



Building sold... but bank stays

When the yellow Ray White auction notice went up outside of the local Community Bank in late April, there was concern amongst some residents that the popular and very successful local business was shutting down.

The quick response from the bank was "we're not going anywhere!"



When the Bendigo Community Bank was in the planning stages in the 2008-2010 period, the Bank Board made the decision that while it would play a major role

in the design of the building proposed for the bank, it would not expend funds on building construction. The building was subsequently purpose-built by a local investor with the bank as tenant.

Sold

On 14 November 2015, some five years after the August 2010 opening of the bank, the building owner decided to sell the property and an on-site auction was conducted. The building was sold at the auction by real estate company Ray White to a Ballarat investor **Stephen Densley** for the sum of \$621,000.

The building only was put up for auction for a second time on 21 May With a mixed crowd of curious locals and two serious

bidders, auctioneer **Phillip Lee** said that the current lease ran until October 2025, that Council rates were \$7200, and that the CPI-indexed rental paid by the bank was \$38,000pa.

Bidding opened at \$700,000 with the property declared 'on the market' at \$840,000. The winning bid by a young Ballarat businessman was \$912,000.

Community Bank Manager **Randall Dreger** who watched the sale, wandered back inside saying "it's now back to business as usual for us!"

Above: Auctioneer Phillip Lee knocks down the bank building for \$912,000.

Left: The winning bidder.

Boost for visitor numbers Guide showcases village

Over forty people from local groups, businesses, visitor centres and Council were at the Red Door Pizzeria in early May to celebrate the launch of the fourth edition of the *Buninyong Visitor Guide*.

The 2021 edition of the 32 page guide was originally set for publication in March 2020. But the onset of the Covid pandemic and its impact on local business and 'visitor-related' operations and activities meant that the printing of the guide was held over until 2021.

In the context of changed opening hours and the ceasing of some businesses entirely, considerable rewriting of the detail contained in the guide was needed. For example, four local accommodation providers listed in the previous edition have now ceased to operate.

Not happy

The start of the publication of the *Buninyong Visitor Guide* in 2012 was an initiative of the Buninyong & District Community Association (BDCA). It had been unhappy with the sparse coverage then given to Buninyong in the general Ballarat tourist publications. A 20 page guide was produced by Ballarat Tourism but only after local businesses agreed to pay \$100 each for inclusion.

But then the BDCA was successful in obtaining grants for full funding of a 28 page guide in 2014 and a 32 page full colour guide in 2016. There was then no

requirement for businesses and attractions to pay for their listing in the guides.

The current 2021 guide has been funded from a grant from Regional Tourism obtained by the Buninyong Business Network (BBN) which sponsored the launch on 5 May along with the BDCA.

President of the BBN **Simon Coghlan** said that the guide "captured much of what was interesting about Buninyong. It shows that there is plenty for visitors to see and do in the village and nearby district."

Out there

Some 1500 copies of the guide have been placed with the Ballarat Visitor Centre located at the Ballarat Town Hall,

and another 2500 with the Buninyong Visitor Centre for distribution to persons interested in coming to, staying at or enquiring about Buninyong. Multiple copies have also been left with the accommodation providers listed in the guide, and a quantity has been placed at the *Mercure Resort* on Geelong Road, as it is known that many visitors there take trips to Buninyong.

Local 'hospitality' businesses also have copies. Residents can obtain a free copy by calling in at the Visitor Centre in the Old Library.

At the launch of the Buninyong Visitor Guide were (L to R) Gayle Adams (BDCA), Cr Ben Taylor, Simon Coghlan (BBN) and Katrine Taylor.





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Funding help for schools from Community Bank

Of the several community projects recently assisted by the Buninyong Community Bank's community investment funding, one was for the Meredith Primary School during the Covid pandemic when the number of available mobile devices for pupils' home-schooling was stretched to the limit.

A bank grant ensured that all families had adequate notebooks and devices as home schooling became the new norm. Most importantly, the local students weren't disadvantaged as the rest of the state continued learning.

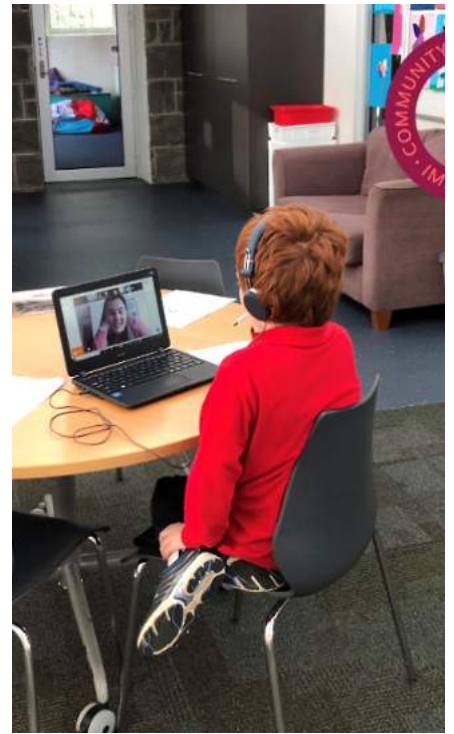
School Principal **Steven Trotter** said "This had a significant impact on our community. The ability to guarantee that all of our families that needed support,

got that support was incredible, as well as reducing the stress and pressure at home. It also means we have a new range of devices to support in-class learning now we're all back on site."

Social help

The Community Bank also has a three-year arrangement with the Buninyong Bowling Club that has facilitated the purchase of new bowls sets and equipment for holding social events. This includes the hugely supported *Corporate Cup* with 26 teams participating for six weeks over summer.

The Club also used Community Investment funding to help run a four week coaching program with the Buninyong Primary School. Experienced members and coaches taught students the fundamentals of both lawn and indoor bowls. The



culmination of the program resulted in a school team competing in the regional school competition run by Bowls Victoria.

Highway crossing works NOW KIDS TO BE SAFER

Buninyong students and pedestrians will be safer thanks to road safety improvements just completed at the school crossing at the intersection of Cornish Street and the Midland Highway.

Buninyong residents had expressed concern about drivers speeding thorough the Buninyong Primary School crossing precinct along the Midland Highway.

The school crossing, which is at the base of a steep decline, is not very prominent, particularly for motorists coming down the hill into Buninyong.

The \$120,000 project will install kerb outstands at the school crossing. These will extend further into the road pavement to narrow the road and make it more apparent to motorists that they are approaching a low-speed pedestrian area.

These works are being delivered through the jointly State- and Federally-funded \$97.2 million *Targeted Road Safety Package*, to support economic recovery in Victoria while improving road safety.

Buninyong Primary School Principal Bernie Conlan inspects the start of the crossing upgrade with Michaela Settle MP.



Twelve months a village eyesore

South Ward Councillors called on to act



Twelve months ago, on 5 June 2020, a stalled CDC/PTV bus rolled down the Warrenheip Street incline from the roundabout, and smashed into parked cars, the street vines and the timber posts supporting the veranda of the old Eagle Hotel.

Liability would have been clear cut. Even the most hard-nosed insurance company which covered the city's bus fleet would have rolled over pretty quickly. The damage done to the veranda certainly didn't necessitate engaging world class architects, draftsmen or major construction companies.

Questions

But despite numerous calls to Council by community members enquiring as to what is happening, the eyesore at the heart of the Buninyong village remains just that – an eyesore.

That mess of steel props, red plastic mesh, a sagging veranda deck, smashed

poles and wires of the street vines there, a healthy crop of weeds, and growing piles of rubbish certainly does nothing to impress locals or visitors. Pedestrians have to walk on the very edge of the highway to get around it.

Not only was this mess there in February for the internationally-televised cycle race, it's still there now at a time when the recently-launched *Buninyong Visitor Guide* is inviting tourists to visit this historic village.

The Eagle Hotel (1858) is one of the village's oldest buildings, and is one of the few classified by the National Trust. The columns and various carved heads on the building's façade are quite unique.

Prompted by recurring enquiries from readers and locals as to 'what's happening with the old Eagle Hotel?' *The News* recently spoke at length to a Council officer who at least changed his initial response, the usual "speak to Council's Media department" (a frustrating track we've been down before), and agreed to take our phone call.

Power

Council does have the power to prosecute where restoration action is not to be seen within a reasonable time. In this case, it seems, Council seems reluctant to take such action because of the "complex number of planning and building permits required." Heritage bodies also seem to be in the mix.

South Ward Councillors are surely aware of this eyesore. **Ben Taylor** certainly is and, alerted to the community backlash, has recently reported that owner/heritage/

Buninyong & district
COMMUNITY NEWS

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

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Council agreement may be imminent about the style of veranda, apparently sensitive to the original design, that has been agreed upon to replace the present one.

But, as suggested to the Council officer, if some bus or truck knocked had down the veranda of the historic Unicorn Hotel on Sturt Street adjoining the Town Hall, or the veranda of Craig's Hotel, it's a living certainty that it would have been speedily restored. But then again, there are those smashed railway gates!!!



Catrina, Bill, Amy with Willow, Ann and Angus Pryor on the porch at Galwiji, Scotsburn for the 98th Year celebration.

Family's 98 years at Scotsburn homestead

The Galwiji homestead at Scotsburn has been in Buninyong resident Bill Pryor's family for 98 years. This was recently celebrated by four generations of the family.

Bill's father William and his brother Alfred purchased the property in 1923 and operated a sawmill there for their business as building suppliers, after earlier generations had emigrated from Cornwall. The property increased in size to 1500 acres and ran Merino sheep and Hereford cattle under the guidance of Bill's uncle Alfred since William was in municipal affairs as Town Clerk in Ballarat East and later at Horsham.

Holidays

Bill and his brothers loved their school holidays at Galwiji helping on the farm, plus catching rabbits for their skins and stripping wattle bark for the tanneries before they went to university. Bill headed to Sydney to study veterinary science, while Gordon and Jim did medicine and Allan civil engineering in Melbourne.

In 1986 Bill retired from his academic career as Veterinary Professor and Assistant Director, Bureau Animal Health. With his linguist/teacher wife Ann, they

moved from Canberra to run their half of the farm and its Merinos, before becoming heavily involved in the establishment of Ballarat University (now Federation University) with Bill as the inaugural Deputy Chancellor and Professor Geoffrey Blaine as Chancellor.

Farm stay

Meanwhile, Bill and Ann's sons, Steve and Rick, established sugar gum plantations on the property while another son, Malcolm ran a farm-stay business from his Melbourne work-place with local help from Bill and Ann until they moved into Buninyong.

While the farmland has now been sold, the homestead and surrounds are now occupied by their youngest son Angus and his wife Catrina who relinquished their Sydney jobs during Covid's work-from-home movement.

Their daughter Amy, a student in Melbourne, often visits Galwiji while daughter Willow – the fourth generation and two years old – may well form an attachment to this unique property that has captivated the Pryor family for almost a century.

– Russell Luckock

streettalk

LAST MONTH'S News article about the retirement village idea floated by Vin Fay sure has stirred some interest already. A couple of local heavy-hitters have come on board to get some early action on the possibility of siting such a village on the old soccer field up behind the Men's Shed.

MANY GOLFERS thought that a tropical deluge would have been needed to fill that huge new 20 ML dam recently completed at the golf course. It is now almost full after the recent rains. The grass seed/wood fibre mix sprayed on the banks has resulted in a good coverage of grass, and the-turf on the challenging new tee at the 16th hole is looking good. Now for the fountain!

THE BATTLE over the Mt Buninyong barrels took up four full days at VCAT recently. Supporting the solicitor who appeared for the City of Ballarat were local objectors including the owners of three neighbouring properties together with two expert witnesses, and Community Association and the Historical Society representatives. All were at the Zoom screens for about six hours each day. The project Applicant had a team of a barrister, supporting solicitors and expert witnesses. Now yet another hearing day has been set, together with a site visit by the two VCAT members hearing the case.

SOME RUMBLES around town about some coming changes to a favourite village coffee/eating spot, a major local main street business, and also about some rebuilding works at the supermarket.



Sushi served with a smile

In late April the much-anticipated opening of Buninyong's new sushi restaurant, adjacent to the Post Office in Warrenheip Street, quietly happened. The business known as Kawa Sushi is owned and operated by husband and wife team Annie and Leon Chen.

The opening here had been delayed due to the impact of Covid restrictions on the sale of their former shop, the popular *Sushi Noodle* in Mair Street, Ballarat. Ten years after they opened that business, Annie and Leon found that there wasn't a sushi shop in Buninyong and decided to sell Sushi Noodle and relocate here.

Early start

While they still live in Ballarat, the commute to Buninyong is short, which is just as well, as the shop opens its doors at 8.00am during the week.

Both Annie and Leon were born in China where Leon gained much experience working in the International Hotel in Shenzhen (on the China-Hong Kong border) from 1989 until 1992. He then moved to the western Pacific area to work in the *Makati Hotel* in Palau. Later he came to live in Melbourne.

He was introduced to Annie by friends and they married in 1995. They opened their first sushi shop together in the Bourke Street Mall in 1998 and a second shop in Lonsdale Street in 1999. They ran the two shops together, involving long hours of hard work.

They realised, however, that there were very few sushi shops in Ballarat, so another move was planned. Both shops in Melbourne were sold and the shop in Ballarat was opened in 2011. Leon does most of the cooking whilst Annie as she says, is "front of house and helper!"

They have two children, **Jacky**, who is 20 and now at University and **Eric**, 17, who is in Year 12.

Sister

Unfortunately, neither child is interested in following in their parents' footsteps and keeping the business in the family. However, Annie's sister, **Bonnie** still runs and owns a sushi shop in Sturt Street. Business so far has been good and Annie has been pleased to see many Buninyong residents who used to patronise their shop in Ballarat. Happily they now don't have as far to travel!

The shop offers an extensive takeaway menu as well as having a dine-in area. Annie and Leon are happy to cater for special events and house parties. The



shop is attractive, both with the décor and the appetising smells which greet you on entering.

Annie and Leon are very welcoming, so go along and support this exciting new venture in Warrenheip Street's booming hospitality strip.

Kawa Sushi (5301 3016) is open from 8.00am to 5.00pm on weekdays and on Saturdays between 10.00am and 3.00pm.

– Rita Russell

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Sean a big hit with Probus members

“The best one yet” was the assessment of one Buninyong Probus Club member after the informative and, at times, humorous talk recently given to the club by Senior Constable Sean Almeida from Buninyong Police.

Sean came to Australia as a six year old, and considers that as a police officer, he has the best possible job. He has had to pull his gun out only twice, had to shoot someone with his Taser once, but has had to spray people from time to time.

Unlocked

While there is crime in Buninyong S/C Almeida says it is minimal. There is ‘opportunistic crime’ where teenagers or young adults needing money to fuel their drug habits will take the opportunity to enter unlocked properties.

He said that “even if you are on a ten acre property, lock your doors when you go out and don’t leave your laptop or wallet in an unlocked car. A photograph on Gumtree or something similar, which identifies a particular property when advertising an article for sale, can lead to a theft.”

He also warned members to be careful of computer messages. “Don’t automatically give out your phone number or your name. Your personal information is very important to a third party. Strangely, the Buninyong Police Station actually had a call from one of these scams,” he recounted. This caused much laughter from the Probus members.

The police do sometimes have calls complaining that “My child refuses to go to sleep and so I told him I am going to call the police!!” That generated more laughter. Or, “I can’t stop my neighbour’s dog from barking.” Well, neither can the police. They can’t stop neighbours arguing loudly either, he said.

He asked persons with CCTV cameras on their properties to check them regularly and report anything unusual. That might help the police a great deal. One elderly resident who walks her dog in the early morning saw something suspicious which she mentioned to the police in confidence. The arrest of a wanted person was the result.

Four here

The Buninyong police contingent consisting of one Sergeant and three operational members covers a large area which, apart from Buninyong, also includes Navigators, Mt Clear and Mt Helen.

However, as part of the Victorian Police Force they can be sent to other areas if necessary. In response to a complaint that ‘they are never there’ Sean’s replied that they have never caught a crook by sitting in the police station. They do try to roster their staff to cover the area. Ringing 5341 3431 diverts to mobile 1800 333 000. It will be answered.

– Cassandra Carland



Playgroup news

The Buninyong Community Playgroup has been running for over 30 years.

Its goal is to create a welcoming community that connects families of young children. The bonds that form at playgroup for both parents and children run for many years after they leave.

Playgroup leader **Belinda Wardle** advises that the group is on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, and can be contacted through those platforms.



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Community garden upgrade Green light from Council

While much of the current major project works going on at Royal Park have largely focused on soccer, finalised plans for an upgrade to the public and community garden space have recently been agreed to.

The City of Ballarat is providing \$50,000 of investment from its Community Infrastructure Program to fund some initial works at the public garden space. These works include the installation of ranch style fencing at the front of the garden on Hedrick Street, installation of a skillion shelter, granitic sand paths providing improved access

around the garden, plus the installation of seats and some picnic table sets.

Sue Nunn, Chair of Buninyong Sustainability said that “it’s exciting to see the plans get finalised and City of Ballarat allocate funding for some of those important infrastructure components. It is great to see this part of the overall transformation begin to take shape.”

With the existing community hall being deemed ‘unfit for use’, Buninyong Sustainability will also be advocating for the development of Stage II of the

Royal Park development to include a community facility.

City of Ballarat will be delivering the initial upgrades over the next few months. Enquiries regarding Royal Park management should be made to City of Ballarat, www.ballarat.vic.gov.au.

People interested in being part of this exciting new community space – promoting sustainable living in your town – should contact Buninyong Sustainability info@buninyongsustainability.org.au

– Pete Appleton
Executive Manager Engaged Communities



Call for Town Hall interest

Due to the retirement of a long-serving member, the Buninyong Town Hall Community Asset Committee is seeking one new member to join the Committee, to assist with the maintenance and running of the Buninyong Town Hall.

Priority will be given to individuals who are regular users of the hall and who have experience with community groups and volunteering.

Please send expressions of interest to **Miranda Donald** on miradonald@bigpond.com. Expressions of interest close on 1 July 2021.

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In overcast conditions, with attendee numbers restricted, the need to register, and social distancing requirements in place, a crowd estimated at “around 900”, close to the permitted cap of 1000 people, attended the Anzac ceremonies at Buninyong RSL Park on the morning of 25 April.

RSL President **Ron Fleming** read the ANZAC requiem and gave an introductory address. The guest speaker was WO2 **Paul Micallef** of the Ballarat-based 8/7 Battalion of the Royal Victorian Regiment. The catafalque party consisted of six members of the 300 Australian Cadet Unit.

Over thirty community groups and individuals laid wreaths at the cenotaph.

A feature of the ceremony was the dual flyover of light aircraft. Local pilot **Tony Coxall** and pilots from the Lethbridge Aero Club were at the controls. Tony said that he hoped that a flyover would be incorporated into future district Anzac Day ceremonies.



Bill Akell chats with guest speaker Warrant Officer Paul Micallef before the ceremony.



A wreath was laid on behalf of the Mount Clear Primary School by school leaders (L to R) Bella Dwyer, 11, Frazer Macphail, 11 and Dekotah Finley, 11.



A view of the crowd of some 900 at the Buninyong service.

Faces of Anzac Day



Old Vic on deck

Vic Bradley, aged 97, has lost count of the number of Anzac ceremonies he has attended. The World War II veteran recently was awarded a commemorative medal and certificate from Catherine King MHR on the 75th anniversary of the end of that war.

Golf club wreath

Local businessman and Vietnam veteran Ron Delaland arrives at the ceremony with a wreath later laid at the Cenotaph on behalf of members of the Buninyong Golf Club of which he is the President.



Keeping us safe

Two police officers from the Buninyong Station, Sen Const Sean Almeida and Acting Sergeant Tracey Atkins were dressed in their formal uniforms at the ceremony. They reported no problems with crowd limit and social distancing regulations.

Even in death

Anzac Day was even marked at the Buninyong Cemetery where relatives had draped an Australian flag over the grave of World War II veteran George Prolongeau who died in late August at the age of 103 years.





In the early afternoon, the Buninyong RSL also organised the first Anzac day service “in living memory” at the newly-completed Cambrian Hill Avenue of Honour which was officially opened in December 2020.

Ron Fleming welcomed some 50 attendees, many of whom were related to the service men and women from the district who served in World War I or World War II, each of whom is now commemorated with a plaque in the avenue of 56 oak trees located along Glassons Road, Cambrian Hill.

A brief reflection on some of the local soldiers who were killed in World War I was delivered by Barry Fitzgerald who was a member of the ‘avenue-completion’ team during 2020.

Just as the Last Post was sounding out, there was a flyover of three light aircraft which surprised and excited those present.



Cambrian Hill identities John Bedggood and Yvonne Beaston at the ceremony there.



RSL Presiden Ron Flemingt lays a wreath at the Cambrian Hill memorial.



Relatives of John (Jack) Atkinson who was killed in action in Belgium in 1917, (L to R) Colin Wills, Colquette Wills, Jamie Walker, Ryan Walker and Ashlyn Walker, chat with Ron Fleming after the ceremony.



Two of the three 'flyover' planes at the Cambrian Hill service. They were piloted by Tony Coxall and others from the Lethbridge Aero Club.



Brian and Dru Parker. Brian wore his father's army dog tags around his neck.



Barry Fitzgerald gave a reflection on four of the soldiers killed in action in World War I.

...and at scotsburn

A unique Anzac Day tribute on the Midland Highway at Scotsburn was prepared by Andy Burns who hung a three-metre banner and an Aussie flag at half-mast from two 30m cranes on his property.



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Cold weather but hot price for wood

With wintry weather already here, Buninyong Golf Club stalwart Trevor McCann is again in action cutting and delivering dry firewood to district homes at bargain prices.

The firewood, cut into short lengths, is sourced from the dry trees that are damaged or blown over around the course each year.

This will be the fourth year that Trevor has undertaken this project which, to date, has raised some \$7000 for club projects. Some of the funds are used for the extensive native and floral garden plantings that Trevor and a couple of helpers have established around the course over recent years. He also has a program of tree plantings under way.

The cost of the dry wood is \$90 pcm plus \$10 delivery charge. The popular order of two cubic metres delivered is \$190. Trevor said that he now has quite a few



'repeat' customers around the village. Orders can be placed by phoning the golf club on 5341 3217.

The Club has a policy of leaving many significant dead trees that do not pose a danger to allow birds to nest in them. Two of these large trees can be seen adjacent to the sixth and the eighteenth green near the clubhouse.

The old and the new

The newest member at the Men's Shed is Ross Helman who joined the group after recently moving to Buninyong from Shepparton. Ross



said he came here to be closer to daughter, Sally, who lives in Fiskin Street, and because of Buninyong's "great community lifestyle."

When *The News* visited the shed recently, Ross was working to restore the cast iron ends of a park bench together with Russell Harrison.

Four generations of the Harrison family have lived in Buninyong. Russell is the brother of News advertiser and well-known funeral director Brian Harrison.

Ross Helman (right) teams up with Russell Harrison on a Men's Shed project.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Another road danger spot

Following the Opinion article in May's edition of *The News*, I would like to draw attention to my struggle to have the turning arrows re-painted at the intersection of Midland Highway and Moss Avenue.

My first contact was with the City of Ballarat, on 27 October 2020. I felt need to make this request after a friend who was driving his boys to school had a very narrow escape from a serious accident.

Major work on this section of the Midland Highway from the golf club to the cemetery is urgently required. This has been quite long enough for this dangerous section to be fixed. There is plenty of room on road side verges and, thank goodness, no trees to be removed. The entrances to the cemetery has been discussed for many years. Why no action?

When you drive on the Midland Highway from Buninyong to Scotsburn or Clarendon there are many designated turn off lanes to "single" private properties. The un-made road, Granny White's Lane also has one, but does not service the number of people for the houses or school in Moss Avenue or the users of the cemetery.

To you and your team thank you for your GREAT work.

Christine Jamison-Jones
Scotchmans Lead



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Only two to go

Last year *The News* carried an article on the project to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Buninyong RSL. This involved compiling a photographic record of the 25 past and present Presidents of the RSL.

Through community assistance and other resources, Club Historian **Bill Akell** has managed to obtain 23 photographs but requires the final two. The photographs required are of the following.

Andrew WYLIE. Andrew was a farmer from Durham Lead. His next-of-kin (NOK) was his mother Mrs Joanna Wylie. Andrew enlisted in the Australian Army on 29 September 1916 and served in the 24th Battalion AIF. He returned to Australia on 1 November 1917. Andrew was President of the Buninyong RSL in the period 1950-52.

Arthur KELLY. Arthur was born in Clunes on 5 August 1908. His NOK was D. Kelly.

Arthur enlisted in the Australian Army on 6 December 1942 at Puckapunyal and served with 2/1 Australian Topographic Survey Company. He was discharged from the Army on 3 April 1946.

Arthur was President in 1958.

Bill Akell has asked *The News* for assistance in the hope of obtaining photographs of the above men. He can be contacted at email yank1200@bigpond.com, or through the Buninyong RSL at PO Box 6, Buninyong

Makers & Shakers

A new group – Makers & Shakers – is now in action at the Town Hall. They invite people to bring along sewing or other projects and a sense of humour, and then see where the group's creativity takes them.

Sessions are on 17 June, 15 July, and 12 August between 6.00pm and 8.30pm. Contact **Sonya** on 0417 168 456 or on sutcliffesonya@gmail.com

Drama at the altar

Every once in a while *The Courier* produces a glossy magazine called *Ballarat Weddings*. The most recent edition included detailed coverage of the wedding of a Buninyong couple, Greg and Kylie Cameron. Each is a nurse at the Ballarat Health Services.

The wedding had its fair share of drama. The wedding was set for Saturday February 13 at St Anne's Winery, Myrning. But a State-wide pandemic shut-down from midnight on 12 February meant that a rehearsal on the Friday became the real ceremony, with Kylie rushing out Facebook messages to guests. Out of 70 original



invitees, sixty were able to make a rush trip to the wedding.

Unfortunately, the father of the bride who was travelling from Queensland, could not make the revised schedule. But he recorded a moving speech shared with guests on their iPhones.

Safety seats from Masons

Local Sturt Buninyong Lodge through its Masonic Social Committee, and supported by the Freemasons Foundation, provided \$4000 to *Eureka Mums* for the purchase of one hundred infant car seats.

Eureka Mums is a post-natal support organisation providing around 200 car seats a year to needy families. These seats range from reversible models for newborns, to ones for toddlers, and also booster models for older children.

Lodge funds were raised during the January 2020 fruit sales. Since 1999 the fruit sales have provided over \$60,000 that has supported various community groups and activities in and around Ballarat.

Walk track cash

The Goldfields Track which spans 210 km from Mount Buninyong to Bendigo has received a major funding boost of \$1.9 million from the State Government.

The grant is for improvements to "signage, interpretation and visitor amenity."

Works are expected to enhance the visitor experience and move towards the vision of a world-class iconic outdoor tourism experience.

The Goldfields Track crosses the municipalities of the City of Ballarat, Hepburn and Mount Alexander Shires, and the City of Bendigo.



Masonic Social Committee President Ken Jenkin, Trina Lewis Operations Manager at Eureka Mums, committee Treasurer Doug Williams and committee member Ian Judd at the donation handover.

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From time to time *The News* has included several news items about the EV charging point at Desoza Park.

However, an eagle-eyed reader has spotted some cheeky holiday makers who recently parked their camper van in the Crown Hotel car park, hooked up a long modified domestic power cord to the charger overnight, and then were still there on the following morning.

Hope their electric kettle worked!



Ernie Neale's Monthly RAINFALL REPORT

Ups and downs

Immersed as we are in this massive seething medium we call the atmosphere, it is understandable that we detect and respond quickly to sudden changes happening in it. There's nothing that moves faster than a group of people caught outdoors in an unexpected downpour! However, we're not so good at picking up on subtler changes that gradually unfold over longer periods of time. Odd little quirks can easily develop without us even noticing them.

One example of this is Buninyong's rainfall so far this year. In January we had 104.4mm (235% of average), February 10.9mm (31%), March 70.5mm (173%) and April 34.1mm (63%). Such extreme fluctuations are unusual and are easily overlooked while the progressive total remains well above the average of 174.5mm. They certainly make it difficult to ponder what might be ahead. However, one thing that is sure is that this year's Autumn break arrived on 5 May, with a hefty 44.0mm in 24 hours.

APRIL 2021			
Date	Rain	Date	Rain
11	19.6	21	6.1
13	0.9	24	1.0
15-16	4.8	27	1.7
Total		34.1mm	
Average		53.9mm	

Bus stop battle Another point of view

On page 3 of the May edition of the *Buninyong News* there was a story on the contentious issue of the bus stop in central Warrenheip, Street. While the article mentions the voting results of local MP Michaela Settle's investigation, it doesn't mention other factors.

Michaela spent almost an hour observing usage at the bus stop and took into account feedback of usage numbers collected by members of the community. While touch-off records suggest approximately five people

a day use the stop, including those not using their MYKI increases the numbers substantially. The numbers mid-afternoon on weekdays are around 40-to 50 per day.

Also, there are very few occasions where there are no parking spaces free on the block between Eyre and Forest Streets. Perhaps locals could observe this for themselves, and identify times when there is no parking on the block, if wanting to pursue the issue further?

– Rosalie Mauseth

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Australian netball legend in Rokewood Locals learn the Lisa way

Putting the Rokewood-Corindhap netballers through their paces at a recent training session was the first time that former Australian Netball Head Coach Lisa Alexander had taken on that role since February 2020 when she finished as coach of the Australian Diamonds.

Lisa Alexander's netball CV is amazing. She was head coach of the Australian team between 2011 and 2020, winning the World Cup in 2015 (picture) and a Commonwealth Games gold medal at Glasgow in 2014, the year the Diamonds were undefeated. Lisa's coaching record with the Diamonds in Test matches was 83 wins and 19 losses.

Lisa was awarded an AM in 2021 for her services to netball at the elite level. In 2020 she caused a flurry in AFL circles when she applied for the position of head coach of the North Melbourne Football Club.

Friends

Head coach of the Rokewood-Corindhap netball team **Kerry Lightfoot** is a past team-mate and long-time friend of Lisa. In fact their connection and friendship spans more than three decades.



"It was a privilege and thrill to have the former national coach at our club and to be able to watch her at work on the township's Caldow Courts," said senior netball co-ordinator, **Adele Nairn**.

"Each and every player's effort over the night was something for the Club to be very proud of. Lisa was very impressed, and was very genuine when she thanked the Club for the opportunity to work with this group," said Adele.

Above: At the Rokewood training session. (L to R) Adele Nairn, Lisa Alexander, Kerry Lightfoot, Ruby Caldwell.

Left: Lisa Alexander with the World Cup winning Australian team in 2015.



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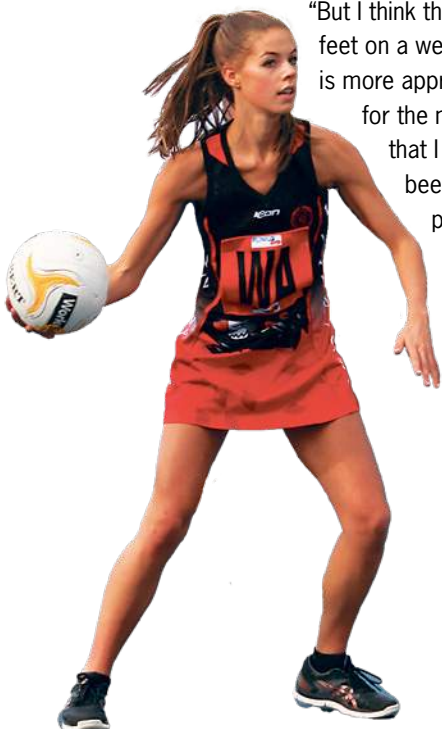




Meg (and mum) coach hot team

Netball Australia describes the game's charm as *“the squeak of the court beneath our feet...the crisp cool air on a Saturday morning...and the smell of Deep Heat. This, both for the everyday players and the world changers, is home.”*

“I really like that,” said Buninyong netball coach **Meg Fritsch** (Gilbert) in a recent chat with *The News*. “But I think the slap of feet on a wet court is more appropriate for the netball that I have been playing”.



Meg started her netball journey at the age of six. She grew up in Buninyong but played her junior and senior netball with the Brown Hill Club in the Ballarat mid-week competition and with East-Point in the Ballarat Football Netball League.

Heading north to attend university in the Bendigo region, she played with Castlemaine before transferring to Golden Square. It was at Golden Square that she won multiple Best and Fairest awards, represented Bendigo Netball Association in Country Championships and won her one and only weekend premiership in 2015.

Tough

Her former Golden Square captain described her as, “an uncompromising tough defender who holds her defensive end together and provides us with a lot of drive down the court and into attack.”

Meg came home in 2018 and joined the Buninyong netball team as joint coach with her mother **Heather Gilbert**, who also has an impressive netball CV. Heather was

(Above) Coaches Meg and Heather discuss strategies with the team at the half-time break.

(Left) Wing Attack, Ella Squire was one of Buninyong's best in the 75-12 win against Newlyn.

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a star goal shooter and coach with the Brown Hill senior teams for many years and has coached at senior level with East-Point.

Award

Buninyong made the finals in 2019 and Meg was awarded the *Defender of the Year* award for the Central Highlands League. Unfortunately, Covid totally blanked out the 2020 season, but Buninyong has had a blazing start in 2021 with three great wins. Meg is sole coach this season as Heather has stepped aside but still provides support on match days.

Local netball followers think that this could be a big year for the Lady Bombers. However, Meg is careful to stress that although the team has recruited well and looks strong, you can't get carried away. Hepburn has been the team to beat and are still the benchmark.

It looks like the future of Buninyong netball is in good hands. Let's hope when the October edition of *The News* is published, there will be a report of a Bomber netball premiership.

– Ray Sullivan