

Buninyong & District Community **NEWS**

Edition 472, JULY 2020



RUNAWAY BUS

In a bizarre accident in Warrenheip Street early on 5 June a Buninyong bus demolished part of the verandah of the old Eagle Hotel building, crushed a small parked car, and brought down the street vine structures adjacent to the entrance of the BP service station.

An eye witness said that the southbound bus had reached the roundabout corner but had stalled and could not be restarted by the driver. He left the bus and had just opened the engine panel at the rear of the bus when it began rolling backwards down the hill towards the service station.

The driver was running alongside the bus but was unable to stop it when it suddenly

veered towards the kerb, crashed into a parked car and brought down verandah posts and street structures.

Local police officer Senior Constable **Sean Almeida** was quickly in attendance stopping the south-bound traffic on Warrenheip Street and securing the scene, as CFA trucks and an ambulance arrived. He said that had the bus not hit the veranda posts and the steel support of the street vines "it could have rolled at speed into the service station with very serious consequences".

No one was injured in the accident but the verandah at the historic old hotel was left in a seriously-damaged state.

Snr Constable Sean Almeida and Fiona Delaland close off the area where the CDC bus crashed at the entrance to the BP service station. (Below) A small parked car was sideswiped by the runaway bus.



Dog park soon

Action near on James Reserve site

The opening of an off-lead dog park in Buninyong is much closer after the City of Ballarat Council agreed to locate it at James Reserve, off Elizabeth Street, and "to undertake construction as soon as possible". It will follow a "localised" consultation process.

The Buninyong dog park got the nod for an imminent start over other proposed parks in Miners Rest and at Alfredton which will be funded from "savings in recurrent and capital budgets in ensuing financial years." James Reserve, of 2.24 hectares, spans the Union Jack Creek at the northern end of the village.

The move followed Council's community consultation sessions at the three areas in November 2019. At Buninyong, 26 people attended, while only six attended at Alfredton and five at Miners Rest.

In a report to the 27 May meeting of Council, Animal Management Team Leader



Liz Hayward's dog Roman (right) was begging to be let off the leash when at the site of the new dog park. Other dog lovers with their canine friends delighted to hear the news were (L to R) Kate Davis, Maureen Rogerson and Janine Gifford.

Claire Douglas-Haynes reported on the "fantastic success" of the Wendouree off-leash area in Dowling Street.

Choice

She said that major consideration was given to two sites in Buninyong – at the James Reserve and at the Palmerston Road (sic) Reserve. Each location was accessible from the town centre, was suited to people with mobility needs, and there was already some infrastructure in place such as car parking.

A third possible site, at Birdwood Park, was rejected because of its steep terrain, difficulty of access and being close to a high traffic road.

Additional infrastructure would include fencing, seating, signage and a water fountain. The cost of the project, including preliminary work, design and infrastructure was estimated to be between \$20,000 and \$30,000. Work is expected to start before the end of the current financial year.



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Gong wall works shelved Council agrees to a Gardens master plan

The controversial move to strengthen the wall of Buninyong's historic dam, the Gong, by using fill and rock abutments on the water side of the wall and removal of vegetation was put aside by Council at its meeting of 27 May.

Engineers had reported that the wall did not meet standards and could cause a flood threat to properties on the western side of the Gong. They said that seepage was being caused by the roots of willow trees growing on the dam wall.

Action

Following the 2019 publication of plans to rectify the problem there were many objections to the proposal. There were 38 respondents to the Council's MySay website, letters to Councillors, and lobbying by the Friends of Buninyong Botanic Gardens Group (FoBBG). This group pressed hard for the development of an overall Master Plan for the Gardens

saying that the Gong was an integral element and that works on the wall should not be undertaken in isolation.

A report by senior Council officers was considered by Council at the May meeting. It recommended that "the project be modified to incorporate the development of an overall master plan for the gardens and broader precinct".

'The Gong is an integral element of the whole Gardens precinct'

It was agreed to form a working group led by nominees from the FoBBG and other community representatives to work with the City's engineers and landscape architects to develop an appropriate response to the broader environment in advance of any engineering works. Work on the Master Plan is expected to be undertaken during 2020 and early 2021.



"A detailed engagement process with key stakeholders across the town and broader Buninyong will be part of the master planning process," said Mayor and South Ward Councillor **Ben Taylor**.

RMIT help

Part of this process will be the involvement of students from the Bachelor of Landscape Architectural Design at RMIT University who will undertake a design studio with Program Manager **Jock Gilbert** exploring potential design opportunities and connections in the Botanic Gardens precinct.

Amongst the community submissions on MySay there was clear support for longer-term planning so that the Gong works could be incorporated into wider thinking about the gardens. Other views ranged from deepening the dam, retaining all wall vegetation, taking account of dangers to foot traffic on the Cornish Street wall, to pointing out that seepage, which was good for the lower gardens area, had been occurring there since the 1870s.

Great call

President of FoBBG **Roger Permezel** said that Council's decision "was a great call" and took account of the strong views of the group that overall master planning for the entire gardens area was critical. He said, "Council has listened to strong representation by his group and the wider community in deciding not to proceed with the vegetation removal and wall works at the Gong."

The Gong, originally a series of natural springs, was used between 1857 and 1873 as the water supply for Sheppard's Crystal Malt Brewery based in the bluestone building on the south side of the dam.

Mayor Ben Taylor said that he was pleased that the future of the Gong and the Botanic Gardens would now be master planned. Gardens group members Jock Gilbert and Roger Permezel said it was "great news."

Questionable

Up until the recent senior staff upheaval at Sturt Street, one section of the City of Ballarat that certainly hadn't gone into hibernation was its Media Office. During 'shut-down' media releases were coming out with a rush.

Indeed, at one stage during March and April Mayor **Ben Taylor** was even threatening to take the virus crisis commentary crown away from that tweeting incumbent of the Oval Office.

But one Media Release that was a bit different was the one that recently came out headed *Changes to Council Meeting Question Time Procedures*.

With the virus scare, there is now no public gallery permitted at Council meetings. But some creative soul in there has been working hard to come up with a fearsome list of sixteen conditions that now must be met before Council will consider a question from a humble citizen or ratepayer.

In addition to having been submitted in accordance with "revised procedures," questions must NOT

1. relate to a matter outside the Council's duties, functions and powers
2. be defamatory, indecent, abusive, offensive, irrelevant, trivial or objectionable in language or substance
3. deal with a subject already answered
4. be aimed at embarrassing a Councillor or staff member
5. relate to personnel matters
6. relate to the personal hardship of and resident or ratepayer

7. relate to industrial matters
8. relate to contractual matters
9. relate to proposed developments
10. relate to legal advice
11. relate to matters affecting the security of Council property
12. relate to any other matter which Council considers would prejudice Council or any person
13. on the advice of the CEO, cause an unreasonable diversion of Council resources to prepare a response
14. concern a matter that would normally be subject to Freedom of Information request
15. have been previously asked by the same person
16. have already received a written response

Seems to take all of the fun out of asking a question of Council!

'It's taken all of the fun out of asking a question'

In this edition of *The News*, Council has come out very well – a Master Plan for the Gardens, a new dog park, an MOU on the graffiti trailer, and moves at Royal Park. And last month, support for the Warrenheip Street development. All positive stuff for the village.

But surely that bureaucrat responsible for creating Council's 'questions policy' could find something better to do when stuck at home with the office computer!



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Copy should not exceed 400 words and a maximum of two photographs per item may be submitted. Material may be edited because of space, style, or clarity, or for legal reasons.

The name and address of the person submitting any material must be provided (address not for publication).

The Management Committee reserves the right not to publish material considered to be offensive or inappropriate or not deemed to have community interest or relevance.

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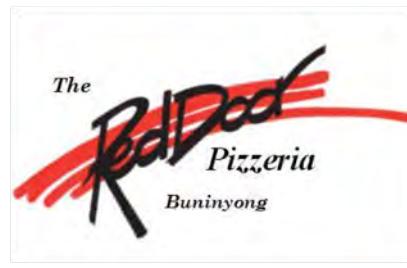
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Buninyong's graffiti buster Trailer goes back to City

In June 2012 Buninyong was hit with a village-wide rash of graffiti. Facilities at the pumping station, the golf club, the bowling club fence, the Masonic Hall, roadside signage, street furniture and private property were all targeted.

According to local police, much of the graffiti was done by groups of youths passing through Buninyong en route back to Geelong.

Concerned at delays in having graffiti removed because of 'territorial' responsibilities between various authorities, the local Community Association (BDCA) began a push to have graffiti removal equipment available in Buninyong on an ongoing basis.

A start

In 2013 the City of Ballarat made available a small unit housed in a wheelie bin but, while being readily available, the unit had problems with access and its capacity to tackle larger graffiti sites.

Jointly with Council, the BDCA undertook research into much larger equipment that would have the power and mobility to tackle any graffiti outbreaks. Evidence was clear that immediate removal of tags was needed to stop further copy-cat damage.

The BDCA project team and Council's Community Engagement section then successfully applied for a grant of some \$20,000 from the Department of Justice.

Additional funding for the \$32,000 unit came from the local *Engaging Communities Fund* and from the Lions Club. The unit was fully-self-contained, trailer-mounted, and involved powerful pumping and chemical mixing components. It was to be located permanently in Buninyong and staffed by trained volunteers from the Men's Shed.

The graffiti trailer was officially launched by **Crs Hudson and Innes**, and local MP **Geoff Howard** in July 2015.

Over the next three years the Men's Shed 'flying squad' was on hand to remove graffiti within a very short time of its being reported. The result was the almost total absence of graffiti in the village across several years until another burst hit shops, the murals and even the Town Hall in mid 2019.

Priority

After discussions between the Men's Shed and the BDCA about problems with storage, usage, maintenance and training and the current low-incidence of graffiti locally, the groups agreed that the trailer might be better utilised across greater Ballarat.



L to R: Chris Kruger, Geoff Howard MLA, Bill Jolly, Cr Des Hudson and Cr Peter Innes at the launch of the unit at the July Village Market 2016.

Several meetings between the BDCA President **Gayle Adams** and **Terry Demeo**, then the Council's Director of Infrastructure & Environment, discussed the future use of the trailer. Taking account of the need for ongoing maintenance, insurance, chemical provisions, operator training, and the relatively low-level of local use, the two parties have now signed a *Memorandum of Understanding* which passes ownership and management of the unit to Council.

However the MOU clearly provides that Buninyong calls for graffiti removal "will receive priority" and that the logos of local groups on the unit will be maintained on the vehicle.



Cathcart Street Reserve



Roadside sign



More damage in De Soza Park



Pumping Station in De Soza Park west

Control switch at Royal Park

Way back in April 2004 the new oval in Forest Street was ready, the football and cricket clubs had new clubrooms and the City of Ballarat saw no reason to stay involved at Royal Park, the prime open Crown land space in the southern end of Buninyong.

Its future was uncertain when a group of locals began to dream of a sustainable space and a new and innovative community space. Whatever else happened they were determined to keep this precious piece of open space for the community, and prevent it being sliced up for housing.

The journey

And so began the journey of the *Friends of Royal Park* now known as *Buninyong Sustainability*.

The group has worked hard, with many successes since it began. Over the years, successful grants and partnerships have enabled it to

- put solar on the building roof to reduce the footprint and generate income
- establish the community garden
- establish a community orchard which is currently being housed in members' gardens
- install water tanks to provide water to the gardens
- create an office space for the Leigh Catchment Group
- renovate the building flooring and create a space for dance, yoga and pilates

- create a space for meetings and events that is warm and with a functional kitchen
- create a great event space including cycling and the Smart Building and Living Expo
- provide a temporary space for the kindergarten
- support Little Athletics as they worked for a permanent home
- support Buninyong soccer in their search for a new home.

Future

On 1 April 2020, the Committee of Management for the Crown Land reserve was changed from *Friends of Royal Park* to the City of Ballarat. This will now lead into the promised development of a multi-use facility and the long-awaited soccer pitches.

Buninyong Sustainability will continue to use Royal Park as its home. It can now focus on delivering a beautiful community space based around the Community Garden. The old building is still open for business until the full Masterplan can be funded and the group will continue to manage bookings and user groups.

"The group thanks everyone who has helped us over the years and shared its dream. We are excited by the new developments and can now put even more energy into promoting a better future for Buninyong," said **Andrea Mason** (picture courtesy *My Ballarat*) who has been a key leader from the outset.



There are plans for the works to begin soon and the City of Ballarat will be leading community engagement related to the building of the soccer pitches and the first stage of the new building.

Royal Park general enquiries: City of Ballarat, (03) 5320 5500. Crown Lands: 136 186

Community garden and venue hire:
Buninyong Sustainability info@buninyongsustainability.com.au

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Ernie (centre) gets some more computer instruction from daughters Kerry (left) and Kim.

ERNIE ZOOMS INTO THE 90s

With his ninetieth birthday falling on 2 May right in the middle of the virus lockup crisis, Buninyong's Ernie Wintle knew that this very special occasion would be just a bit different.

With lots of friends and family living close by, the usual recent pattern on his birthday was for Ernie to be treated to a special day out, or to a family meal somewhere. But this year he was resigned to being stuck at home hoping for a few phone calls.

Different

But things didn't quite work out like that. His three daughters, **Kim Lowe** and **Kerry Corcoran** who live nearby in Buninyong, and Melbourne-based **Susan Bardsley** had other ideas. Well aware of the possibilities of the video communications platform **Zoom**, they moved to set up a link between all of Ernie's family on the big day.

Ernie said that he did get a few phone calls, but was blown away when during the afternoon he was told by Kim to switch his computer on. He was stunned to see that **Zoom** had brought his three daughters, their partners and grandchildren onto the screen in front of him to wish him well.

"For a day that I thought would be pretty quiet, my ninetieth birthday turned into

a really busy and fun afternoon for a couple of hours, with cakes and family and laughter all over the place," he said.

Prior to his retirement in 1991, Ernie was the warehouse manager for major global auto parts company **Federal Mogul** at its Melbourne base in Mulgrave.

Resident

Ernie now has been living in Buninyong for 21 years after having moved from the Melbourne suburb of Clayton, with his wife **Betty**, to be nearer to his family. Betty, who later became a resident of Nazareth House, passed away in 2005.

He is still an active member of the Sturt Buninyong Masonic Lodge and the Ballarat Fidelity Club, and has a great interest in horse racing. Daughter Kerry said that his Saturday mornings are a very busy time for Ernie "with his radio tuned to the racing station RSN 927, and his kitchen table covered with form guides and coloured pencils to mark out his certainties for the day." At best, his punting outlay is just a couple of dollars.

"I've had some good memories of past birthdays," Ernie said, "but this one certainly takes the cake!"

OVER THE PAST MONTH or so Mayor **Ben Taylor** has had his share of big problems to tackle at the Town Hall. But that hasn't stopped him from following up on the small stuff here in Buninyong. The RSL recently told him of some problems with the seat and bollards near the remembrance wall. Ben took action and the repair works are under way.

PITY THAT THE MOB from Public Transport Victoria weren't in town when that runaway bus created its own new bus stop outside of the Eagle Hotel recently. The four-year battle to get rid of the world's longest bus stop further along the Warrenheip Street business strip, will hopefully be tackled in the street upgrade project.

GOOD TO SEE Ballarat's new interim CEO **Janet Dore**, a proud Buninyong resident, already taking strong action to ensure Council's top-level staffing is on the ball. *The News* has passed on its good wishes to her – along with a list of local projects to keep on her desk.

THERE ARE CONCERNS around about the height of the planting in the roundabout creating vision problems for drivers of small cars. Seems it's now difficult to see indicator lights on turning vehicles. A local has been told by both VicRoads and the Council that "it ain't our problem!"

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cottage rebuild is now close to completion with the erection of that new picket fence adding to the streetscape. Great job by all to keep the heritage front, but there's some very big changes out the back.

BRIDGE ACTION on the edges of Buninyong. The narrow Franklin Bridge on the Scotchman's Lead Road over the Yarrowee Creek is now getting a makeover in a major cooperative project between the Ballarat and Golden Plains Councils. Closed until November. Further along to the west, locals at Cambrian Hill are fighting to save that old footbridge that links the Black Lead area to the rear of the cemetery with Glassons Road.



Handing a cheque over to Robert Elshaug (second from left) during a break from the renovation/extension work being carried out at the Lions 'world famous' community cottage bookstore are Club members (L to R) David Searle, Barbara Voigt and Ondria Cheeseman.

A surprise gift of \$500 as a gesture of support for Buninyong's community newspaper was presented recently by Lions Club President Barbara Voigt to BDCA Treasurer Robert Elshaug.

She said that *The News* "was a tremendous asset to this community. It covers most items of news that people are interested in, and is seen as a record of community happenings across the years. In our home, each issue is read by at least four or five people."

Coverage

Ms Voigt said that the Lions Club "really appreciates the coverage given to the activities of the Club by *The News*. It helps us report to the community where funds which we raise are spent and promotes our various projects," she said.

The Buninyong & District Community News, produced monthly by an Editor and

a small team of reporters, all volunteers, is one of the main projects of the BDCA.

Each edition has a readership of some 3500 in hard copy format and an estimated 1000 readers in the soft copy version which is now being sent to members by schools and most community groups.

It is also read on-line (buninyong.vic.au) by many readers in distant locations as well as in the greater Ballarat area. Back copies of *The News* can be found at this site. It is even posted on the international magazine site issuu.

BDCA President **Gayle Adams** said that 1200 hard copies are printed monthly over eleven months of the year. "Despite our loyal local advertisers and great support from the Community Bank, we almost managed to break even on the costs of each issue, except on those occasions when Government advertising is placed with us, such as can be seen in this issue."

Ernie Neale's Monthly RAINFALL REPORT

Year to May ...WET

This 2020 year has already claimed its place in memory because of the pandemic. Locally, it's also starting to rise in the ranks of the local weather annals with 77.3 mm of rain falling in May, bringing the total so far this year to 380.3 mm.

This is more than 100 mm over the long-term January to May average of 270.9 mm and enough to put 2020 in the wettest opening-in-a-decade club.

On top of that, BOM's rain outlook for the next three months is proffering a 70 per cent chance of better than median rainfall, so Spring this year should arrive wet and ready for growth. Crops, pastures and stock should benefit and primary producers in our part of the state will hopefully commence an exceptional harvest at the same time as everyone is getting on with life post-plague.

The potential is there for agriculture to drive quite a boom in our region later in the year.

MAY 2020			
Date	Rain	Date	Rain
1	15.9	13	3.5
4	8.4	20-22	27.4
9	13.4	25	5.7
11	3.0		
Total		77.3 mm	
May 2019		182 mm	
May Average		71.2 mm	

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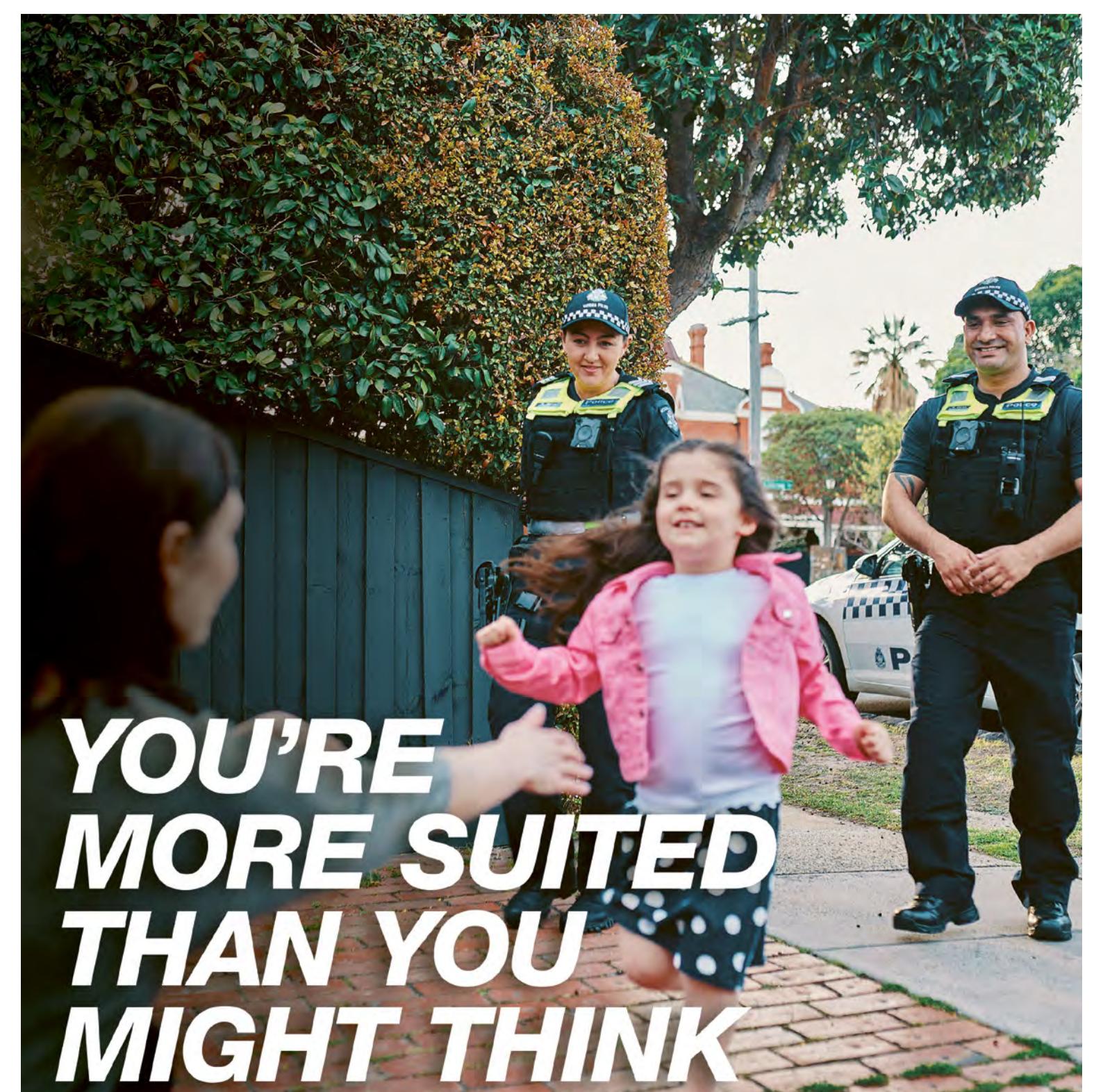
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Short stories by children Simple, magical, great – judge

The district children's short story competition has been organised by Hayley Quach of Grenville. Here are three of the winning entries from the first section for Prep to Grade 2 children. Winners from other sections (Grades 3-4 and Grades 5- 7) will be published in coming editions of *The News*.

Judging is being done by **Alison Arnold**, a book editor who lives in Buninyong. Her favourite books to edit (and read) are for kids. "It was so hard to judge the Prep-2 writing competition because all the stories were great! Some had great imagination. Some had great images. Some were simple and beautiful. Some were adventurous. Some were magical. After a very long time I managed to make a decision. Great writing, everyone! Keep going with it."

Winner

Mila Flowers, A Horse Called Solstice

Runner-up

Lukas Bull, The Bird

Honourable Mention

Florence Taylor, Through the Hedge

Commended

Maddie Wardle, Robio the Robot

Nive Neelavannan, The Annoyingest Monkey

Iris Rapert, The Talent Show

Flynn Leonard, Amson the Fish

Monty Swann, The Adventure of the Forbidden Land

– Rita Russell



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A horse called Solstice

by Mila Flowers, Grade 2,
Ballarat Steiner School

Once upon a time in a small village there was a little yellow house. In that house there lived a girl with her brother and her Mama and her Dad. Her name was Fawn. She had many pets. She had twelve chickens, one dog and one cat. She longed for a horse.

One day they went out walking. They got lost. They found an abandoned farm. They decided to live there. They bought sheep. They bought dogs. They bought rabbits. They bought cats. They bought horses. They bought goats. They bought cows.



On her ninth birthday Fawn was given a horse. It had white feet and a white mane and it was black. Fawn called him Solstice. She rode her horse every day. She gave him lots of carrots.

One day they rode into the forest and they saw a triple rainbow.

Fawn decided to go home. When they got home, Fawn's mother had prepared a very tasty meal including one ripe delicious apple for Solstice. Fawn led him off to his stable and he was munching his apple very happily.

The next morning Fawn was really excited. Fawn was excited because she was having a party.

The Bird

by Lukas Bull, Grade 2, Mount Clear Primary School

The bird loved nature. He loved all the singing the forest made. He liked the trees for views.

He hated the city. Too much noise and so busy.

The bird also loved nature because it was so peaceful and calming.

The city was not peaceful or calming. The bird hoped he would stay in nature forever.



Short stories cont.

Through the hedge

by Florence Taylor, Grade 2,
Inverleigh Primary School

Wooosh. A leaf drifts down and lands next to me. I pick it up and a stick and I put them together. Then I walk over to the hedge. I close my eyes and yell Abracadabra. I open my eyes. Where am I? 'Hello', I yell but no one answers. Creeeeeeek.

A path appears in front of me, so I follow it. Then I start seeing clear golden balls about the size of tennis balls on shelves. I'm interested in the balls so I move closer to them. Then I realise that they are memories.

I see one that reminds me of a really good time. It was when I got a new puppy. Looking at it makes me feel happy. I pick it up but it flows back into its place.

Then I walk further up and I see a blue one. It makes me want to cry just looking at it. It's a sad memory. My heart sinks. It's my memory of when my great gran died.

I start running ahead. I see more and more blue ones. How do I get out? I reach into my pocket. Oh no, I can't find my wand. Finally I see my wand on the ground. ABRACADABRA – I'm on the other side of the hedge.

I drop the stick and the leaf and run back home.

Winter art to go on the line

The Buninyong Pre-School and the Friends of Buninyong Botanic Gardens (FoBBG) have developed an idea to incorporate public art into the Botanic Gardens over winter months.

An invitation is extended to the public to participate in this project designed to encourage and support collaboration, community and creativity.

The project, *Winter Garden Art*, started on Sunday 14 June and will continue until mid-July.

On the line

The idea is to create a 'clothes line' style display, where drawing cards with string attached will be hung on the line. Coloured pencils or crayons will be provided to draw.

A small box of 'provocations' will be provided. For example it will challenge artists to draw something tall, yellow, tiny, or bumpy. With this, it offers ideas to those who may need more of a prompt with beginning their artistic

process. Although walking through the gardens alone will inspire many.

People may choose either to collect a drawing card or use a card from home.

Rotunda

The event will take place in the newly-renovated gardens rotunda where it will be safe and protected from any wet or windy weather.

Everyone is welcome to contribute, or simply enjoy viewing the works. Pre-school teachers and educators, and FoBBG members hope to visit the gardens at set times to support and help inspire locals to join in. Updates can be found on the FoBBG Facebook page.

Ballarat's Mayor, **Cr Ben Taylor** visited the rotunda and met some of the pre-schoolers on 17 June. Please contact **Jess Barfoot** on jessica.barfoot@vt.uniting.org or 5341 3415 with any queries, feedback or indications of interest. Jess is shown below with **Seth 4**, and **Natalie, 5**, practising for the show.



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Smiles then tears



When Annie Harpur of Garibaldi brought her two girls back to the Buninyong Primary School on 26 May after the long shut down it was smiles all around for *The News* camera at the school's front gate.

Lola, 6, (Left) a Prep student, was excited to head off across the playground to catch up with her friends, but big sister **Maizie**, 7, Grade 2, was sad at having to leave mum outside.



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Buninyong



New flight path for 'The Goose'

"We have just had the most wonderful meal," said a friend a few months ago. She had bumped into me as she was coming out of a busy Pig & Goose restaurant. Then Coronavirus happened and owners Wendy and Clive Kirby had to close and retrench staff.

But, as Wendy put it, "the stars aligned" with the enforced shut down. Having wanted to make some changes since buying the former 'takeaway' business six years ago, the Kirbys grabbed the opportunity and made the most of it. Essentially, they have started again from scratch.

There is now new paint, new colours and new offerings. The major redecorating job took place behind those newspaper-covered windows over the past couple of months.

Customers can eat in or take away. Regulars will be pleased that the popular big cake cabinet is still there, as are the organic fresh vegies, cheeses, meats, wines, honey, fresh flowers, homewares and kitchenware. Like the 'Tardis' from Dr Who, the Pig and Goose is bigger on the inside with three spacious rooms.

Wendy has always worked in hospitality; Clive has been a long-term chef; daughter **Millie** does a lot of the baking and all the staff are considered family. As Wendy said "it can only get better".

The new look food store is open between 8am-4pm on Mondays to Fridays and 8am-3pm at the weekend.

Facebook comments agree that the *Pig and Goose* is now exactly what Buninyong needs.

– Cassandra Carland





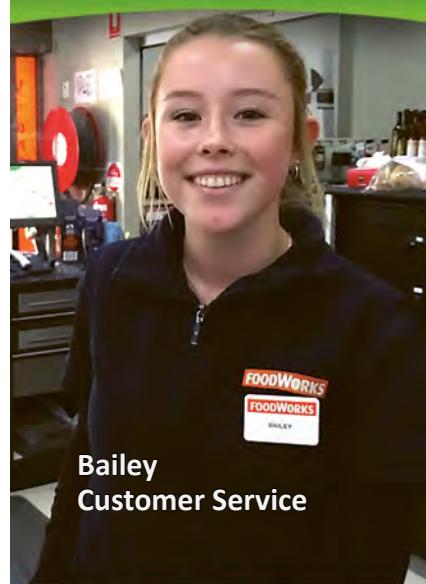
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Art in the sun

Two artists, one a beginner, the other a talented professional, spent two of May's loveliest autumn days in Buninyong sitting in the sunshine on a high spot amongst the trees of the Avenue of Honour. With their easels and brushes and oils, the two men were painting a townscape scene looking past the Crown Hotel along Warrenheip Street.

The beginner was local resident **Brian Johnson**, the other, his younger relative, **Damian Talbot** (pictured front) from Sydney.

Doctor

Damian was formerly a local lad, who after completing studies at Damascus College in 2005 subsequently graduated in Medicine and practised as a psychiatrist at Sydney's Concord and Prince Alfred Hospitals.

Several years ago Damian decided his future lay in art rather than psychiatry and

undertook full-time studies at the Julian Ashton School of Art in Sydney. Since then he has had a solo exhibition in Glebe which included paintings of local scenes such as the Ballarat railway station and the Ballarat East fire brigade buildings.

Brian's interest in art is very much in the hobby category. He said that after 'struggling at golf' he found his art interests more satisfying. He joined one of the adult art classes offered by Ballarat artist **Juli Davine** at her Sturt Street Gallery. His business interests range from dabbling in the stock market to the breeding and syndication of racehorses.

The two men enjoyed their couple of sunny days sitting and painting near the RSL monuments in Learmonth Street, and chatting with the many 'friendly' passers-by who were out walking and stopped to look over the shoulders of the two artists at work.



New sign from Rick and Snowy

Over the recent long weekend, Scotsburn school campus leader Shaun O'Loughlin and Rick Innes spent some time installing the new sign at the entrance to the Scotsburn Campus.

Shaun was able to source the timber from **Lawrence 'Snowy' Crimeen** who is the grandfather of one of the students, **Jack Plier**. Snowy owns and runs a timber mill in Scotsburn.

Rick Innes (**Amity, Maggie and Flynn's Pa**) then got to work to produce the wonderful sign. All agree that the finished product looks amazing! Once again, Rick has gone over and beyond in his support of the campus and generosity of his time. Many thanks also go to 'Snowy', for his generosity in providing the timber.

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School PE teacher Claire Morris (right) with her daughter Kaiya 7, told the sad story of the big old cypress tree to (L to R) Tyler, 9, Josh, 9, and Ivy, 11.

Giant old tree bites the dust

Generations of Buninyong primary school children have found shade, shelter and fun under the spreading branches of the giant old cypress tree that stood for generations in the corner of the playground down near the Yuille Street gate.

Just how many games of chasey have been played around its base will never be known. But the tree has been showing the signs of age for some time. After a

careful assessment recently by arborist **Rachel Tonkin** the decision was made to bring the tree down. Her professional eye revealed that the tree had developed a big structural fault right down its centre that couldn't be remedied.

Big job

So on 18 May the school gates were locked, a large area flagged off, and **Tony Coxall** and his team of workers laboured long into the evening to bring the tree down. Much

of the tree was converted into mulch that now sits in piles around the school, while some of the larger limbs have been retained for use in furniture that will soon appear across the school.

Principal **Bernie Conlan** said while he lamented the loss of the tree, the children's safety came first.

"Fortunately, in preparation for the possibility of losing a few of our older trees, the school has been planting up to 25 trees every year across its two campuses for some time now."

Costs cut

This emerging tree canopy is already reducing the school's energy bills and is a central element of its preparations for climate change. The children are certain to have plenty of shade in the future.

"We have started to work with the Friends of the Buninyong Botanic Gardens to find a replacement for the old cypress. With a little luck, another venerable giant will emerge, and countless more games of chasey will be played around its base," Bernie said.

— Mark Jones



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From melting Manila to freezing Ballarat **Father Jorge's long journey**

At the Catholic church of St Peter and Paul's in Buninyong, the parish priest for some fifteen years was Fr Adrian McInerny who retired in 2017. He was followed by Fr Peter Sherman who served for two years.

of Saint Alipius Parish, Ballarat East and the community of Saints Peter and Paul, Buninyong.

"My name and title – Reverend Father Jorge Panopio De Chavez Jr, OSJ – is

With a dwindling number of priests in the Diocese of Ballarat, **Bishop Paul Bird** turned for help to an order of priests from the Philippines. This is the personal story of Buninyong's new Catholic priest who was officially appointed in January of this year.

"It was freezing cold on 7 June, 2019 when I arrived in Ballarat from the melting weather of Manila, Philippines. My superior from the Oblates of Saint Joseph (OSJ), a missionary order, had asked me to come to help boost the number of priests in the Diocese of Ballarat.

Welcome

"During my first six months in Ballarat, the Cathedral parish warmly welcomed me. There I had my acculturation to pastoral ministry and administration of parishes.

"On 15 January, 2020 Bishop Paul Bird appointed me as Parish Priest

a little longer than Australians are used to. So I decided that I would be known here simply as *Fr Jorge*.

"I was born on Easter Sunday of 29 March, 1970, the youngest of nine siblings. On April 13 of this year I had been a priest for 22 years.

Studies

"My studies for the priesthood were from the Oblates of Saint Joseph Seminaries. After ordination I participated in different courses on spirituality and formation in Italy and in further studies in Canon Law at the Pontifical Royal University of the Dominican in Manila.

"I have served the OSJ congregation in different capacities. For twelve years I was posted to our Order's formation houses, serving as prefect of discipline, vocation director and rector. For fifteen years, I worked in the OSJ Provincial Council as a member of the Council and Secretary.

"Prior to my appointment as parish priest of Ballarat East, I had been a parish priest in many different parishes back in the Philippines, and in Albany, Western Australia for almost five years.

"Now happily settled in my new role, it is my fervent prayer that we journey together with care and compassion to one another."

Fr Jorge's order was founded in 1878 by Italian priest and Bishop, Joseph Marello. It now has members in Italy, the Philippines, USA, Mexico, Peru, Brazil, and India as well as other countries. Its mission is to care for the poor and also to render assistance to Bishops in whatever capacity.

– Rita Russell



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Lodge on top of the blankets

Before the start of winter, Sturt Buninyong Lodge handed over 90 double bed blankets to Uniting Ballarat. The donation, financed by the Freemasons Foundation, resulted from an application by the Buninyong Lodge to the foundation for assistance with its annual blanket donation to Uniting.

Lodge Secretary Ron Fleming said that since 2010, the Buninyong lodge and the Freemasons Foundation had been delivering blankets to local charities.

This year's \$4,400 contribution demonstrates the charity aspect of Freemasonry. "We are aware of increased pressures on households particularly in the marginalised community and we know these blankets will make a difference," Mr Fleming said.



Lodge Secretary Ron Fleming presents blankets to Warrick Davison, Uniting Ballarat's Acting Senior Manager (Housing and Homelessness). Mr Davison is a grandson of John Glenn, a former Buninyong Lodge member. Photo: Ballarat Courier

Bushland vandalised

Destructive behaviour in a bushland reserve south-east of Buninyong has dismayed and disappointed local bush walkers. The reserve has been severely impacted by the illegal construction of a trail, including jumps, that cuts through significant flora and fauna habitats.

The reserve contains a particularly diverse wildflower display, including many native orchids, along with stunning rock formations. There is also clear evidence of echidna, wallaby and koala activity.

Parks Victoria has been made aware of the damage and is planning to rehabilitate where the damage has occurred. Local conservation reserves are managed by Parks Victoria and their website states that damaging the environment and aboriginal and goldfield heritage is an offence and may attract penalties.

Victoria Police also has been notified. Anyone who notices this type of damage is encouraged to report it to Parks Victoria by phoning 13 1963 or email info@parks.vic.gov.au.

Toys tossed on track

Users of the beautiful bush tracks on Mount Buninyong were angry recently after discovering a large pile of dumped children's toys.

There are charity bins that accept these goods, yet some lazy person thought it would be okay to go out and simply dump disused toys on a part of the mountain that is used by dog walkers, families taking exercise, bike riders and a horse rider or two from before sun up to way after sun down.

A nearby resident said, "I can't express my disappointment strongly enough that someone in our community believes that this is acceptable behaviour!"



Band book

Local musician and conductor of the Community Choir, George Williams, has authored a book on the history of the Ballarat Memorial Concert Band. It started life as the Ballarat and District Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial Band in 1920 to commemorate those who served during the Great War.

The band has been part of the life of the district ever since, playing in Buninyong Gold King Festival in the mid-70s for instance. Commissioned by the Public Records Office of Victoria, the book was due to be launched at Heritage Weekend at the end of May, but the virus crisis meant that an online launch was done.

The book, *Ballarat Memorial Concert Band: A Century of Music*, can be read now by visiting ballaratconcertband.org.au

Ray Drummond's strong Buninyong links

Death of a golfing icon

Australian golf, and local golf in Buninyong, lost one of its great identities when Ray Drummond passed away suddenly on 20 May at his home in Brisbane, aged 84 years.

Ray started his golf journey on the professional circuit at the age of seventeen. However it wasn't as a golf pro that he made his impact on the game of golf.

A car accident in 1955 left him with severe spinal injuries that prevented him from playing golf. It wasn't until 1974 in Central Victoria where he was working as a real estate agent that he was talked into playing in a competition that Ray's love of golf was rekindled.

First store

In that same year he made the decision that would eventually make him a household name with golfers across the country. He opened the first *Ray Drummond Golf* store in Bendigo followed by a second store two years later in Ballarat.

Ray moved to Ballarat with the opening of his Ballarat store in Bridge Street in 1976 and joined the Buninyong Golf Club in 1977. This was the beginning of a long association.

Club champ

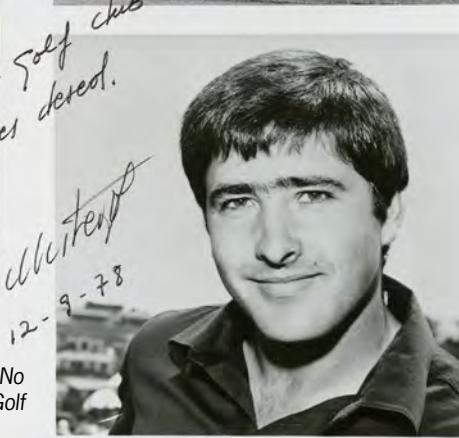
Ray won the Club Championship in 1979 and in 1980 he introduced the *Ray Drummond Match Play Championship*, an event that is still keenly fought out annually by current members.

Ray Drummond

Golf supported many functions and tournaments at Buninyong Golf Club for many years forming an association with the store that is still strong today.



It was a big day in September 1978 when World No 1 golfer Seve Ballesteros played the Buninyong Golf Club course at the invitation of Ray Drummond.



Ray had close connections with many of golf's great players. Older Buninyong members still talk about the visits to Buninyong by **Seve Ballesteros, Greg Norman, Johnny Miller and Graham Marsh**. Ray was granted an honorary membership of the Club when he moved interstate in 2001.

Stores

Within sixteen years he had opened stores in Melbourne, Dandenong, Frankston, Kew, Preston, Albury, Traralgon, Shepparton and Geelong. *Ray Drummond Golf* shops became the driving force in retail golf in Victoria. Since that time Drummond Golf has grown to 48 franchises with over 350 employees.

Long-time Ballarat golf professional **Andrew Cartledge** summed up the legacy of Ray Drummond when he said, "I couldn't name one person in Australia who has had a bigger effect on grassroots golf."

Ray's is survived by his wife **Denise** and his children **Ray, Kim, Tracey, Warren, Glenda, Kerrie, Craig, Lee, Alan and Victor** and their extended families.

— Ray Sullivan

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Foodworks helps feed the wildlife

There is not much spoiled or out-of-date vegetables or fruit put out with the rubbish at Buninyong's Foodworks these days. That has all changed since co-owner Trevor Rickard linked the store with the Ballarat Wildlife Park as a sponsor during the park's closedown in the virus crisis.

The Wildlife Park was financially stressed with visitors barred for about eight weeks, and the continuing need to feed and care for the park's 400 animals, birds and reptiles. The Park, established in 1987, now spans 37 acres in Fussell Street, Ballarat East.

According to Wildlife Park Operations manager, **Jared Mulholland**, this supply of food from Buninyong Foodworks is highly valued to help feed the Park's tree kangaroos, wombats, cassowaries and other

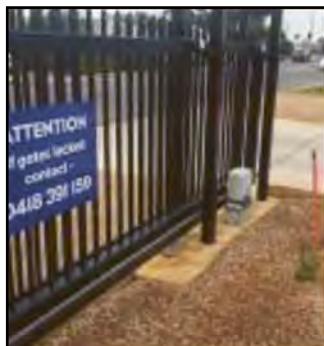


Buninyong Foodworks' Manager Alan Nielsen was not overly keen to feed a piece of watermelon to Sena, one of the park's two cassowaries. Despite clear orders from store owner Trevor Rickard, Alan, refused to pose with a tree python. Watching on is Jared Mulholland.

birds. For example the 80kg cassowary Sena (see photo) consumes about six kg of fruit and vegetables each day.

Now the Foodworks store sends a delivery of a large bin filled with fruit and vegetables to the Park every Wednesday.

Store Manager **Alan Nielsen** said that the supermarket was pleased to be able to help the wildlife at the Park, and is currently running a *Colour the Cassowary* competition with students from the Buninyong Primary School with Park tickets as prizes.



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