



Buninyong & District Community NEWS

Edition 457, March 2019

Schools report a busy start to year

Ninety-three new preparatory grade students, seven new teachers, new holiday programs, new carpets in some classrooms, fresh paint on the exterior, a new kitchen, and even a new timber stage in the playground all contributed to an excited buzz at Buninyong Primary School at the start of the 2019 school year.

New day-long Christmas vacation care programs proved to be a great success. The team leader for these was a student teacher, **Liam Rigby**, well-known in local sporting circles. Principal **Bernie Conlan** said that linked to this program a new kitchen has been installed in the gymnasium to provide meals for participants.

The new stage in the lower playground, assisted by an \$8000 grant from the Buninyong Community Bank, is

used for student play, assemblies and performances.

New teachers are to be found at all Grade levels. These are **Kate McKenzie** (Prep), **Kirsty Nankivell** (Grade 2), **Derick Micallef** (Grade 3), **Celeste Vermeend** (Grade 4), **Chelsea Connor** (Grade 5) and **Louise Marr** (Grade 6). Another new teacher **Liz Morgan** will become a 'Scotsburn Campus' specialist.

Staff

For 2019, the school has a total of 40 teaching staff and ten support staff. Of these, three teachers are at the Scotsburn campus

Principal **Bernie Conlan** said that with the graduation of a very large Grade Six group (112 students) in 2018, enrolment numbers had now levelled out at 686 pupils. This year there are 88 students in Grade 6.

Other schools

It was also an exciting start to the 2019 school year at the Steiner School where enrolments have increased from 87 students in 2018 to 97. There are also 30 children enrolled at Kindergarten level. The school is looking forward to the opening of the new \$1.2 million multi-purpose building in June.

Emmas Catholic Primary School reported that its enrolment numbers were now at 360.

Acting-Principal of the Lal Lal school, Ms **Siobahn Gosney**, told *The News* that the school's 2019 enrolment was steady with 43 pupils including five new Preps.

At the Buninyong School, new Grade 2 teacher Kirsty Nankivall who has joined the staff after three years teaching at Naracoorte, chats with Principal Bernie Conlan.

WINDFARM GRANT GIVES BOOST TO LIONS' PROJECT

When the Buninyong Mt Helen Lions Club was approached by Mark Jones, Nurse Manager at the Talbot Place Aged Care Facility, for assistance with the purchase of a key piece of care equipment, the Club's available funds could not meet the projected cost of more than \$6,000.

The item sought was an electric-operated adjustable shower-toilet chair needed to assist with the care needs of the 30 residents who required full nursing assistance for all aspects of daily living and hygiene.

However a chance comment by Lions' Club Treasurer **Simon Jess** speaking to a staff member at *Powershop*, owners of the nearby *Mt Mercer Wind Farm* and the supplier of gas and electricity to the Lions Club bookshop, triggered off a response that he described as "amazing."

Action

Buninyong resident and Operations Manager of the *Mt Mercer Wind Farm*, **Gus Holcombe**, swung into action and within a few days the Lions Club received a letter from the company's **Shaun Coffey** offering a donation of \$3,000 from *Powershop* to assist with the project.

Mr Coffey said that *Powershop* had made other grants to local community groups such as sporting clubs and festivals, and had assisted in the purchase of the community-access defibrillator located at the Buninyong Newsagency and another at the Napoleons Primary School.

The chair was handed over by Lions Club President, **Gary White**, and **Simon Jess** to Talbot Place staff and residents in early February and already has proved of great assistance in nursing care at the centre.

Other project update

Over recent years *The News* has run several stories on the assistance given by the Buninyong Mt Helen Lions Club to the Shorter family of



(From Left) Gary White (President, Lions Club), Wendy McCann, Talbot Place resident Faith, Jennie Jess, Shaun Coffey (Mt Mercer Windfarms) and Simon Jess (Lions Club)

Mt Clear whose three sons suffer from Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy Disease (DMD).

As the children grow older the impact of the terminal disease becomes greater, and now the eldest son Max, nine years, is suffering from increasing difficulty with muscle strength and flexibility.

In mid-2017, the local and district Lions' Clubs raised some \$30,000 to have a hydrotherapy pool installed in the backyard of the Mt Clear home.

Now the parents have written to the Club again thanking and updating them on the importance of the pool which they described as having been of "amazing benefit" to the children.

"While the boys think they are having fun in the pool, the swimming is helping with their muscle flexibility and strength. It also means that a hydrotherapist can come to our home, instead of us having to take the boys to the public therapy pool," the Shorter parents wrote.



The Shorter children names (L to R) William,8, Max, Hudson,5, and Sophia, 4 are making great use of the hydrotherapy pool



Foodworks' owners Alison and Trevor Rickards' big investment in solar and back-up power is now paying dividends keeping the store open and eliminating stock loss when power fails in the area

Foodworks' move beats big blackout

When power to Buninyong was off for some five hours in 40° plus degree heatwave on Friday 25 January, Buninyong Foodworks' store stayed open on full operating power throughout the severe blackout which hit many district homes and businesses very hard.

In July 2018, owners **Trevor and Alison Rickard** had installed a 110KVA Cummins diesel generator to protect them from an episode such as the late-January one. Alison said that the compact generator, located at the rear of the store, "kicks in within a few seconds of a power failure."

Impact

She said that while the food in the well-insulated store would not be impacted for many hours without power, "it used to be not just the length of any blackout that hurt the business in terms of spoiled food, but also in wages which still had to be paid, and uncertainty about when staff might be required or recalled that resulted in considerable loss."

In mid-2016 the store also had installed 220 solar panels on the roof which now also are reducing Foodworks' monthly power bills by some thirty per cent and, according to the energy supply company, results in an offset saving of some 200 trees in that period.

'Staff impact biggest blackout problem'

The solar system is not connected to a battery as 100 per cent of the energy generated is fed into the store's power usage. There is no excess energy to feed to and store in a battery.

So should another power failure occur in the area, community members can be assured that, thanks to the new generator, the Buninyong Foodworks store will be certainly be open for business (and cool).

streettalk

NOT GUILTY. Recently a young employee at the local BP servo reported to the boss that a man had come in, bought some newspapers, and drove off without paying for a fill of petrol. Said it was an "old bloke in white car, and who looked like the man who delivers the local newspapers to us." Of course, boss RD couldn't wait to call *The News* to check on the Editor's whereabouts.

But, at the time of the 'crime,' the hapless Editor had been in at the QEH doing a photo/story for the Lions Club. After a review of the CCTV tapes the bloke was found to be driving a different white car. While young staff member was very apologetic, Ronnie thought it was a hell of a joke!!

NEW OWNERS FOR CHILD

CARE CENTRE. New owners have taken over the child care centre in the old Buninyong Shire Offices. At the coal face, current staff will continue.

KINDNESS. On that excessively hot day in January a local mum took her kids out to the park, and then on down to Foodworks to buy some cool drinks. While the store's power back-up was working well, it somehow couldn't cope with the mum's attempt to use *Paywave* on her mobile phone.

The lady in front of mum, Melinda, saw her problem and insisted on paying for the drinks. Melinda told *The News* that she was "so grateful to this lady, and that we live in such a beautiful community with people like this."

NEW JOB. Former local Upper House MP, **Josh Morris**, has bobbed up in a role at the Liberal Party HQ working with the party's communications boss.

CLOSE. Seems the Learmonth Street land deal between the CFA and the Golf Club is almost over the line.

Council's inaction, landlords lead to street's slow death

It's now been over three years since Council staff prepared a plan for a major upgrade to Buninyong's key business strip along Warrenheip Street. While accepting that some elements of the plans would require more community discussion, *The News* has praised the general concept in several editorials and news items.

But here we are again in the lead up to Council's assembling its 2019 - 2020 Budget without any sign from administration or our various local or State-elected officials that some serious action on Warrenheip Street might be coming or expected.

In the meantime, amidst the wall-to-wall *For Lease* signs

- the number of empty shops/businesses has risen to five (out of a total of twelve).
- the business-hurting car parking squeeze created by that massive PTV bus stop is still in place
- missing trees have not been replaced
- that sloping, trip-inducing nature strip with protruding tree roots has not been touched
- the massive VicRoads green sign outside of the community bank is still in place creating a visual block to and detracting from the amenity of the area
- the old kerb and guttering is often full of leaves and, at times, litter

- the clutter of public items – seat, bike rack, bins, phone box, post boxes – remain in place where a paved piazza has been called and planned for
- the concrete footpath along the Forest Street-Eyre Street block is uneven and lacks any visual appeal
- VicRoads' faded painted centre-road lines do nothing to prevent dangerous and illegal U-turns, and
- yet another business is on the market

The other element in this worrying scene on Warrenheip Street is the role seemingly played by absentee landlords.

For example, six months ago one popular and successful local business found it much easier and cheaper to rent a shop in a prominent position in central Ballarat than to renew the lease, with jacked-up outlays at his former base in the centre of Buninyong. This may also be the case in other shop vacancies along the strip.

This has become a critical issue for Buninyong, affecting business, tourism, and township amenity and well-being. Our two major community bodies – the BDCA and the Business Network - must get the gloves off and get into joint heavy lobby mode on this project right now before any more businesses shut up shop.

And it's certainly time for our three South Ward Councillors to speak out loudly, stand up and be counted on this one!



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

Published monthly

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

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Printed by Baxter and Stubbs, Ballarat.

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

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The day the Town Hall was draped in black

Tom's proud of his family

This is the first of a new series of articles written by pupils of local primary schools. The series is being co-ordinated by *The News* reporter Rita Russell.



Tom Ross shows his father (centre) and school Deputy Principal David Young the Hedrick name on the old store in Learmonth Street.

Running deep in my family history is a man by the name of Peter Hedrick. His main claim to fame was being the first Mayor of Buninyong. But Peter had more than this one claim to help make Buninyong what it is today.

Peter was born on 29 August 1834 in Longfold, Scotland. He spent his childhood in Scotland before moving in 1853 to Buninyong at the age of nineteen. With his brother, Peter opened a store, one of the earliest in the village of Buninyong. It served as a supply store for the diggers on the Ballarat goldfields.

In 1864 Peter married **Arabella**, the daughter of the owner of the Crown Hotel in Buninyong. Together they raised 11 children – five girls and six boys.

Worker

Peter worked hard to serve the community and was a member of many local organisations including the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was the Treasurer and Trustee of Buninyong Reserve, and a member of the Ballarat Mining Board.

In 1859 Peter signed the petition for Buninyong to have a local council. In 1863 his wish came true and he was voted in as the first Mayor of Buninyong Borough,

a role he held for three years and then continued on as councillor for 40 more years. During this time he took over as Mayor several times.

On 18 September 1896 Peter passed away after a long illness. He was so dedicated to supporting the less fortunate members of the community that his family was not well catered for after his departure.

Support

The town folk raised money to support Arabella and the children and his community service was so great that, on the day he died in 1896, they draped a black sheet over the Buninyong Town Hall. Peter is buried at the Buninyong Cemetery.

Although Peter was my distant relative there are many reminders of his influence on our family and the township of Buninyong.

There is a street named after the Hedrick family, his name still appears on the façade above his store and his picture is proudly hung in the Town Hall and at the Information Centre.

As I researched and wrote this article a sense of pride came over me, to feel that my family has had a major influence over how Buninyong has developed as a township and community. I have learnt that persistence and compassion are major keys to success, just like my great, great, great grandfather showed all those years ago to help make Buninyong what it is today.

These values are cornerstones of our Buninyong Primary School values. I guess some things will never change.

*Thomas Ross, aged 11, Grade 6,
Buninyong Primary School*

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Stressed, depressed, anxious...or bored

Maybe art can help

Trudy Nicholson taught art in local schools for over 27 years and, as she puts it, 'then the old chook retired from teaching' and opened the **Zuni Art Gallery** (now a private home) in Warrenheip Street, Buninyong to show her own works.

A successful artist in her own right, Trudy recently gained First Prize in Landscape/ Seascape and Second Prize in the Portraiture Section at the Ballarat Society of Artists Annual Art Exhibition.

Now Trudy offers art lessons for adults, and separate lessons for upper Primary and lower Secondary students. While she uses all mediums except oil, pastels are her favourite.

Visit

When the *The News* called in to some art classes recently, the seven budding artists present were using charcoal and working with a variety of leaves which they had brought from home. They were learning to 'colour code' the shades of green and dark and light in the leaves.



Veteran artists Lois and Doris find art a fun experience

Their next step was to compose their picture so that the leaves at the front might be lighter and the darker leaves will be further back.

For many people, art is an important factor in their lives and evidence confirms that our species has made art from the very beginning. But why? Initially to convey information perhaps.

Impact

Now, however, the positive effects of art are well-researched. Various studies have identified that art-making reduces stress depression and anxiety; it can increase self-esteem and socialisation; it reduces boredom and stimulates the imagination.

Further it has been shown to improve connections throughout the brain.

Even doodling can lead to better attention when listening to something boring; and older adults who create art reported higher cognitive functioning.

And after all that...it's enjoyable! Trudy's lessons are in the Uniting Church Hall, entrance in 305 Scott Street, Buninyong.

The cost is \$25 per two hour session with all materials provided.

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Searing heat, wind squalls, fires, no rain, and blackouts

..... that was summertime in Buninyong

As detailed in Ernie Neale's column (right), summertime in Buninyong has been one of extremes – almost no rain and scorching record temperatures. Most will remember 25 January when the temperature hit 41° bringing widespread power outages, to be followed on 30 January with 80kph wind squalls and 13 mm of rain in some parts of the district



Shown above is a huge (and completely hollow) giant gum that came crashing down on the edge of the ninth fairway at the Buninyong Golf Club. *The News'* **Ray Sullivan** shows the size of the tree's girth.

Below is a Buninyong CFA crew on standby at the station on 3 February while another local crew was out at Hepburn battling fires there in the 39° heat. Pictured L to R Crew members **Gareth Smith, Brian Turner, Peter Ryan, Andrew Cook, Allister Uilyatt**



Ernie Neale's Monthly RAINFALL REPORT

JANUARY dry, dry, dry

Weather observations gathered over many decades deliver the classic bell-shaped curve. January 2019 has taken us to the outer limits of the distribution - down to the dry end of the scale, and up to the heat edge.

Rainfall for January was 8mm, 6mm of which fell at the end of the month. This put it in the driest 10 per cent of recorded Januarys and makes it three in the last ten years near the bottom end of the scale. Our recent January average was 40.7mm.

This January was the driest since the deadly January of 2009, the precursor of the fires that burnt through the heart of the state, killing 173 people. This year, thankfully, we didn't have the roaring hot northerlies.

Air temperatures reached high extremes. Ballarat's average January maximum was 31.2°, smashing the previous hottest of 29.1° and the long-term average of 25.5°. Twenty-five days exceeded the average. We also suffered our hottest night on record just before Australia Day, when overnight temperatures lolled around 30°.

So, the driest Spring on record has now been followed by the hottest January on record – both pushing 150+ year old boundaries. BOM projections are for ongoing dryer than average conditions. What do you make of it?

JANUARY 2019			
Date	Rain	Date	Rain
18	2.0	31	6.0
Total		8.0mm	
Jan 2018		35.6mm	

New owner opens historic gardens

After a significant upgrade to the historic house and garden that had been nurtured by the Fisken family for decades, the *Lal Lal Estate* garden was again recently open to the public.

New owner **Mr Qingnan Wen** and his family are keen to preserve the property's heritage and to broaden its accessibility for larger public and private events.

While preserving the relationship of the house and garden to the lake, landscape designer **Jennifer Clancy**, has significantly revamped the garden area.

Oak tree

The significant heritage *English Oak* tree beside the house has been surrounded by a splendid mixed border of herbaceous perennials and exotic shrubs that adds

colour, form and scent to the peaceful shady lawn under its venerable branches.

Rabbits are a continuing problem with a fencing program underway, and it has been useful to learn which plants they won't devour (*Hellebores, Cliveas, Euphorbias*) and the species they will (*Anthemis, Correas, Hebes, Nepeta and roses*)!

Old wall

The original *ha ha wall* has been extended to both preserve the views of the lake whilst ensuring that livestock from this extensive farm do not encroach on the garden.

Current plantings include *Chinese Elms, Japanese* and *Bechtal Crabapples* as well as *Magnolias, Manchurian Pear* and *Pistachio* trees. Further structural upgrades to the garden will feature the bridge and waterfall area with the peaceful sound of running water.



Landscape Designer, Jennifer Clancy (right), discusses her choice of plants with local garden enthusiast Jill Salathiel.

Russell Luckock

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Tom Robinson at the massive mixing console at the Homestead Studios

Father & son team are now Setting records at old winery

A traditional image of a major sound recording studio is one set up inside some huge red-brick former shoe factory in Fitzroy or Collingwood. But regional Victoria's major studio is now located near Buninyong in a purpose-designed building on a 20 acre property with views across rolling hills to Ballarat city in the distance.

The **Robinson** family moved from Melbourne in 2011 to the Mount Helen property, formerly the home of the *Whitehorse Winery*, and father **John** and son **Tom** soon set about the planning of their professional sound recording studio.

Both are accomplished musicians – John is a double bass player, and 29 year old Tom plays guitar and piano. Now retired, John operated a recording studio in Adelaide “many years ago” and then mixed roles as a government economist with being a professional musician.

After completing his schooling at St Michael's Grammar, St Kilda, Tom moved to the Victorian College of the Arts to study guitar, before progressing to the SAE Institute where he studied the technical and creative elements of acoustics, mixing and sound engineering and recording. This cutting-edge media institute has campuses in many countries.

2017 Opening

After several years of design and construction work by the father and son team, the *Homestead Recording Studio* commenced operation in 2017.

The carefully-designed and purpose-built complex includes a large 60m² 'live space' and an adjoining state-of-the-art control room equipped with the latest high tech mixing console, amplification and monitoring systems that is at least the equal of any other in major theatres or studios in Australia.

Well known live bands such as *Haunted Leroy*, *The Backburners* and *Mount Defiance* have recorded at the studio. Tom said that the members of the bands really enjoyed coming to the *Homestead Studio* because after long recording sessions they can wander down the hill and through his mother **Debra's** beautiful gardens, pick a few apples, and enjoy a “beautiful wholesome experience.” Then they can sleepover in a large tent adjacent to the studio. “It's a lot more relaxed than other studios,” he said.

Tom presently is involved in five major studio projects ranging from full albums, to voice-over work and other commercials.

He also takes on 'live sound' work at places like *The Hepburn Palais*, and Ballarat's *The Lost Ones* in Camp Street. He is an accomplished soccer player, and also enjoys dabbling in painting in acrylics. The website www.homesteadstudio.com.au provides more information.

Inaugural Bended Knee Roots Music Festival : 29-30 March

When blues, bluegrass, Celtic ...and bagpipes come to town

The inaugural *Bended Knee Music Festival* at various venues around down-town Buninyong on 29 and 30 March will be a dynamic and exciting new celebration of roots music. It seems certain to be one of the biggest and best music events ever held here. The program is designed to energise, to entertain and to provide musical learning and appreciation opportunities.

If you've ever dreamed of playing the fiddle, learning to play the harmonica or

dancing at a bush dance with your family then here is your chance!

Fun launch

On the night of Friday 29 March, the festival will be launched with a good old-fashioned family-friendly bush dance.

Captain Accordion and Men o' the Hill will have crowds *do-si-doing* around the Buninyong Town Hall from 6.30pm.

On Saturday 30 March from 11am to 9pm the Festival will have music to be enjoyed on several stages around town. The talent

of some of the region's finest musicians will be showcased on stages inside the Uniting Church grounds, at the Buninyong Town Hall, Netherby (Warrenheip Street) and at the Anglican Church. There's also a range of exciting workshop such as ones teaching and showing how to play the harmonica, fiddle and banjo.

Acts galore

Popular regional acts such as *Arkie T. Williams, Blue Limit, The Infusers, Simon Carroll, Paige & The Vinleys, The Boondockers, Hardies Hillbillies, Geoff Jones, Mick Trembath, Djanjo Fretts, Sean Kenan & Geoff McArthur and Barry James Gilson*, will delight crowds with performances ranging from Celtic to Bluegrass, bagpipes to blues, and many more styles.

The Community Stage in the Buninyong Town Hall will also have Devonshire Teas for sale and will feature free entertainment from local community groups, schools and buskers. There will be plenty of food trucks and craft market stalls to check out.

For more information and tickets, please see the Buninyong Festival website or the Facebook page – www.buninyongfestival.com.au/festival-information. Check out the big advertisement on page 19 of this edition.



The Hardies Hillbillies will be on stage at the festival (L to R) Tanya Wiggins, Martin Scuffins, Talia Barrett, Geoff McArthur.

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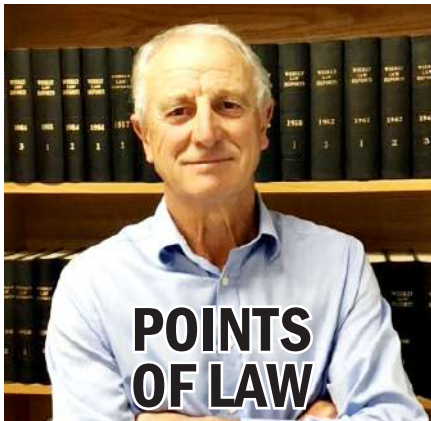
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Stories of home foreclosures, businesses going bust, and rising personal debt are becoming all too common. This column gives some basic information about bankruptcy.

Two sides to bankruptcy

There are two main purposes of bankruptcy - to give the bankrupt a fresh start by wiping out most of the debts, and to fairly distribute the bankrupt's assets to creditors.

A person can become bankrupt in three ways

- by voluntarily declaring bankruptcy;
- by being forced into bankruptcy by a creditor; or
- upon death, by the Executors of an Estate.

The advantages of bankruptcy are that, with some exceptions, no one is able to take any court action to recover money owed. Income up to \$55,463 of the bankrupt is protected and cannot be used to pay debts. The bankrupt's household furniture, a basic motor vehicle, and tools of trade are also protected.

Disadvantages

However bankruptcy, which lasts for three years, has many disadvantages including

- difficulty in obtaining credit;
- any jointly owned assets such as bank accounts and property can be divided, and this normally means that the family home would need to be sold;
- certain types of employment are not open to bankrupts;
- a bankrupt cannot be a Director of a company or Trustee of a Superannuation Fund;
- they may be required to surrender their passport and must seek permission to leave Australia;
- it is socially embarrassing.

Claw Back

Another point to consider is that any gifts or transfer of property in the five years prior to bankruptcy will be investigated and may be clawed back. Under ordinary circumstances, bankruptcy is the last option to consider and advice should be sought from an independent financial counsellor or a lawyer. *Dean A. Cinque*

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Move over J K Rowling Bethany starts her book series

Buninyong has its own answer to J K Rowling – a twelve year old pupil at Buninyong Primary School! Bethany Willow Opie is an award-winning Australian children’s author and has just published her first novel, *Zalzo*.

Bethany’s goal to have a book of her own on a shelf in a library started when she was just three years old and she began inserting her own illegible hand-crafted books onto the shelves of public libraries.

Awards

At home she was surrounded by books from a very early age and, according to her parents, always had a very vivid imagination! Her first writing award was for her short story *Farmers, Plants and Animals* in the *Laura Literary Awards* in South Australia when she was just six years old. Since then she has won many more awards and has had her work published in *Write 4 Fun*.

Bethany began writing *Zalzo* and the *Calastia* series when she was ten years old after being inspired by a school creative writing topic about a new form of transport. She thought of sound travel and so began the eighteen month journey

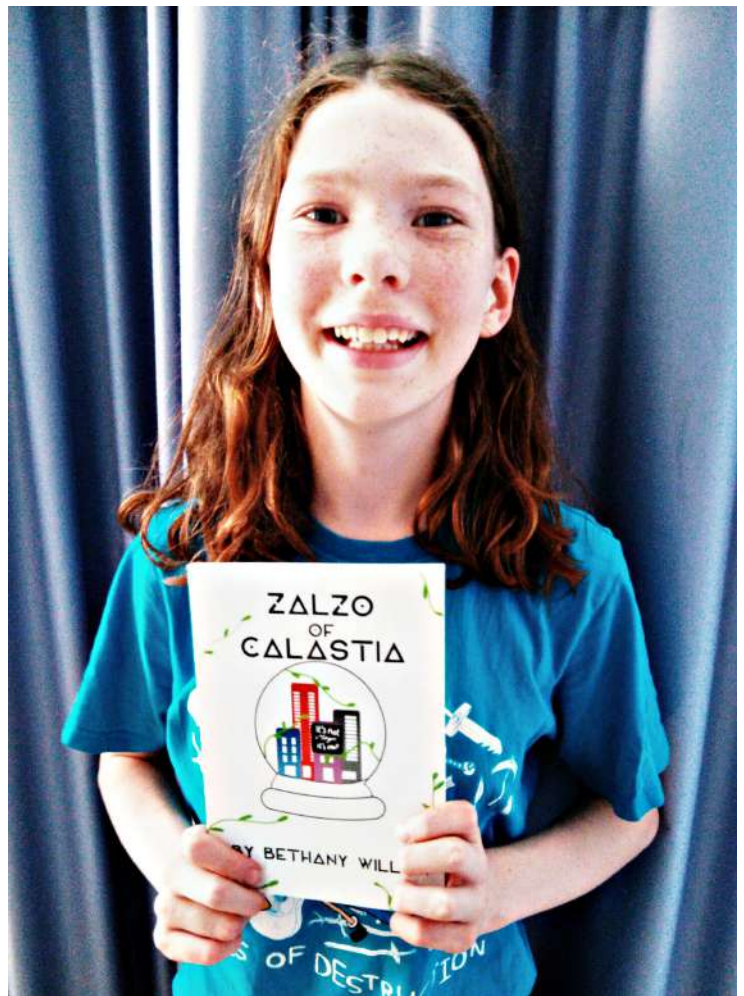
of writing the futuristic story of *Zalzo*.

The story fast forwards to 4017, and as well as sound travel having just been invented, the book also introduces us to futuristic beds, schools with AI teacher robots, a plant museum and a world without animals. Bethany is aiming for three books in the series but could write more if they prove popular.

Interests

You would think that Bethany would be looking towards a career in writing, but at the moment, her interests also lie in teaching and being a biologist!

Writing is not Bethany’s only hobby. As well as reading books by her favourite authors,



David Williams, Andy Griffiths and of course, **J K Rowling**, Bethany and a group of friends have written their own short computer game programmes which they play together.

Bethany is continuing her studies at Mt Clear College where she hopes to develop her writing skills still further. We will be waiting for more news of her writing successes with great interest.

Rita Russell

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Catherine King MP
Federal Member for Ballarat

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AUTHORISED BY CATHERINE KING, 5 LYDIARD ST NTH BALLARAT 3350

BABBA show rocks crowd



In 1994 a plot was hatched in a pub in Richmond, Victoria, to create the best ABBA tribute band in Australia. Now, 25 years on, BABBA is still wowing crowds across the length and breadth of the country with their sparkling re-creation of the 1970s Swedish super group.

A few weeks ago it was Buninyong's turn to welcome the group and the 230 diners and about 50 'stand-up' guests packed the upstairs venue at the Buninyong Golf Club to listen to the music, dance and enjoy a great two course meal.

Golf Club President **Ron Delaland** said it was exciting to see the club's theatre style venue again becoming a 'go-to' place for local live entertainment.

"That was a great show and a great turnout," he said.

For two hours, Benny, Bjorn, Agnetha and Frida and the incredible legacy they gave the world captured the local audience who sang along and danced with enthusiasm.

The band's key musicians, Michael Ingvarson (Benny) on keyboards, James McDonald (Bjorn) on guitar, and Paul Edsall (drummer) have been there since day one, and while the characters of Agnetha and Frida have seen some changes, the heart and soul of the band with the amazing songs of ABBA, has continued.

From the glitz and glamour of the costumes and dance moves, all served up with a Swedish accent, to the precision and expert delivery of the music, the


mixed age groups of Buninyong's audience members all greatly enjoyed being taken back to 1977.

More coming

The Buninyong Golf Club has also been slated as the venue for three more tribute shows which seem also likely to attract sell-out audiences. These shows are on

- Saturday, 6 April - *The Eagles Story*
- Saturday, 6 June - *Ramble Tamble*, the Australian Creedence Show
- Saturday 3 August - *Ultimate American Rock Show*

More information on these shows can be found at gizakissmusic.com and tickets can be obtained from trybooking.com/event.




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Councillor scoreboard

Councillors quizzed on 2018 local projects

Early in 2018 *The News* asked each of the three South Ward Councillors to nominate three Buninyong-related projects they would undertake or ‘champion’ during that year. The resolutions of each Councillor, as printed in the February 2018 edition, are shown opposite.

They have now been asked to evaluate their success in achieving these, and to suggest where their priorities for Buninyong in 2019 will lie. **Cr Des Hudson** has not responded.

2018 resolutions... ON THE RECORD

It's that time of the year when real or imagined resolutions are bandied about. This year *The News* has approached the three South Ward Councillors for their list of resolutions for Buninyong projects or priorities in 2018. This is their list.

JIM RINALDI



- Connect the bike paths in the Magpie/Whitehorse Road/ Sebastopol areas
- Improve existing bike paths/walking trails
- Maximise the use of Royal Park for the benefit of all stakeholders

BEN TAYLOR



- Establish local off-lead area for dogs
- Progress the Warrenheip streetscape project
- Complete improvements to playground and stage at Desoza Park

DES HUDSON



- Turn Royal Park into a vibrant community precinct with the Soccer Club as a shared key tenant.
- Complete works to the wall at the Gong
- Undertake minor works to the stone walls at the Town hall area to assist parking



Cr Jim Rinaldi

Connecting and improving bike and walking trails is still in progress. Mt Buninyong Road now has a bike lane and concrete kerbing completed on the left hand side going up.

Mt Buninyong walking trails are a work-in-progress, and, through the advisory committee, I will continue to work on improvements to this very important area in our municipality.

A bird's nest eagle swing has been added to Desoza Park and improvements made to the playground area - a project I believe is a great addition because it allows all children access to the playground and surrounds.

Results of the State Government's \$150,000 feasibility study on the east link bypass should be known soon.

At a recent Council meeting the \$10 million State Government sporting loan scheme was approved, meaning that Royal Park upgrades can progress.

I will continue to challenge the Council's Planning Department on what is acceptable 'development' for Buninyong and Mt Helen.



Cr Ben Taylor

One of my 2018 resolutions - the off-lead dog park project- has been adopted in the council plan and funding is being sought from the State Government. I will still work to prioritise this through Council budget process.

Council tried unsuccessfully for funding for the upgrade to Warrenheip Street through the pre-election period. We are still investigating funding options internally and through the state government. Some minor works have been done at the Desoza park playground, but we need to work on completing improvements to the Stage.

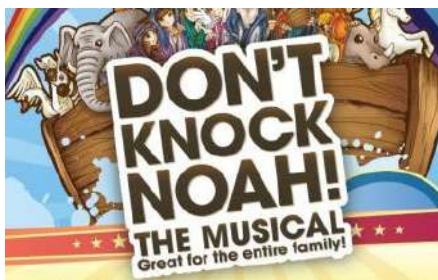
In 2019 I will continue to work on the above projects, and ensure delivery of the major new Royal Park facilities with money from the State Government loan scheme.

We have been able able to improve part of Mt Buninyong Road, but the Midland Highway needs drainage fixed and cycling lanes improved. As people use the national cycling circuit all year round we need to ensure that it is safe. With community support, Council hopes to finalise the Buninyong Township Plan during this year.



Don't Knock Noah... support CFA

Looking for something to do on 9 March, the Saturday evening of the Begonia Festival? Go along to *Don't Knock Noah - The Musical* which arguably is the longest running volunteer drama production in Australia, having been performed in its current format at least four times a year, every year since 1982.



The 9 March event will be the first time that *Don't Knock Noah* has been performed in the Ballarat region.

Presented by the *Ballarat Revival Fellowship*, the musical tells the story of Noah and his family's miraculous deliverance, along with some (almost real) animals and some (almost real) comedy. It's a great evening's entertainment for the whole family.

Entry is by gold coin donation per person to the Buninyong Mt Helen Fire Brigade. A supper will be provided by the Ballarat Ladies Auxiliary (BLA!) More details at BallaratRevival.com.au. It's on at the Minerva Space, Ballarat Mechanic's Institute, 7pm Saturday, 9 March.

School fete soon

The annual fete of the Buninyong Primary School is set for Friday 22 March. Put the date in diaries now.

Free concert at Town Hall

The Buninyong community is invited to a free concert at the Buninyong Town Hall on Sunday 10 March at 4:00pm.

Students from **Sarah Walters** Studio in Napoleons and students from the Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music at Monash University with **Lisa Grosman** (formerly Irish Chamber Orchestra) will join together for a day of exciting, challenging and collaborative music making.

They'll be exploring what's possible when a group of musicians from ages four years to adult, in just one day, explore, rehearse, create and then share with a live audience.

The day will culminate at 4.00pm in a short, **FREE** concert where the audience share the joys of music, creativity, collaboration, friendship and possibility.

Date: Sunday, 10 March 2019, 4.00pm, Buninyong Town Hall, Learmonth Street, Buninyong

Jack's on at Scotsburn

The next service for Scotsburn Union Church will be on Sunday 3 March at 10.00am. Guest speaker will be **Jack Williams** and everyone is very welcome. Scotsburn Union Church is located on the Midland Highway at Scotsburn opposite the Primary school.

Below: Brett Edginton, Ian Crosbie Alby Peart and Kas Bitans wave a flag for Australia Day



Roadworks on Midland Hwy

The State Government has announced that there will soon be more works undertaken on the Midland Highway, this time between Clarendon and Buninyong.

Plans are for community consultation to start soon with possible upgrades to include more overtaking lanes, wire safety barriers and roadside rumble strips along this stretch of the highway.

The Director of the *Safe System Road Infrastructure Program*, **Scott Lawrence**, said that there would be community reference of the plans around the middle of the year, with works expected to start in late 2019.

No waste at the Masons

Celebrating Australia day, the Sturt Buninyong Freemasons looked at 2018 in retrospect, recognised our population has passed 25 million with a median age of 35 years, and that the war on waste is an ongoing battle.

The number of companies, organisations, franchises and individuals acting badly is of concern as is the long term effects of drought, fires and floods across the nation.

With a lamington and a flag they paid tribute to the countless volunteers in our communities and recognised the many advantages of living in Australia.

Probus Club members give community Views on The News



At a 2018 meeting of the Buninyong Probus Club, *The News'* editor Barry Fitzgerald gave a presentation on the topic of *Our Community Newspaper*.

After brief reference to his 'other' career roles and to several examples of other editorial work he had been involved in, he gave Probus Club members an insight into the origins and production processes in getting the new-look *Buninyong Community News* onto the streets each month.

He said that in late 2014 and early 2015 after a campaign by Community Association members **Gayle Adams, John Emery** and **Michelle Corcoran** to resurrect the community newspaper (which had ceased publication in mid-2012), he agreed to take on the editorial role for the new publication.

Preliminary work

"There were a great many matters to sort out before an approach could be made to the City of Ballarat's *Community Engagement Fund* for seed funding," he said.

They included settling the aims for the paper, its design and format, the range of articles and features, printing costs, advertising policy and costs, and distribution methods.

Referring to various articles, he pointed out how the different aims now were being met. He said that in addition to local news and information, a major aim of *The News* was to "provide an ongoing record of village events and happenings."

'The News readership is over 4000 each month'

As part of the presentation a short survey concerning various aspects of *The News* was distributed to Probus members.

Rated highly

As summarised in the following Tables, the results indicated that the local community newspaper was highly regarded with 88 per cent giving it the highest (5) rating and 91 per cent giving the maximum score to its 'design and readability'.

Members also were asked to list their three favourite sections/aspects/features of *The News*. The following results show the per cent of those who listed each 'feature'.

Local news	100
Local history	80
'People' stories	56
Street Talk	52
Rainfall report	32
Opinion	20
Sport	20
Points of Law	12
Arts	8

In other survey results 68 per cent of the Probus members (some of whom do not live locally) said that they read every issue of *The News*, and a further 28 per cent read 'Most' issues.

An average of three persons in each household read the paper suggesting that, with a monthly print run of 1400 copies, *The News* has a monthly community readership of over 4000.

Soft copies of *The News* are also distributed monthly to the likes of local and State politicians, council administration, to senior government bureaucrats.

It is posted on the official Buninyong website, and internationally on the *Issuu* magazine site.

Those results, added to the State-wide accolades and awards given to *The News*, indicated that it was an important contributor to the community spirit and interaction of residents living in Buninyong and district.

Area	Score				
	5	4	3	2	1
General interest level	80	20	0	0	0
Coverage of local news/events	76	24	0	0	0
Publicity/coverage of local groups	67	25	8	0	0
Quality of photographs	88	12	0	0	0
Design/readability	91	9	0	0	0
Overall rating	88	12	0	0	0

Christmas Toy Run

Bikers, police, fireys, Santa,

More than 400 motor cyclists on shiny bikes and fireys laden with toys, gathered in the car park at the Crown Hotel Ballarat on 9 December for their annual Toy Run to Arden Park, Ballarat. These toys were handed over to local charities through the 32nd Christmas Appeal.

Organised by the Central Highlands Branch of the Opposite Motor Cycle Club, the convoy was led along Main Street, Ballarat by a police fireman patrol.

A Warrnambool Street resident said that the convoy took more than an hour to pass his house.

Local member George Haskelton said that some \$2500 worth of toys were handed over to local charities and that many hundreds of toys were donated.

Many Buninyong locals headed to the club and home arrangements to be in the city.

The Opposite Motor Cycle Club members can be seen with their shiny bikes at 111 Warrnambool Ave each Saturday.



Buninyong Newsagency's Ron Delaland and Indi check the sign indicating the location of the public access defibrillator.

Put 5341 2154 in phone memory NOW Latest research shows public defib saves lives

A report released in January again has shown the importance of the use of a 'public' defibrillator in the case of a person suffering a heart attack.

The following data from the report again shows the huge increase in the chance of survival following use of a 'public' defibrillator which usually can be accessed much more quickly than waiting for arrival of trained help. Research shows

- typical survival rates following cardiac arrest are about 10 per cent
- this jumps to 32 per cent when a defibrillator is applied

- but the use of a 'public' defibrillator increased the survival rate to 72 per cent.

Following moves by *The News* to conduct a public appeal in 2016, the community-access defibrillator has been available at the BP service station/newsagency since July 2017.

Staff there are trained in its use although the instructions in the unit make it simple for a non-trained person to use the machine.

Remember, after calling 000, call 5341 2154 and commence application of CPR.

Bollards bowled over by bolter

Several of the heavy steel bollards protecting the roundabout corner near the sculpture were knocked from the ground and damaged around midnight on Saturday, 16 February.

A car travelling north along Warrenheip Street crossed the roundabout at

Learmonth Street, hit the bollards and flipped onto its side. Skid marks at the scene indicated that excessive speed was involved.

The driver did a runner from the scene which was later attended by emergency services.



Quiet finish The season that started with so much promise has run to plan for the new-look Buninyong Cricket Club. The A Grade team lost its early momentum going at the back end of the season. A finals appearance for them looks unlikely. The Thirds may be the only team out of five senior and four junior sides to play finals.

Corporate Cup popular This year, the Buninyong Bowling Club's Corporate Cup saw 26 teams entered and over 130 participating. Players from the local and wider community and businesses have participated in a 'friendly but competitive game of lawn bowls'. Supported by the Buninyong Community Bank and Lawrence & Hanson, the Corporate Cup runs every Thursday evening until Thursday, 14 March.

Poncho v Deano. Buninyong golfer (and *News* columnist) **Dean Cinque** stole the show at the recent Vic Golf Open at the 13th Beach Golf Course.



Dean's battle on live international TV with the rain, wind and an errant poncho proved to be the most-watched golf video of the week. *The Australian Golf Digest's* Youtube clip (Man v Poncho) called it "the funniest thing likely to be seen on a golf course this year." Have a look... it's a hoot!

Sorry Kerry Apologies to cycling champ **Kerry Hoole** for a mis-spelling of his name in last month's issue of *The News*.

Not happy with new structure but

Bowls teams finals bound

At this late stage in the season it seems likely that the majority of Buninyong Lawn Bowls members will be playing in finals. Weekend Division 3, 5 and 8 and Midweek Division 1 and 3 teams are all well placed to extend their season into a March final series and contend for that elusive Grand Final champion's tag and promotion to the next division.

Buninyong's Premier Division has found the going tough in their second year in the top Geelong-Ballarat competition. Whilst the current season is an improvement on their first foray at the top it was still evident that the Club lacked the depth to be really competitive with the stronger Geelong and Ballarat teams.

Trips cut

There may not be too many regrets however, as there will be no more road trips to Geelong when the Geelong-Ballarat Premier Division is disbanded at the end of this season. Experience against top class competition will be valuable next season when Buninyong and the other three Ballarat-based teams line up with the top four sides from the current Ballarat Division 1 in a new Ballarat Premier Division.

This will also have a knock-on effect on other divisions as the top four sides in each division will also be promoted to the division above - a prize usually only granted to the grand final victors. With



Buninyong President, Wayne Morgan delivers a bowl in Buninyong's Premier Division encounter with Sebastopol.

all three weekend divisions and two out of three midweek divisions in contention for a finals tilt there could be up to five promotions at Buninyong for next season.

Shorter season

It appears that not everyone is happy with the proposed new structure. The Ballarat District Bowls Board has also decided that there will be only eight teams in each division instead of the current 10. The knock-on effect of this decision is that the season will be four games shorter with a 14 game season instead of 18.

The News spoke with a number of bowlers who felt strongly about losing a month of their season. Buninyong president,

Wayne Morgan, added that there would be also be a considerable financial shortfall if the length of the season is reduced, particularly through a fall in bar sales.

Buninyong is certainly not the only club to be querying the restructure of Ballarat bowls. Expect there to be more discussion before the first bowl is delivered in the 2019-2020 season.

The club singles championships have been decided with **Keith Chapman** defeating **Ian Voigt** to take out the men's title and **Brenda Wynd** beating **Moon Meulan** in the ladies.

Ray Sullivan

BENDED KNEE



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Biron (Tim Harris) begs forgiveness of Lady Rosaline (Melissa Lawrence) while the Messenger (Robert Kelty) awaits the outcome. At back King Henri (Matt Peavey) declares his love for the Princess (Mika Wallace)

Drama in the Gardens

A royal court of lies, lovers, and letters

Most tertiary students of today would find it hard to relate to young King Henri and his three friends who vowed to forgo the company of women for three years to devote themselves to the study of philosophy. But even more draconian was the extension of the decree to others living in the area around the King's academy.

That was the kernel of the many twists in love and deception in **Susan Pilbeam's** clever production of *Love's Labour's Lost* attended by appreciative audiences at the eight performances in the beautiful setting of the Buninyong Botanic Gardens in early February.

Three plays

This was the third Shakespearean production here directed by Pilbeam, who on this occasion simply and skilfully transformed the north-east corner of the Gardens into the kingdom of Navarre. The use of two festooned tents in the flat, grassed and-treed area worked well. Costuming was excellent.

Henri and his friends find their vows and their mutual friendship tested by the arrival of a Royal Princess and her three ladies in waiting.

This led to a complicated series of interactions between the players involving secrecy, hiding, gifts, disguise, love letters, mistaken identity and then the

death of the King of France which causes the Princess to return home.

In turn, she declares a year-long separation of herself and her ladies from the men of Navarre to test their promises and resolve before any reunion or marriage.

While essentially true to its Shakespearean origins, the play introduced a little contemporary language with some quirky 'off-stage' interjections by Biron and by occasional colloquialisms such as "porky-pies" referring to some of the lies being told by the lovers, together with a rollicking song about the King.

Big cast

The cast of twelve actors was led by Buninyong's **Melissa Lawrence** who played the role of the lady Rosaline, **Mika Wallace**, as the Princess and by **Tim Harris** who gave a quality performance in the role of Biron.

Rugged **Robert Kelty** played yet another very active role as the bumbling messenger.

Nine local youngsters were busy in roles of squires or ladies-in-waiting, and also contributed with a ribbon dance, song and a battle with swords.

Across the eight show season, pre-show entertainment was variously provided by musicians **Martin Scuffins** and **Talia Barrett**, by the *Winter Berries*, the Buninyong Community Choir and by *Floo* the juggler.



The cast takes a bow