint project of the BDCA and the Buninyong Business Network which has secured funding from Visit Ballarat for the project.

All previous features such as coverage of the village history and historical places, shopping, accommodation, food and wine, district walks, cycling and drives, recreation facilities, local maps and the like will be updated and included.

The Visitor guides will be available at the local visitor centre in the Old Library, at the Ballarat's Town Hall visitor centre, and at local shops and accommodation providers.

Carols call for artists

The annual Christmas Carols arranged by the local Lions Club will be held on Saturday 7 December this year. Organisers have put a call out for local artists to perform at this community event which raises funds for the 3BA Christmas Appeal.

Anyone able to help should contact **Sally Bedggood** at: bedggood.salscott@gmail.com

Neil will get his wish

One of the last wishes of major community contributor Neil McCracken before he died in May, was that the village's first newspaper, the *Buninyong Telegraph*, could be converted into digital format and held at the National Library of Australia.

The newspaper started in 1854 with several editions each week. Tragedy struck in 1873 when the newspaper's offices were destroyed by fire along with all of its files. However copies were able to be put on microfiche from later that year until its demise in 1908.

Prior to his death Neil was in the process of arranging with the National Library to have these put into digital format and available to all. This process costs around \$1.50 per page and is a large and costly job given that some 10,000 pages are involved. Fortunately grant funds had been secured, and now local historians **Anne Beggs-Sunter** and **Liz Lumsdon**, assisted by **Barry Fitzgerald** have taken on the task of completing Neil's project.

Hire the room

If you live in or near Buninyong and are looking for a great venue for your next function, look no further than the Buninyong Bowling Club. With a full commercial kitchen, servery, bar facilities (staffed), seating for 120 guests and air conditioned comfort, this modern, spacious facility is the ideal venue for most functions, celebrations or business events.

Best of all, because it is a community based organisation, great rates are offered. For full details and bookings visit: www.buninyongbowlingclub.com.au



Neil McCracken spent much time as a volunteer at Sovereign Hill

So...sew some Boomerang Bags

Buninyong Boomerang Bags (BBB) will be holding a sewing class at the hall at Royal Park on Sunday 21 July between 2.00pm and 4.00pm.

It's free, but places are limited and registration is required at EventBite or through the BBB Facebook page.

Regular workshops to make more of the famous bags are held every Tuesday between 9.00am and 11.00am and between 5.00pm and 7.00pm in the Anglican Hall on Scott Street, Buninyong.



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Kids chat with Lal Lal folk

Trudy East, a teacher at the Lal Lal Primary School reports that in Term 1, students studied Our Community as their Inquiry learning topic. Students invited local people (some already known to students at the

school and some not) to an afternoon tea where they were interviewed by the students.

For most of the students, it was their first time interviewing an adult and a significant learning experience in

thinking about what to ask and how to record the information. These interviews have been compiled into a booklet. These are some extracts selected by News reporter Rita Russell.

A real Diamond

By Clare Inglis & Billie Donald

Liz Diamond has lived in Lal Lal for 35 years. She moved from Geelong so she had more space for goats and other animals. Liz loves to help people by making quilts and clothes for the homeless. Liz Diamond is a part of the CFA in Lal Lal.

Liz has a lot of wisdom about the Lal Lal community. A lot of Lal Lal was under water at one stage; it was a lake. Liz has heard there had been a small earthquake and that at the Lal Lal falls rocks broke away. Consequently, the lake emptied out into the river and that's why there are huge beds of sand everywhere. The Aboriginal



Local identity, Liz Diamond

people called the town Lal Lal. It means 'water water'.

Liz said that there was a Catholic church near **Ursula Diamond-Keith's** house. It shut down about 40 years ago and the church was removed. There was also another (Methodist) church opposite the school on the main road. It closed down about 25 years ago. Some people who lived in Lal Lal bought the building and shifted it to their land and made it into a house.

Mines

Liz says that there are many mines around Lal Lal. Some are holes in the ground and some you can walk into. There is one that has gold in it that you can see. They are very dangerous so you can't play in them but you can look. There are so many mines still here.

So now you know how fascinating Lal Lal really is. Now you know that Liz Diamond has a lot of facts for sharing about the Lal Lal history. We hope you enjoyed reading about the history of our town.

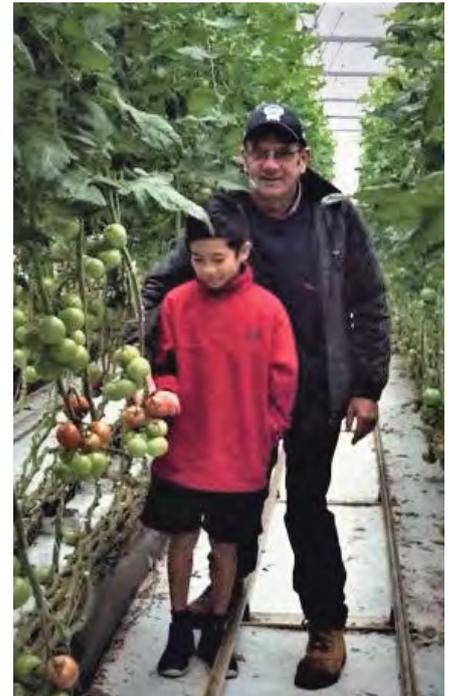
John Elford, tomato grower

By Dexter Gabriel

John Elford was born in 1959. He is the eldest of six children. In 2002 he moved to Yendon because he was looking to start a family business.

John was interested in hydroponics (growing plants without soil) and he decided to start a business called *Yendon Gourmet Tomatoes*. The business now grows tomatoes, strawberries, eggplant, basil and cherry tomatoes.

John has a big family including six children. They all help out with the family business.



John Elford shows son Dexter a healthy tomato crop.

John sells his produce at many markets. I am **Dexter**, one of John's sons. On the farm I am the strawberry picker and help my mum **Nerissa** to pick them.

John keeps growing his business. He plans to build another shed. He helps at the school by donating compost and sometimes he sends in punnets of delicious strawberries for the children to eat.

COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING DAY

28 July 2019 at 10.00 am

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All welcome. For more information contact Bianca on 0426 873 202 or bianca@leighcatchmentgroup.org

Upper Williamsons Creek
Landcare group

Community at the Child Care centre

The new-look Buninyong Child Care Centre and Kindergarten has been active over recent times in developing its community profile and involvement.

Lots of 'incursions' (or internal excursions) are happening. For example, Constable **Mark Arnold** from the Buninyong Police visited and chatted to the children about what the police do, what they wear (the kids were especially interested in his uniform), and how they keeping everyone safe. The children then went outside to the railing when Mark put on the police car's flashing lights and sounded the siren.

Safety

The *Kids' Foundation* also came to the centre to talk about safety in the home such as hot stoves and cups, open fires and wet floors. They also talked about safety out and about – traffic, strangers and unleashed dogs. The children had to spot unsafe things in a big poster.

The Friends of the Buninyong Botanic Gardens was another group to visit the centre to discuss ways in which they could help to involve the children in gardens and plants.

Teeth

Another visit recently was from a dentist who told the children about brushing their teeth, about good foods and bad foods and how their teeth will later get wobbly and fall out. The wonders of the Tooth fairy were also mentioned!

They met Harry the happy tooth (who eats healthy foods and is brushed often), and also the very sad tooth Sammy who had a hole in him because he wasn't kept clean. The dentist also talked about the gowns, masks and glasses that they wear to protect the parents and themselves.

There was also a 'Mothers' Day' breakfast when all families were invited to enjoy a meal in the room which had been decorated by the children.

The new-look signage to be located within the gable ends of the two entries to the building in Learmonth Street, previewed in an earlier edition of *The News*, has been approved and will be erected in the near future.



Cassandra Carland

The children at the centre were all eyes as Const Mark Arnold explained about the many items of equipment worn by police.

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Local stars pick up big sport awards

Two sporting stars with close Buninyong ties recently have hit the national sporting headlines. Rising tennis star, James O'Sullivan was selected in the All-Australian Schools Tennis team, and Jeremy Byrne was named as Cricket Australia Community Cricket Coach of the Year.

James was part of the Victorian Schools tennis team that competed in the *Pizzey Cup*, a national competition held over seven days in Adelaide in May. He played in the singles for Victoria against all states and won six of his seven matches. That performance was impressive enough for him to gain selection in the 18 years and under All-Australian Schools team. James was the sole Victorian selected and at 15, was the youngest player to make the squad of ten.

Kooyong

As a member of the Kooyong Tennis Club in Melbourne, James played senior

pennant during the summer and was a member of Kooyong's Div. 2 Premiership team. He also made the quarter finals of the Kooyong Under 21 Junior Championships.

In addition, victories at the Fosterville Gold Classic, the Geelong Junior Gold and Ballarat Regional Juniors and impressive performances in open tournaments have given James a great start to 2019. He is currently ranked 25 for his age group in Australia and 314 in All-Australian male rankings. His role model is current Australian number 1, **Alex De Minaur**.

James is looking forward to being a special guest of Tennis Australia during the Australian Open in January 2020.

Grassroots

The CEO of Cricket Australia, James Sutherland has been reported as saying that *"community cricket is at the foundation of our sport, and the dedication of those at the grassroots allows it to reach communities right across the country."*

At the 2019 *Sport For All Community Cricket Awards*, Buninyong was in the spotlight with popular Buninyong Cricket Club Junior Program Coordinator

and Under 15 coach **Jeremy Byrne** being awarded the Cricket Australia Community Coach of the Year.

Jeremy has been involved in the Junior coaching team at Buninyong cricket club for two years and took over the coordination of the junior program last season. Buninyong Cricket Club has seven Junior teams with around 80 young cricketers involved in the program. He is also coach of the inaugural Ballarat Women's Cricket team.

Jeremy received his award at the recent *Sport For All* presentation evening at the Junction Oval in Melbourne. Guest speaker was former Australian fast bowler **Glenn McGrath**. There are thousands of coaches and volunteers involved in cricket clubs throughout Australia. Exceptional qualities are needed to win an Australia-wide award such as this. Jeremy Byrne certainly has those and Buninyong and Ballarat cricket are fortunate to have him involved in their programmes.

Ray Sullivan

(Above) Jeremy Byrne with his Community Coach of the Year award.

(Left) James O'Sullivan (centre) with Victorian tennis team mates.



School visits sacred space

Children from classes one to six at Ballarat Steiner School recently went on an excursion to visit the *Murrup Laarr Ancestral Stones* at Ballarat's North Gardens Reserve as part of developing a stronger understanding of the local indigenous history and culture of this region.

Local Wathaurung artist and creator of this incredible sculpture installation, **Deanne Gilson**, shared aspects of language, culture, tradition, dance and story with the children who were engaged and enthralled with the ancestral stones and their meaning.



Prior to the excursion, Ballarat Steiner School teacher, **Amelia James**, helped the children carve clapsticks that they brought to the site. The children all participated in music-making and a variety of traditional dances that Deanne taught them in this sacred space.

Deanne also shared the meaning of each of the stones and taught the children about the traditional Bungaree hut at the centre

of the stone circle. Ochre was used by the children to embed their handprints inside the hut as well as decorate their clapsticks and faces.

As a place of peace, calm and reflection, this ceremonial basalt rock circle covered in indigenous symbols is located at North Gardens off Wendouree Parade for all residents of Ballarat to visit and explore.

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Behind every good football team there's those



STARS IN THE CANTEEN

Buninyong footballers have a pretty good reputation around the Central Highlands League for their on-field efforts. But the food sold by that small team of women in the bright canteen at the end of the clubrooms is recognised as the best in the League.

At least that's what the Hepburn under age footballers told *The News* at a recent game up at the Forest Street reserve. "These chips are fantastic," said one, "and all of my mates agree that they're the best!"

Trio

Saturdays mean a long day for Sharon and On duty at the Buninyong v Hepburn match recently were canteen stalwarts **Sharon Devlyn** and **Sonya Sutcliffe**, ably assisted by volunteer local identity **Miranda Donald**. Sharon and Sonya each have lads playing in Buninyong's U 15 team. Sonya's husband, **Paul**, is Vice President of the club.

Saturdays mean a long day for Sharon and Sonya. They are busy from about 8.00am to 5.00pm, preparing, selling, cleaning up and being a focal point for spectators and footballers alike. They said that in addition to getting some free hot chips, they

enjoyed "the great company, good fun, friendship, and lots of laughs".

Chips galore

On this cool Saturday at the start of winter they expected to sell about 100kg of chips, 50 chicken burgers, 60 hot dogs, 90 pies, 2kg of dim sims, lots of home-made soup, as well as a few doughnuts.

And then there's Thursday nights after training when they serve about 80 meals to senior footballers, committee, volunteers and the usual small band of hardy supporters, and another 30 meals to the juniors.

But after four years in their canteen role Sharon and Sonya have decided to pull the pin during the latter part of the season and have put out a call for replacements. "We get a small payment for our Saturday work, but volunteer our time between about 5.30pm and 8.30pm on Thursday nights," Sonya said. She said that key aspects of the Saturday role were the ordering of food and co-ordinating the volunteers.

Anyone interested in the role can get more information from Sonya on 0417 168 456.

Above (L to R): Sonya Sutcliffe and Sharon Devlyn hand over another generous platter of hot chips.

Coming games

As this edition of *The News* went to press Buninyong Seniors football team had a solid 6-2 win-loss record and were sitting in fourth place on the CHFL ladder. The Reserves team was undefeated, and the U 18 side was fourth with a 6-2 record.

The following are coming matches. There's a tough away match against Learmonth on 13 July, with the blockbuster being the match at home on 4 August against currently undefeated team Waubra. All are Saturday matches.

- 29 June Ballan (2 wins/6 losses) at Ballan
- 6 July Clunes (1/7) at Buninyong
- 13 July Learmonth (5/3) at Learmonth
- 20 July Daylesford (2/6) at Buninyong
- 27 July Carngham Linton (1/7) at Carngham
- 4 August Waubra (9/0) at Buninyong