

# Buninyong & District Community NEWS

Edition 460, June 2019

## ANZAC DAY SPECIAL



## Big community turnout shows growing **RESPECT FOR ANZACS**

On a cool and cloudy morning, the 2019 Buninyong RSL Anzac Day ceremony, held at RSL Park, was attended by a crowd estimated at 1000 persons.

Uniformed cadets from the 300 ACU formed the catafalque party, the piper was **Sue Brant**, and bugler **Claire O'Brien** played *The Last Post* and *Reveille*. **Bill Durrant** again was the very competent MC, and local Anglican minister **Rev Mark Schnerring** led the crowd in reciting the *Lord's Prayer* and a benediction.

With RSL President **Ron Fleming** overseas, Vice-President **Brian Parker** welcomed guests, read *The Ode*, and made presentations of scholarships to students of local schools. Each year the RSL allocates \$1550 for these with a matching amount coming from the Community Bank.

Wreaths were laid by a large number of local groups, schools and clubs.

RSL Life Member **Max Thorne** gave an address in which he spoke of the contributions and sacrifice of Australians in many wars, past and recent.

In a new move at the ceremony, in addition to the playing of the Australian national anthem, the New Zealand anthem *God Defend New Zealand* was played and sung.

Finally RSL members and relatives of members of the services marched from the park to the Buninyong Town Hall and return, led by 95 year old flag-bearer **Vic Bradley**.

*Above : Leaders and scouts from the 1<sup>st</sup> Mt Clear Scout Group get ready to lay a wreath at the ceremony (L to R) Charley,12, Adrian Newman, Noah 10, Tim Whiteside, Zoe, 13, Georgia 16.*

*Below: MC Bill Durrant and RSL Secretary Simon Fehney.*



## Buninyong



*Zoe Kendall explains the significance of the display of memorial crosses to son Brayton, 5*



*Catafalque party: cadets from the 300 ACU*

## London



*At left, WO2 Kayne Falconer (son of Steve and Glenys) was Australia's flag bearer at the Anzac Day service at Westminster Abbey.*

### The allies and the enemies



Each soldier shivered in the trench,  
Frozen from head to toe,  
Each forced to fight the other,  
In the war to end all wars.

Fresh snow lay on no man's land,  
Where poppies once had bloomed,  
But that morning the battle fields lay silent,  
For that day was Christmas day.

At that moment a young allied soldier,  
Got the courage to peer over his trench,  
Over no man's land where many had fallen,  
There was a German soldier staring back.

Each saw the fear in the other's eyes,  
Then the German soldier smiled and waved,  
It was that moment the allied soldier realised,  
That inside they were all the same.

Both had family back at home,  
To where they hoped they would return,  
Both were being brave but were so afraid,  
That they would be the next to fall.

When the clocks ticked over midnight,  
Silence gone, and blood lost once more,  
Both men prayed to see another day,  
And an end to the cursed war.

Although they were our enemies,  
We were theirs as well,  
Each side suffered a great loss,  
Loved ones did as well.

The struggles were horrific,  
For both sides of the war,  
So when we pause to remember,  
Please remember them all.

*This original poem is by Lorelai Hendersen, a grade 6 pupil at the Lal Lal school*



## RSL at Ranger Museum

# SURPRISE PHOTO FIND

Members of Buninyong RSL visited the Ballarat Ranger Military Museum recently to update their knowledge of local military history.

The museum now at 8/7<sup>th</sup> RVR, Ranger Barracks, Sturt Street, Ballarat commenced in the old Ranger Barracks (now Dan Murphy's liquor store) in 1989, moved to the B Company Barracks in Russell Street, Newington, then spent some time at the Sebastopol Hall until it was re-established at its current location (off Ring Road) in 2004.

The museum is run by volunteers who wish to preserve the military heritage of the district and the history of those who have served with units based in Ballarat or district.

### Reopened

Over a period of four years a dedicated group of volunteers re-established the museum that was officially opened in August 2008 by the then State Governor, **Professor David de Kretser**.

The museum houses a selection of memorabilia from Ballarat and district from the 1850s Ranger era, Boer War, First and Second World Wars, Malaya, Borneo, Vietnam and recent peacekeeping operations in which members of the Battalion have served.

During the visit, RSL members **Dru** and **Brian Parker** were excited to discover a photo of their son **Adam** taken in action during the Australian Army's peacekeeping role in East Timor in 2000.

Until their visit they were not aware the photo existed.

Members of the public are able to visit the museum on Thursdays (1.00pm-4.00pm) or between 9.00am and noon on the fourth Sunday of each month.



*Top right: Brian and Dru Parker were surprised to find a photo of their son Adam on display at the museum. He was a member of the peace-keeping force in East Timor in 2000.*

*Shown (L to R) are Buninyong RSL members representing service in different war theatres and eras - John Dellaca (Vietnam), Vic Bradley (WW2), Colin Bahr (Afghanistan), the uniform of famous war hero Pompey Elliot (WW1) and Museum Treasurer Bill Akell who rose to the rank of Major seeing service in Vietnam, Singapore and Cambodia as well as undertaking military tours in England and France.*

# Now's the time to speak up on Plan

Elsewhere in this edition there is reference to the *Buninyong Township Plan*, with its draft recommendations now available in a *Background Paper* on the Council's *mysay* website.

The background paper is the result of comments from over 250 locals in hard and soft copy surveys, consultations with community groups and a major community workshop morning held at the Buninyong Town Hall back on 1 December 2018. (See *The News* below)

Information received from the City of Ballarat indicates that a follow-up 'focus group' meeting will be held in Buninyong in June to discuss issues and preliminary recommendations.

## Lessons

If any lessons are to be learned from the recent publication of the *Township Plan for Miners Rest*, Buninyong residents and groups should show a great deal of

At Miners Rest significant groups of residents are unhappy with a number of recommendations in the township plan. So much so that they have hit several Council meetings in such numbers and with such passion that Council's voting on the plan has been twice deferred. Should Council vote to accept the plan it will be incorporated into the *Ballarat Planning Scheme* and will impact on Miners Rest for coming decades.

## Tactics

There is a clear message here for Buninyong. Residents should look at the *mysay* website, communicate any reactions both positive and negative to the City's planners, and make sure that any group you are involved with is both on top of the issues and has a coherent point of view on them.

As can be seen from the Miners Rest protests, any large group of residents packed into the public gallery at a Council meeting, voicing their concerns to the nine Councillors and their senior advisors, certainly cannot be relied on to effect change.

At this stage, there is no reason to believe that Buninyong will have the kinds of major issues impacting on the Miners Rest community (saleyards, airport, equine precinct and the like).

But it is a lot easier to be involved at the stage of reviewing a background paper than bellyaching once the *Township Plan* is ready to be put to Council.



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

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## Critical meeting to launch start of TOWN PLAN

All residents are invited to one of the most important decisions they will make in Buninyong for the next ten years. The launch of the City of Ballarat's township plan is a critical decision to guide the future of Buninyong. The launch will be held on Tuesday 4 September at the Town Hall.

The planning process will involve our residents and include various opportunities for community consultation, meetings with our community groups, and direct feedback via surveys.

The township project will proceed along the same path as the previous plan, with the same structure and content.

The City's general expertise for the plan is that it will not be the subject of a public inquiry or a public hearing. The plan will be subject to a public inquiry or a public hearing if the community and council are unable to agree on the plan.

It should:

- give the community a collective voice
- give the City of Ballarat and the community a clear and concise plan
- assist the City to prepare its business plan
- help community groups when seeking

the 4 September launch scheduled to run between 5:00pm and 7:00pm.

Attendees will be given a copy of a survey and a chance to provide feedback, comments and views. Councilors and senior Council staff will be present to guide the process to the future and answer questions from the community.

A sausage sizzle dinner for \$10 for the local Lions Club will be available.

The launch event follows on a hot-weather day, so please bring a hat and sunscreen.

**Don't miss:** Held on 15/14 June last year and the upcoming community planning day 17th October.

A report on these sessions was compiled

interest in this focus group session and any associated consultations with individual groups.

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In front of the board showing groups that have been supported by the bank, new Bank Board Chair Ian Corcoran chats with Narelle Tatt, one of the bank's foundation staff members.

# streettalk

**THE SURVEYING PROFESSION** looks set to make a killing out of the move of the CFA to the golf club land. There's been orange vests and theodolites all over the place along Learmonth Street in recent weeks. Now there's concern about the exit onto the highway from the site. The RSL and locals trust the WWI Avenue of Honour won't have a roadway cut through it!

**BDCA IDENTITY Peter Glover** is a happy man following Council's picking up on a recent Street Talk para about the correct spelling of Mount Helen. On the new signage along Geelong Road the MT has become MOUNT and Peter who blew the whistle on the former spelling is smiling.

**THE CEMETERY TRUST** is charged with keeping the historic site in good order and free of intrusive memorial objects. A recent task undertaken was the trimming back to required size of plants, mainly roses, in the Lawn section. Three tall and healthy plants were spared and letters written to the plot holders requesting them to remove the oversize plants.

One dear lady wrote back offering to remove an offending tall olive tree – but then pointed out to the Trust letter writer that the tree wasn't going to grow much more as it was made of plastic and set in a pot of concrete!!

## A chair with the lot

The new Chair of the Board of the Buninyong Community Bank is experienced businessman Ian Corcoran, who after being responsible for the bank's Business Development portfolio since 2012, took over his current role in March.

He is the fourth Chair since the local bank was established in August 2010. He follows **John Emery, Stephen Falconer** and **Richard McDowell**.

Perhaps best known for the twenty years he spent as the owner-operator of the Bakery Hill *McDonalds'* franchise, Ian brings significant business experience and standing to the role.

Amongst many other current community roles, Ian is a Director of the Buninyong Golf Club and is district Chair of the

Australian Institute of Company Directors. He also holds a director position with the Ballarat Foundation and has held governance positions with other local organisations.

He said that with the community bank trading so profitably, he was keen to see it continue with its strong support of local organisations and projects in coming years. "Not too many people would realise that since it was set up the local community bank has put back around \$1 million back into this town and district," he said.

With his wife **Kerrie** and two children, he has lived in Buninyong for the past twenty-two years. Golf and travel are among the many interests of the affable, approachable and friendly new Chairman of the Community Bank Board.

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# Council's help saves old hall

**After surviving the elements for about 128 years, the weatherboard community hall at Scotsburn had a complete new roof (and insulation) installed by the Ballarat City Council a few weeks ago. Prior to this work the roof was rusting with rotting rafters.**

BCC's Executive Manager of Property and Facilities **Darren Sadler** told *The News* that the project, which has now also included air-conditioning and painting, cost some \$60,000.

Chairman of the Hall Committee **Graham Shearer** said that the community was delighted and grateful for the support of the Ballarat City Council in the hall restoration project. "For a long time this old place has played a central part in the

life of the Scotsburn community with meetings of groups such as the CWA, the church guild, concerts, dances, Young Farmers Club, Landcare group, Christian College, and for many years was used by the Scotsburn school," he said.

## 1891 opening

The hall was opened on 24 July 1891 with a concert. At the time the Committee consisted of 23 persons with **Mr J Hendy** as Chairman, **Andrew Scott** as Secretary and **George Eason** as Treasurer. The Committee decided that the hall should hold 250 people, have a stage and that its size be 23 feet x 40 feet (about 8m x 13m).

Soon after the hall's opening, the Committee moved to build a "room with a chimney, supply lights for the hall, and two outhouses." As funds became available, the hall was later fitted out with seats, crockery and a bookcase made by a **Mr Gibson**. In March 1897 **Robert Kerr** was asked to join the Committee and become caretaker.

## Grant

In 2017 a Federal funding grant obtained through **Catherine King** MP enabled a new tank and pressure pump to be installed.

The hall played a key role as a regular community get together venue for groups and residents as part of the Recovery Program following the 2015 bushfires in the district.

Facing the Midland Highway, the hall was built on an acre of land donated by property owner **George Eason**. At the rear are disused tennis courts, for which the Hall Committee, together with the Scotsburn school campus, are now seeking a grant to construct a multi-purpose area for tennis, basketball and other sporting activities.

*Scotsburn residents (L to R) Dianne Palmer, Darryl Palmer, Graham Shearer and Andrea Mason were delighted with the restoration work done on their local hall.*



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## Neil McCracken's

# WALKING PASSION

**Even a current very serious illness has not stopped Buninyong's Neil McCracken from continuing to press local authorities about improving and providing better information about walking tracks in the district.**

For years he has been frustrated with the City Council and *Visit Ballarat's* failure to improve reference to walking tracks on their websites and in publications.

At present he is still lobbying for the City of Ballarat to develop a policy on walking. He said that recent contact with the Mayor and all Councillors resulted in a response only from the Mayor **Samantha McIntosh**.

### Disabled

Another of his pet 'walking' projects is to have various groups from the disabilities sector, Council and staff from Federation University collaborate in the development of protocols which would match walking tracks to people having various levels of disability and to provide graduated challenges for such people.

With **Patrick Hope** he helped to extend the *Great Dividing Trail* which now stretches from Ballarat to Buninyong. In this project Council staff helped greatly.

His having such interests and concerns comes as no surprise after learning of his background in forestry, aboriginal affairs and social work.

### Forestry

Born in Echuca, and raised in Horsham, Neil 78, first came to this district when spending four years at the School of Forestry at Creswick, completing an Associate Diploma of Forestry. Then in the 1960s he moved to work in aboriginal affairs in South Australia including a time at the isolated community of Ernabella in the State's north-west.

There he met his future wife, **Jenny**, who was a nurse in the district. They married in 1971, while Neil was studying social work at a Queensland University. Later he started work with Centrelink in Toowoomba



He recalls being involved in several anti-Vietnam war protests while residing in "Jo's country". With a chuckle he told of one protest march in which he carried a placard which on one side read *No Foreign Troops for Vietnam*, and on the other the fall-back message of *Higher Wages for Police*.

### To Buninyong

The McCracken family, moved to Ballarat in 1986 and to Buninyong around 2000. Their three daughters now live in Ballarat, Derrinallum and in Sydney.

Apart from his passionate interest in walking trails, Neil busies himself with other community activities. For some ten years he has been Chair of the Buninyong Joint Library Trust, has been involved in the Buninyong Community Association, the Historical Society, and has been a tireless worker at the Visitor Information Centre. He has authored a small book *Buninyong Heritage Walks*.

### Data base

During the time he spends at the Visitor Centre (Old Library) he has been compiling a data base of over 40,000 references to local residents taken from historical rate notices, petitions, local coronial inquests and newspapers.

His interests in history and visitors to the district also extended to Ballarat's

Sovereign Hill where he volunteered for thirty years, dressed as a gentleman of the mid-1800s wandering around the venue chatting with visitors. He also volunteered for fifteen years at the Gold Museum.

**Ed : Just two weeks after the interview and photograph in the story above, on 20 May Neil McCracken passed away after battling serious illness for several years.**

**He was a great contributor to the Buninyong village community through his work developing a data base of details of thousands of early settlers, his key role at the Visitor Information Centre, leadership in the restoration and operation of the Old Library, in environmental matters, and especially in developing and documenting district walking trails.**

**Just prior to his death he moved to ensure action would continue on several of his current projects including walking tracks for the disabled, and in ensuring the National Library had digitised copies of the Buninyong Telegraph from the latter decades of the 1800s.**

# Bowls does deal with business

Buninyong's PRD Real Estate agency and the local bowls club have joined together in a mutual benefit arrangement that will see the firm donate \$500 to the bowls club for every listing, resulting from a referral from the bowls club that results in a sale.

PRD principal **Phil Crosbie** and bowling Club President **Wayne Morgan** (left in photo) said this was a "classic example of how various parts of a small community like Buninyong could work together in a win-win situation." The first \$500 cheque from PRD was recently handed over.



# Old church to new hall

Tables were laden down with food for a massive morning tea at Buninyong's Sts Peter and Paul's Catholic Church after Mass on Sunday 5 May for the official blessing and opening of the refurbished hall adjacent to the magnificent new church building.

**Fr Kevin Maloney** who was deputising for Parish Priest **Fr Peter Sherman**, currently on long service leave, blessed the new hall which is the original building of the church which opened in 1853. Amongst those attending the morning tea was the now-retired former Parish Priest **Fr Adrian McInerney**.



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# BDCA lobby brings bridge changes

The front page story of the August 2018 edition of *The News* reported the public uproar over the 'cattle race' look of the newly-erected steel bridge crossing the Union Jack Creek in Desoza Park at Cathcart Street.

After strong lobbying of Council by the Community Association (BDCA) which pointed out that the new bridge was quite out of character with other structures in the park, some improvements have now been promised.

Cr Ben Taylor recently advised BDCA President **Gayle Adams** that the steel railing and posts would be removed and replaced by rails of appropriately-coloured recycled plastic as used in some other bridges and walkways in the city.

However, it seems the metal base will be retained despite claims by park users that

it can become slippery and that it creates problems for dogs walking over it.

"This will be a great improvement to the present stockyards look of the bridge, and Council is thanked for its response," Ms Adams said.

*Left: the new bridge erected in July 2018, and (right) the look of the proposed changes.*



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## Buninyong links to famous property

# When Hollywood came to Skipton

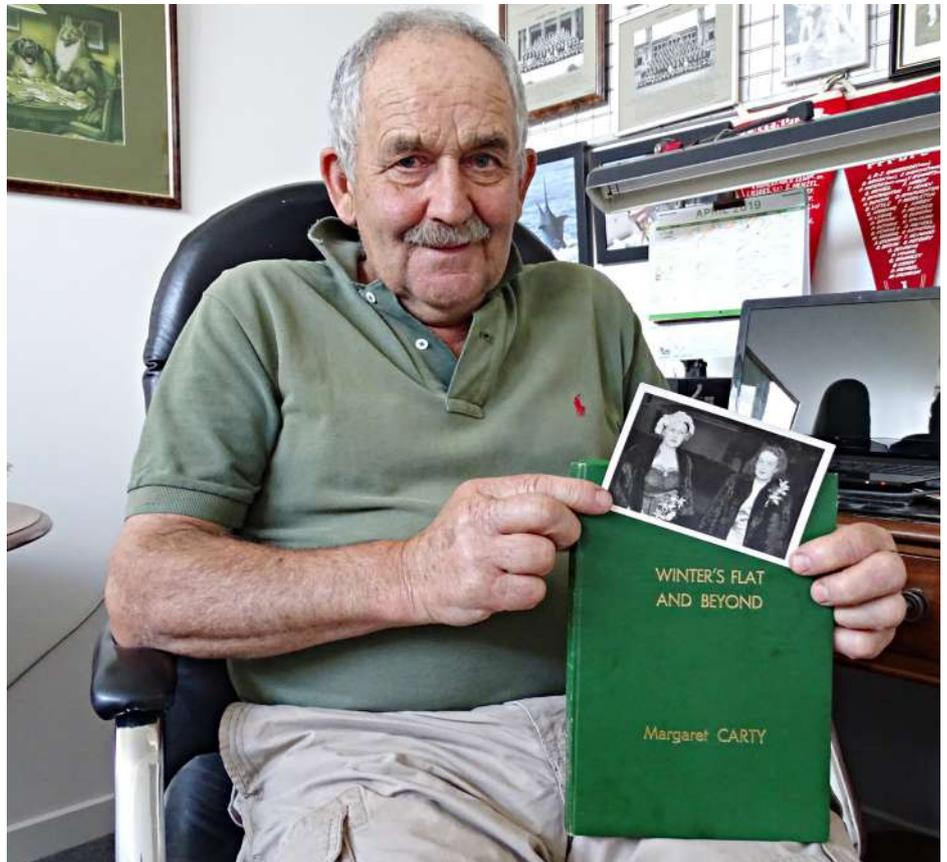
During the Buninyong Film Festival there were several free screenings of the documentary *Mooramong: Private Hollywood*, now a National Trust property located beyond Skipton. Few who saw the documentary would know that the amazing property has close ties to a Buninyong family.

About two years ago, 70 year old **Alistair Stewart** moved from his farming property at Hamilton to Buninyong to be closer to his daughter **Annabelle Goodall** and her family who have been local residents for fifteen years. That's where the link to *Mooramong* comes in.

### Scottish

In 1830. Alistair's great, great, great grandfather **Henry Anderson** and his brother **Alexander**, migrated to Australia from Kirkaldy, on Scotland's east coast about 20km from Edinburgh.

With the Yuille cousins and the Learmonth brothers, Henry Anderson was among the first European settlers of Buninyong having brought sheep here from Tasmania in 1838. His 'run' was called *Waverley Park*.



Henry had sent younger brother Alexander to the Mt Emu Creek area near Skipton with a flock of sheep, and in 1842 joined him in that area by taking up *Borriyallock* a huge run of 50,757 acres. In 1850 Henry divided this land, and one section became the currently well-known property, *Banongill*.

*Mooramong* station emerged after the brothers' partnership ended and Alexander erected a gracious Victorian homestead on the property in 1873. He sold it in 1889.

### New owners

After various owners, the property was purchased in 1926 by Scottish-born solicitor **Kenneth Mackinnon** (VRC Chairman and racing identity) as a 21<sup>st</sup> birthday present for his son **Donald John (Scobie) Mackinnon** who returned in 1928 from studies at Cambridge, and took up residence at *Mooramong*.

Scobie Mackinnon ran the property as a bachelor until 1937 when at a London society party, he met a Canadian actress **Claire Adams** (b 1896). They married three weeks later.

Prior to her marriage, Claire had moved to Hollywood and appeared in over 40 films including some with famous stars **Tom Mix** and **Lon Chaney**. Her first husband died in 1932, leaving her very wealthy.



In 1938 the couple came back to Victoria to live. They shared their time between a South Yarra townhouse and living at Mooramong. They travelled between their two homes in a Silver Ghost Rolls Royce.

**Hollywood changes**

Entertaining there often, Claire transformed the Mooramong homestead into what has been described as a “Moderne-style, jazz-age folly with Art-Deco cocktail bar, swimming pool, games room, and a bathroom reminiscent of a film star’s dressing room.”

The couple became involved with the local community where Donald was a Councillor of the Shire of Ripon, and where he and Claire were governors of the Skipton Hospital. He died in 1974 and his wife four years later. They had no children. Their ashes are buried at Mooramong.

After bequests to friends, family and animal-welfare bodies, Claire left the remainder of the estate, including Mooramong, to the National Trust of Victoria for “the creation of a wildlife sanctuary and flora and fauna park.” She also designated a sum of \$1 million to ensure its preservation.



*A portrait of Claire Mackinnon by John Woudstra*

At his Buninyong home, Alistair Stewart said that his family still felt close ties with Mooramong and visit it when the National Trust holds open days there.

“I felt quite emotional going to a screening of the documentary about the property right here in Buninyong recently,” he said.

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# Probus members told How to dress... and behave

**At the April meeting of the Buninyong Probus Club, Sovereign Hill volunteer Gail Sjogren entertained and enlightened members about the standards and complications of living in Australia in the Victorian era – especially for the ‘gentry’.**

With the British Empire having spread to all corners of the earth, Queen Victoria was determined to ‘civilise the colonies’. During this era what was worn was important because it denoted one’s level of society.

## Going potty

There were giggles as Gail ‘dressed’ a dummy in crotchless underwear. But, as she explained, for a woman the task of bundling up all the material in the dresses, especially while wearing a crinoline, to try to find a comfortable position over the ‘chamber pot’, left no free hands to deal with the underwear.

Ladies also had to cope with whalebone corsets which were first put on and tightened, then tightened again as their ribs gradually ‘moulded’ to the pressure, then tightened again. Occasionally babies died in the uterus because of a tight corset.

Wrists, elbows, knees, ankles and the backs of necks were covered so as ‘not to excite the gentlemen’, and open fires were

a constant danger for women dressed in wide crinolines.

## Men too

Standards and etiquette were also imposed on the gentlemen. No smoking was permitted in a room frequented by the ladies.

Gentlemen had to wear dark gloves during the day, but white or yellow in the evening - an ungloved hand was seen as a sign of inferior status. Calling cards were an essential part of life for the gentry.

However, during the gold rush period and the Eureka Rebellion in 1854, attitudes soon changed. With many husbands away chasing gold, women took over the male jobs - even running public houses.

## History

Gail grew up in Melbourne and moved to Ballarat with her family in 1981 to take up a position at Ballarat Grammar School. As a teacher of English and History she soon became fascinated by Ballarat’s rich history and, thanks to the Research



Department at Sovereign Hill, she discovered that her great-grandfather, **Solomon Shappere**, had migrated to Australia and thence to Ballarat in 1853.

## Retired

Soon after retiring, Gail joined the Friends of Sovereign Hill and now has been a member for twenty one years. Dressed as a refined lady of the 1850s, Gail meets and greets visitors there, strolls the streets, and does needlework in the *Charlie Napier Hotel* parlour where she chats to people from all over the world. She says that she enjoys it enormously.

Cassandra Carland



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## Two graffiti vandals nabbed

Two hoodie-clad teenagers spent the afternoon of 4 May wandering about Buninyong spraying graffiti on numerous buildings and then casually standing back and taking photographs of their work.

Buildings hit included the Town Hall, The Shared Table, the UFS Pharmacy, the Buninyong Veterinary Clinic and also the murals at the rear of the BP service station. At the UFS shop the pair even climbed into the roof of the veranda to spray their blue squiggles onto the see-through sheeting.

Their big mistake was when they walked across Learmonth Street and were recognised by a man who had previously given the pair some work experience, knew their names, and passed these to the police.

A police spokesman told *The News* that they were currently reviewing CCTV footage to link the pair to the vandalism before taking further action.

*Below: The blue graffiti scrawl on the front wall of the Town Hall*



## Rosebank residents evacuated here

**A bushfire, which for a time on 16 April was out of control in the Whitehorse Road area of Mt Clear, caused the evacuation of Rosebank Village and other local residents.**

The City of Ballarat quickly established a Relief Centre at the Buninyong Football Clubrooms with police and support staff present.

A police source said that the fire was started by young children who had been playing in the area for some days, had built a cubby house there, and lit a fire to cook some yabbies they had caught earlier. In the strong northerly winds the fire got out of control.

*Shown above are police and Council Relief staff at the football clubrooms assisting Rosebank residents.*

## Almost a grand

During the recent Red Cross Calling month, **Jenny Colvin** and **Helen Stephens** spent several Saturday mornings sitting outside of the BP Service station seeking donations.

They have reported that \$968 was raised, and they wish to thank locals and other passers-by for their generous support. Helen has assisted with this national appeal for the past thirty-eight years.

Funds raised go to help people and communities experiencing hardship in Australia and overseas, or to those affected by major disasters,

## ANZAC appeal record

This year's ANZAC Appeal which involved local RSL members putting in considerable time selling badges, wrist bands and other items raised \$4,400 which is a record amount.

All the monies raised by this appeal go towards the welfare and care of deserving veterans of the Australian Defence Forces.

**Bob Bennett** of the local RSL Sub-branch asked that community members be thanked for their support and also their attendance at the ANZAC Day ceremonies.

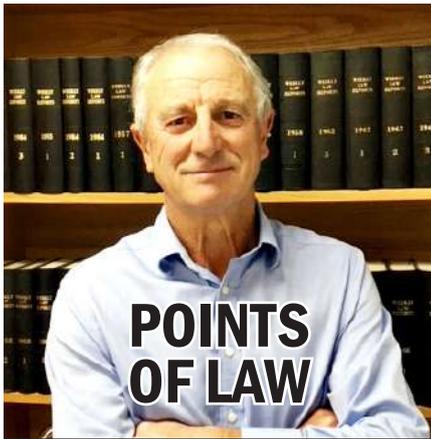


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## FOODWORKS

Buninyong



Local real estate agents report that there is a hot property market in Buninyong at present. Most residents will have been involved in the purchase or sale of a property, directly or indirectly in recent years.

The News legal writer Dean Cinque offers some general advice.

# Buying, selling property

## Selling

- Appoint an Estate Agent in writing to handle the sale or do it yourself. Remember that several agents can be appointed to work in conjunction.
- Appoint a lawyer to prepare a Vendors Statement (Section 32 Statement). This

- is a key document, and if it is defective could enable a purchaser to get out of a contract.
- A Contract of Sale is prepared once a buyer is found. But note that there is only one prescribed contract that can be used. Previously contract notes were used but these have been abolished. The contract should provide for all conditions of sale.
- A deposit can be released early to the owner if certain conditions have been met.

## Buying

- Buyers should always check the information in the Vendors Statement but in particular look for
  - details of a current title search
  - a zoning certificate from the Council
  - a VicRoads certificate
  - a rate certificate from the Council and the Water Authority
- In some circumstances it may be necessary to lodge a caveat to protect the buyer, but advice should be obtained first.
- Generally speaking, GST does not apply to residential premises. If your contract states that GST does apply on top of the purchase price, you should seek legal or accounting advice.

*The enclosed information is of necessity a brief overview and it is not intended that readers should rely wholly on the information contained herein. No warranty express or implied is given in respect of the information provided and accordingly no responsibility is taken by Cinque Oakley Senior Lawyers or Buninyong News for any error or omission within this article.*

## Town plan update

Council has advised the BDCA that they are “about to release the Buninyong Township Plan Background Paper for comment.” Council planner John Dyke said that it will be entered onto Council’s Buninyong Township mysay webpage for four weeks commencing in late May.

The report will be sent directly to stakeholders who have registered interest and are on the database.

Then in late June it is proposed to organise a ‘focus group’ session in an afternoon/early evening timeslot involving the range of community groups which have been part of the consultative process. A draft report and community consultation will follow in Q3, 2019.

The BDCA has a working party headed by Linda Zibell which continues to participate in and monitor developments with the township plan.

## New guide coming

Work on the fourth edition of the Buninyong Visitor Guide is starting soon. While previous editions have been a project of the Community Association (BDCA), the Buninyong Business Network will be collaborating with the BDCA on this one.

Suggestions for changes or additions are invited and will be considered. Some copies of the current edition are still available from the Buninyong Visitor Centre in the Old Library.

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AUTHORISED BY CATHERINE KING, 5 LYDIARD ST NTH BALLARAT 3350

# Four churches and the new minister



**Nothing... then wow!**

April's rainfall was a frail 18.7 mm, putting it in the driest ten percent of Aprils on record. It became the ninth month in the past year that scored less than average and joined the crush of arid months experienced in recent years.

The Buninyong district bore the dubious distinction of having both the opening and the closing fires of Victoria's long fire season, Scotsburn December 6 and Mount Clear April 16. All seemed like ruin, but then along came May!

May's rainfall will be celebrated in the next *Buninyong News* but already an astounding 134mm has fallen in the first ten days. The month opened with 44 mm, followed by the main event in the second week which bestowed 86 mm across two days.

While the timing might have been a bit out for some, this May will be remembered for full tanks and dams and strong pasture, crop and stock growth. "May the force be with it" indeed!

MAY 2019			
Date	Rain	Date	Rain
3	0.5	9-10	9.2
27	7.0	29	2.0
Total		18.7mm	
Average		52.4mm	

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why it was suggested. The Uniting Church likes to match their Ministers' interests with areas where there are vacancies and they decided that Buninyong was a good fit for Carlynn.

Her responsibilities also will cover the churches at Sebastopol, Meredith and Delacombe and she is greatly looking forward to getting to know people and to work in those communities.

Whilst she has great respect and love for the existing traditions in the Church, she also has lots of new ideas which she is keen put forward in due course.

**A new Minister was recently appointed to the Ballarat South Uniting Church which includes the Buninyong parish church on Learmonth Street.**

**Carlynn Nunn** took up her position in April, very soon after being ordained on 16 March 2019 at Brunswick Uniting Church. She was born in Queensland but moved to Adelaide with family when she was thirteen and then moved on to Melbourne twelve years later where she attended Melbourne University.

After completing a degree in Media and Communications she began training for the Ministry at *Pilgrim Theological College*. Her work in the community in and around Melbourne throughout those years has been impressive.

**Experiences**

She has worked as a receptionist at the Salvation Army, been a disability support worker, a community and outreach worker, a student house worker and she has also been involved with *Lentara UnitingCare*.

When asked what had brought her to Buninyong Carlynn didn't know exactly

Starting her first Ministry, she says, has seemed 'a little weird'. After having aspired to this for so many years, reality has set in and she sees it as an exciting challenge. With four churches to cover, Carlynn will be very busy, but we hope that she will still have time for her other interests and of course enjoying Buninyong's coffee.

**Singing**

Although she no longer belongs to a group, Carlynn loves singing. She also still travels to Melbourne to host *Tenx9*, a storytelling night practised around the world, where nine people have up to ten minutes each to tell a true story from their own lives.

Carlynn has much to offer our communities and we do hope that she will be very happy here.

If you see her around, please introduce yourself and give her a very warm Buninyong welcome.

*Rita Russell*



Looking after customers at the Op Shop are (L to R) volunteers Heather Wass and David Searl with Caz Cragill, a keen shopper who travelled from Ballan, and Daniel Birkett-Vipont from Buninyong

## On stage

A new addition to Buninyong Primary is a large outdoor stage. The stage is extremely popular during recess and lunch breaks and in years to come will no doubt be the venue for many school and community performances.

This is one of a number of initiatives that the school has undertaken to provide more creative and imaginative play options for the students, nicely complementing the PlayPod, chooks, cubby building area and lunch time clubs.

The stage was part funded through proceeds from the 2018 school concert, with the rest coming from the Bendigo Community Bank. The \$8,200 received from the bank is the latest of a long list of similar grants over the past eight years. The school thanks the bank for its generosity.

*Pictured with Randall Dreger from the Community Bank are Tilly Gordon, Dex Rizzoli, Rylan Vermeend, and Anna Oberholzer.*



# Lions love litter

Over the years the Buninyong Mount Helen Lions Club has raised many, many thousands of dollars for worthy causes in the district through special efforts and functions and its BBQ catering.

In recent years however, its funds have been greatly boosted by the success of the jam-packed second-hand bookshop situated in the old Mavis Bath cottage in Warrenheip Street. From late April 2019 another venture seems set to add to the Lions Club income.

### Generous

This is the Op Shop, quaintly named *Lions Litter*, situated in that little building at the corner of Warrenheip and Barkly Streets, Buninyong. The building has been made available through the generosity of Neil Vagg.

Already the shop has a good range of used clothing, bric-a-brac, jewellery, toys, games, manchester, kitchenware, shoes and DVDs, and all are at bargain prices – many at just \$1 per item.

Plans are also afoot to start propagating and selling plants.

Volunteer **Heather Wass** said that she hopes that it will “turn into a community hub where it will be lovely for people to wander in and just have a chat.”

Of course the operation of the shop puts yet another big call on the time of Lions’ members and friends to staff the shop which is open between 10.00am and 2.00pm on Fridays and Saturdays. Among the volunteers already are **Ian and Barbara Voight, David Searl, David and Karen Page, and Ondria Cheeseman.**

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# Ethel's lifetime of yodelling

Having a chat to long-time Buninyong resident Ethel Lillis (nee Ferguson) was like having a wander through years of local history. We started around 1950 when Ethel's dad heard her singing outside one day and said 'come inside and let your mother hear you'. Ethel was yodelling!

No great surprise there because Ethel's father was a yodeller and so she was carrying on the family tradition.

Apparently yodelling is not just for 'lonely goatherds'! In fact, references to yodelling can be found as early as AD397, made by Emperor Julian of Rome. The basic yodel requires sudden alterations of vocal register from a low-pitched chest voice to high falsetto tones and Ethel explained that the different types of yodels relate to how the tongue and tonsils work.

## Career

What her Dad heard was the start of a long (mostly unpaid) yodelling career. After Ethel moved to Buninyong in 1950, local identity **Mavis Bath** heard her and hired a costume for her from **'Wavy' Williams** who organised 'pantos' in Ballarat.

Local yodeller **Mick Antonio** helped her to start performing at concerts, sometimes singing with her brother **Bill**. She won a Talent Quest singing *He Taught Me How to Yodel* and received

two pounds. Back then **Terry Dear** was running *The Amateur Hour* on Thursday nights at the old Alfred Hall on the corner of Curtis and Grenville Streets, Ballarat.

For about ten years all without charge, Ethel continued to perform at various charity appeals – for the Base Hospital, Queen Elizabeth Home, Ballarat District Ambulance, and the Ballarat Orphanage.

## Husband

Then in February 1956, at an audition at 3BA for *Australia's Amateur Hour*, Ethel met her future husband **Pat**. As Ethel puts it: "he liked what he heard and what he saw" and so he came to the Banjo Club in Grenville Street where Ethel was teaching (it is now the Eastern Rug Co), and as they say 'the rest is history'. They married in 1961.



(Top) Ethel and husband Pat at a district concert around 1958  
(Lower) Ethel still showed her talent for *The News* reporter

considering Ethel was earning 25 shillings for three hours at work.

Ethel played banjo and guitar. The wire strings made the fingers very sore and when Ethel showed me her fingertips the absence of fingerprints was obvious.

## Travel

They travelled extensively to Ascot, Clunes, Creswick, Daylesford, Dunnstown, Skipton, Linton Wallace, Rokewood, even ending up in Colac one night singing off the back of a truck.

They loved it. Three of their favourite places were Lexton, Ascot and Rokewood – at these places the suppers of homemade cooking, sponge cakes and cream puffs made the trip there worthwhile.

As we finished our chat together Ethel, now aged 83, brought out her guitar and some of the costumes made for her by a dressmaker and entertained with a sample of her yodelling. Aaahhh – for the good old days!

Cassandra Carland



Theirs was a good musical partnership; They won the *Hillbilly Championship* at the Civic Hall in 1958 - prize 25 guineas each which was a lot,



Buninyong's Scratch Pennant Championship team (L to R) Brett Tolliday, Daniel Staples, Craig Thatcher (Captain), Mick Innes, Chris Tatt, Nick Haintz.

# HAT TRICK TO TOP GOLFERS

The Buninyong Golf Club's Men's Division One Pennant Team proved that their wins in 2017 and 2018 were no flukes when they comprehensively won the Ballarat and District Golf Association's pennant title for 2019.

They defeated Midlands by five matches to two. Playing at home over 36 holes, they were too good for the Midlands team with standouts, **Daniel Staples** and **Craig Thatcher** both winning their matches 10/8. This score means that these golfers won each of the first ten holes against their opponents.

**Mick Innes** and **Kelly Lyle** also had comfortable wins, and **Chris Tatt** battled hard all day in a close tussle to finish one up. **Brett Tolliday** went down to Midland's top player, **Craig Boucher** and **Nick Haintz** fought back after a slow start but couldn't quite get over the line in front.

The Seniors' Pennant title was also won by Buninyong. The veteran team of **Ian Corcoran**, **Col Savage**, **David Beggs**, **Gary Tolliday** and **Rob Spiers** defeated Midlands 4-1

In other divisions, the Buninyong Division 2 team was unlucky to lose in a cliff-hanger

to Ballarat - four matches to three. **Matt McCann** went close to putting his team in front in the final match. He reeled in his opponent over the last three holes to tie the game after 18 holes but lost the match at the first extra hole when his opponent holed a long put for an eagle.

Buninyong's various pennant victories came from a competition which included teams from the Ballarat GC, Midlands, Creswick, Mt Xavier, Maryborough, Chalambar (Ararat), Ballan, Bacchus Marsh, Hepburn and Rokewood.

Ray Sullivan

## Brown Hill cricketers 50 years on

A few weeks ago the Ballarat Courier ran a feature on the fifty year anniversary of the 1968-69 cricket premiership won by the Brown Hill Cricket Club.

Shown right is a cutting from *The Courier* featuring Buninyong identities News' sports reporter **Ray Sullivan** and past-President of the Buninyong Golf Club **Trevor McCann**, reportedly a 'demon fast bowler' in his prime.



# Zoe's now a Rebel

Buninyong Foodworks has sponsored local girl Zoe Denahy, 18, now playing for the Greater Western Victorian Rebels NAB League Girls team this year.

The NAB League is the AFL's competition for the most talented junior male and female footballers across Victoria and is the pathway to the AFL and AFLW.

Rebels' Talent Manager **Phil Partington** said that Zoe has been an enthusiastic player for the GWV Rebels in her games this year and is improving with each game that she plays.

*Buninyong Foodworks* together with all their shoppers wish Zoe well in pursuing the opportunity to be selected into the AFLW in the future.



# John Ciezki wins Vets golf double

Buninyong veteran golfer, John Ciezki, 66, has been in hot form over the last two weeks. He recently won the Ballarat and District Veteran's Championship at Buninyong, and followed it up two weeks later by taking out the Victorian Veterans Country Championship title held over two days at Midlands Golf Club.

Ciezki played consistent golf over two rounds to win the diistrict Veterans title by four shots from another Buninyong golfer **Alan Jones**.

At Midlands, his rounds of 73 and 78 were good enough to put him in a tie for first place. Ceizki was then steady in the play-off, winning at the fourth hole.

These wins came after he won the Australian Veterans' Championship in three consecutive years (2102-2014) at courses in Victoria, the ACT and in Perth.

*John Ciezki receives his Veteran's Championship trophy from Buninyong Community Bank Manager Randall Dreger.*

Applications are now open for the



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Priority will be given to applications that benefit communities in the catchment area of the Lal Lal Wind Farms.

**Would you like more information?**

For further information about the Lal Lal Wind Farms Community Benefit Fund please visit our website or contact us.

Applications close on 19 June 2019

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# Clarendon

On the Midland Highway, 20 km south of Ballarat, the rural village of Clarendon was surveyed in 1858 to serve the traffic to and from the goldfields. In 1865 the population was 700. At the time of the 2016 Census the population was 145.

Originally it was known as Corduroy Bridge, named after the crossing made of planks over Williamsons Creek.

Clarendon was later named after the British Foreign Minister, the Earl of Clarendon.

In its heyday there were two hotels, the Clarendon and the Corduroy, a store, three churches and a State School which closed in 1993. The nearest railway station was three kilometres away at Lal Lal.

## After fires, Clarendon district gets

# JOY FROM NEW CENTRE

Over 60 locals and guests attended the official opening of the new spacious Clarendon Community Centre by Cr Paul Tatchell of the Moorabool Shire on 16 March 2019.

He spoke of how the 2015 Scotsburn fire was a catalyst to supporting the masterplan and providing an injection of funding, enabling residents to once again have a local meeting place.

### Old hall

The original Clarendon hall was located on the Midland Highway next to the Catholic Church in the centre of Clarendon. Sadly, the hall closed in the early 1990s, leaving Clarendon without any form of community space in which residents could gather.

It was a warm and sunny morning that marked a new era for the Clarendon community. Assisting Cr Tatchell on the day with the official ribbon cutting ceremony was **Brett Boatman**, CFA operations Manager OIC, Grampians

Region, and **John Rofe** Regional Manager, Forest & Fire Planning, Grampians Region FFMVic.

### Support

It was most fitting that Paul, Brett and John had this special role on the day, as they had been pivotal in their support of the community during the 2015 Bushfire and in the recovery phase.

The Clarendon Recreation Reserve Committee of Management has overseen the original building project of the Centre and worked tirelessly with the planning and preparation of the site. The committee acknowledges the great support they have received.

### Funding

The Buninyong & District Community Bank Branch provided \$5875 from its *Community Investment Fund* and \$1941 from the *Scotsburn Fire Appeal*. This supported the funds already received from Lal Lal Wind Farm (\$4577), \$33,096 from

the sale of the old Clarendon hall and \$300,000 from Emergency Management Victoria.

In-kind support from the Clarendon Recreation Reserve Committee, local trades and community members has been invaluable, ensuring this wonderful building and its grounds can be enjoyed by all.

The Committee of Management has already hosted a few events and welcomes bookings from the community. The Centre is bright and appealing with a large fully equipped kitchen, meeting room and spacious entertainment area, furnished with tables and chairs.

It is a great venue for dinners, large events, meetings and special interest groups. For bookings, please email [crrcom2@gmail.com](mailto:crrcom2@gmail.com).

*Above: The ribbon cutting ceremony at the new centre was carried out by (L to R) John Rofe, Cr Paul Tatchell and Brett Boatman*