

Two young kids go on glass rampage **SMASHING SPREE**

Over a two day period including Christmas day, two children described by police as “not yet teenagers” went on a massive trail of destruction, smashing glass on a bus shelter and two buildings in central Buninyong.

The children smashed all thick glass windows on the bus shelter adjacent to RSL Park before moving to the nearby Masonic Hall and the RSL clubrooms.

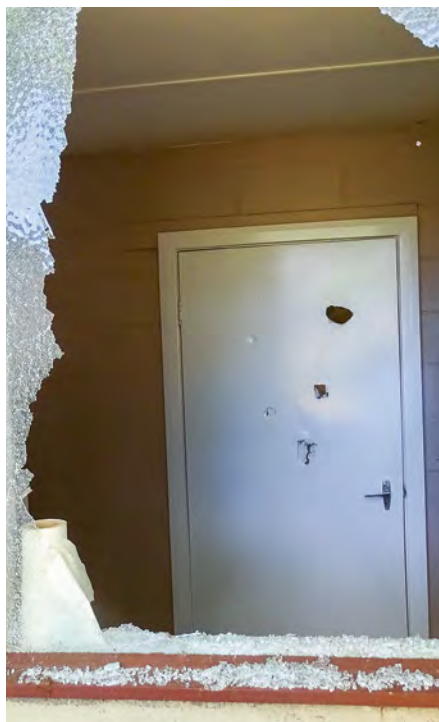
At the Masonic Hall all windows along the southern side and those facing the rear car park were broken by projectiles ranging from stones to full house bricks. A total of 27 windows were damaged.

At the adjoining RSL Hall thirteen windows were smashed. Stones were thrown at one large window at the rear of the hall with such force that several were still lodged in a door some 1.5m behind the window.

Ron Fleming, who coincidentally currently is both President of the RSL and Grand Master of the Sturt Buninyong Lodge, said it was extremely disappointing that children would vandalise two important community buildings. “Going by the distance that stones and bricks were found inside the hall after being thrown into the windows, these were hurled with considerable force,” Mr Fleming said.

Local police and Ballarat CIB investigated, and **Snr Constable Sean Almeida** of Buninyong Police said two boys had been identified following information from members of the public.

Shown above is the extensively damaged bus shelter, and (below left) a large, smashed window at the RSL Hall with the rocks embedded in a door, and (right) Ron Fleming looks at the house brick used to smash a large window at the Masonic Hall.



A busy year of News

Monthly front covers of 2021 editions of *The News* show just a small part of happenings in the village during 2021. Incidents ranging from hostage dramas to bomb threats, issues such as the barrels on the Mount and speeding trucks, and events such as Flo Goodwin's 100th birthday and Remembrance Day were all featured. Covers are designed both to incorporate hard news of the month and also to avoid looking similar month to month.



February



March



April



May



June



July



August



September



October



November



December

Close shave for crane driver Christmas drama

A Scotsburn man operating a crane on a property on Yankee Flat Road in late December came close to death when the crane came into contact with a power line hidden by trees.

The crane operator, along with several helpers, had placed lifting straps around a shed which was to be moved to another part of the property.

Highway dash

After moving the shed a short distance the crane boom came in contact with the hidden power line causing the

operator to be electrocuted, suffering life-threatening injuries.

After treatment by paramedics on site he was taken to a Ballarat hospital, but almost immediately the seriously ill man was rushed at high speed by ambulance to Melbourne for specialist treatment. He is now recovering.

The other helpers, who were guiding the shed as it was moved, were not injured, but were considered to be very lucky as had chains rather than straps been used in the lifting process, one or more may have been killed or seriously injured.

JUST IN TIME. With only one day to spare before international TV coverage of the cycling in Buninyong, Council and the property owners cleaned up the long-standing mess in front of the Eagle Hotel. Now for the restoration of the veranda – and the replacement of the street vines there.

IT'S ALL HAPPENING with the Botanic Gardens. Recently ABC Radio featured celebrity gardener **Costa Georgiadis** discussing Victoria's botanic gardens. But no mention of those at Ballarat or Buninyong. News sports reporter **Ray Sullivan** who rang the station to protest, was surprised to find himself on air for about five minutes in a gardens chat with host **Jacinta Parsons**.

HOT HOUSE. The booming local property market saw the recent sale of the late **Betty Bunting's** Learmonth St home two doors up from the Supermarket for a whopping \$860,000. It is zoned Commercial so watch this space.



BIG TANKER. While the CFA finally has moved into its spanking new building, they are now one of 21 rural brigades to have scored a new heavy duty tanker under a State Government \$23 million commitment to ensure volunteer firefighters have the best protection possible.

The tankers feature a 15 tonne fire safe crew cab chassis, with a 4000 litre water tank, 4 x 4 capability, electronic monitors, and electric rewind hose reels. The tankers, due mid-year, are said to be able to withstand temperatures of more than 600°C during a burnover.

Christmas gifts from community Cheer for the needy



Salvation Army officials were delighted with the large array of food and gifts left under the Christmas tree at the Community Bank Buninyong in late December.

They said, "Dozens of needy people in and around Ballarat would be thrilled to receive some of the gifts left at the bank."

Bank staffer and appeal organiser **Narelle Tatt** (shown above left with bank

colleagues **Peita** and **Charlotte**) said that the appeal had now been running for the past seven years and that the amount of gifts brought in by bank customers and community members last December was probably the largest yet.

This is yet another way the bank, which to date has allocated some \$1.4 million to community groups and projects, plays a caring role in the district.

Summer magic in the Gardens

On a glorious Buninyong summer Sunday in early December, Friends of Buninyong Botanic Gardens celebrated the 160th Anniversary of the Gardens by hosting some 250 kids and grown-ups to an Australiana-themed event with yarns, loads of laughs, music and song.

Players from the *Bard in Buninyong*, the township's popular theatre company, performed the First Slice (chapter) of *The Magic Pudding* bedecked in jolly bushies' costumes. *Ballarat BotaniKIDS* followed with creative activities, including mud pie mixing and preparation of Aussie pot pourri sachets.

Showbags

At the Napoleons Enfield Landcare Group post, free Australian native plant tubestock was distributed along with showbags including the publication *Indigenous Plants of Southern Ballarat* and information about neighbourhood koalas.

The adult tour itinerary focused on the seven (only) Australian native species to be found in the Gardens. The U3A Ballarat Ukulele and Celtic bands provided musical interludes and refreshments were served by the Gardens Friends.

The celebration in the Buninyong Botanic Gardens was sponsored by Community Bank Buninyong with support from several local businesses and community groups.

In another pre-Christmas Gardens event, students and teachers from Mt Clear College walked to Buninyong for a BBQ lunch. Sports and Student Engagement Coordinator at the school, **Erin Riley** said that after another Covid-restricted year it



gave the students an opportunity to wind down the school year with friends whilst enjoying the wonderful Buninyong Botanic Gardens.

(Above) Performers in action in the production of *The Magic Pudding* before a large crowd of children and adults. (Below) Three staff and a student from Mt Clear College enjoy some fun in the Botanic Gardens.



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After seven years Final edition from News team

In 2012 the production of the earlier printed version of the *Buninyong & District Community News* which had been produced by a group of community volunteers for some 37 years ceased.

In early 2015, the community newspaper was resurrected in a new-look hard-copy format following a funding grant from the City of Ballarat through its Buninyong *Engaging Communities* group.

Wide impact

Since that time, each month 1200 hard copies (and for some editions, 1400 copies) of *The News* have been produced and distributed through local businesses, and schools with an estimated readership of some 3000 people. A further 1000 soft copies are distributed with the regular emails sent out by local schools, clubs, and community groups. Individual copies are sent to City of Ballarat officials and Councillors and politicians.

Over the past seven years Editor **Barry Fitzgerald** and **Gayle Adams** have worked hard to produce an independent high quality monthly community newspaper which has reported on community news and happenings, recorded major events and milestones, included news from schools and community groups, profiled interesting residents and personalities, provided snapshots of local history, expressed strong comment on issues of critical community interest, and even mixed in a little gossip from time to time in *Street Talk*.

Winning sixteen State community newspaper Awards, and its very solid financial position are some indications of its success.

Final one

Now, as briefly mentioned in the December 2021 issue, after 77 editions, this February 2022 *News* will be the last put together by volunteers Barry and Gayle.

They close their long involvement with *The News* with grateful thanks for the widespread support and positive feedback

from almost all in the community, and from loyal advertisers, printers and designers, and for the help given by a small group of assisting reporters.

It is not yet clear as to what the future holds for *The News*. One thing is certain however – the role played by this community newspaper as part of the wonderful fabric of life in Buninyong is of great importance, must be continued in some format.

Cemetery helpers find Gold

Volunteers, workers and helpers at the Buninyong Cemetery were presented with Community Gold vouchers at a casual social function which preceded the Annual General Meeting of the Cemetery Trust held late in 2021.

The vouchers were donated to the Trust by the Community Bank Buninyong as part of its 2021-22 Community Gold promotion.

Two workers and three volunteers were each presented with vouchers along with former long-standing Trust Secretary

Frances Winnell, and recently-retired Trust member **Dawn Whykes** who had spent 41 years as a member of the Cemetery Trust.

Dawn was also presented with a Long Service Certificate from the Department of Health, and was delighted by a later Trust decision to plant an avenue of trees in her honour along Imperial Drive in the Lawn section of the Cemetery.

Shown below after receiving Community Gold vouchers are (L to R) Graeme Penhall, John Bedggood, Chris Nicholls, Dawn Whykes, Tony Benda, and Frances Winnell.



ONE FOR THE FUR BABIES!

New purpose built dog park for James Reserve Buninyong.

Michaela Settle MP STATE MEMBER FOR BUNINYONG
15 Main Road, Bakery Hill 3350 P: 5331 7722 E: michaela.settle@parliament.vic.gov.au



Too little, too late!

In this final edition of *The News* being prepared by the current editorial team, it seemed opportune to raise yet again some key issues that continue to be vitally important matters for Buninyong and about which action or leadership is hard to find.

THE MISSING TOWN PLAN. In the August 2020 edition of *The News* there was a detailed review of the now five year saga of Council's promises and excuses about the Town Plan for Buninyong. First discussed in 2017 it has yet to see the light of day. After a flurry of comment about its being caught up in of some city-wide strategy exercises that emerged in mid-2021, and how a draft was to be soon produced – nothing!

To suggest that the Council and the officers running with this exercise have utterly let this community down, is the kindest slant that could be put on this five year saga.

THE DESOZA PARK MASTERPLAN. Yet another example of initial excited Council spin... then into the black hole. Going back to early 2015 there was a flurry of meetings, committees formed, and colourful sketches of the future direction for Desoza Park published (See *The News* April, 2015).

Amongst the many promising proposals was the upgrading of the rotunda, the toilets moved, the stage relocated into a "natural amphitheatre," work done on the old burial ground, and many others. Yet again, the question is asked of Council

and our Ward Councillors – on whose dusty desk is this plan sitting and what are you doing about it??

TRUCK TRAFFIC. Don't believe the data from RRV that heavy vehicle traffic through Buninyong has only increased by a very small percentage over recent years. Take a seat near the roundabout on any working day and come to your own conclusions. So too, don't believe that all will be well when the Link Road edges ever closer to the Midland Highway at Magpie.

Try getting through the roundabout at Wiltshire Lane /Latrobe Street corner or have a look at the mess near the DTC to see what the coming flow on to Buninyong is going to look like. There have been traffic counts and marginally-relevant surveys done over the past five years. But still no moves are in sight to limit heavy through traffic in the village.

THE OLD CFA BUILDING. Once again, *The News'* calls for urgent civic leadership in ensuring that this critical piece of village real estate remain in community hands has seen no real action or leadership from our local groups or representatives.

There's been a cop-out one-liner from Council affirming their lack of interest in purchasing it. The BDCA is considering sending a letter to the CFA (with a totally predictable outcome). By now there should have been a community meeting called with local and State Government representatives there. There should have been wide media coverage. This is looming to be another case of too little, too late!

Buninyong & district
COMMUNITY NEWS

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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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BOOK LAUNCHED AT MEN'S SHED

Federation University Honorary Professor Barry Golding AM recently launched his latest book at the Buninyong Men's Shed. Chris Kruger, the Shed's Secretary welcomed the guests to the launch.

These included Federal Member for Ballarat Catherine King, Federation University Vice Chancellor Professor Duncan Bentley, AMSA Chair Paul Sladdin and representatives from Federation University and the surrounding Men's Sheds.

The book, *Shoulder to Shoulder: Broadening the Men's Shed Movement* is a complementary sequel to *The Men's Shed Movement: The Company of Men* published in 2015. The new book tracks the expansion and benefits of the Men's Shed movement over the past six years.

Professor Golding was especially concerned about the impact that the Covid pandemic has had on men's sheds both within Australia and around the world.

Patron

There are now over 2,800 Men's Sheds around the world. The Men's Shed movement has established itself well and truly beyond Australia's shores to the United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, the US, Denmark and most recently in Iceland and Kenya. The vast majority of these are based on the Australian model.

Professor Golding has been able to demonstrate how Sheds have developed many great ways of keeping in touch with

their members during the pandemic and lockdowns. These may have been through phone calls, home visits with physical distancing, Zoom meetings, food deliveries, even dropping off tools and items for men to complete projects at home – the aim of all these activities was to keep men involved and connected.

Health concerns

The main purpose of a Men's Shed is to provide an environment that caters for the health (both physical and mental) and well-being of the men attending the shed. Sheds strive to provide a safe and friendly environment where the men can talk, learn new skills, pass on their knowledge and skills and be involved in meaningful community activities and projects.

Ballarat has nine Men's Sheds within a 30 km radius. These sheds are located at Ballarat, Ballarat East, Sebastopol, Wendouree, Buninyong, Scarsdale, Linton, Dereel and Creswick. Details are available through the Victorian Men's Shed Association at <https://www.vmsa.org.au/>

Locally, some of the latest projects completed by members of the Buninyong men's Shed, have been for Foodworks



supermarket. Foodworks' Manager Alan Nielsen said that the local group had been great to work with. "They have delivered just what we needed at a very fair charge," he said.

Above: Barry Golding speaking at the launch of his book at the Buninyong Men's Shed.

(Lower): Foodworks staff member Sharon Whykes and the popular 'wood box' near the store entrance made by members of the Men's Shed

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Draft plans on the table

Gardens masterplan under public review

City Design staff members of the City of Ballarat visited Buninyong in late December to conduct another community drop-in session at the Town Hall to seek community views on the Draft Master Plan for Buninyong's Botanic Gardens.

The 25 page draft Master Plan had been prepared for the City by consultants *Urban Initiatives*.

In 1850 a reserve (with 'springs and tea tree') was created for the later establishment of botanic gardens in central Buninyong. They were established in the early 1860s and designed by **Baron Ferdinand von Mueller**, the first Director of Melbourne's Royal Botanic Gardens.

In 1999 the Gardens were added to the Victorian Heritage Register. This formalised their post-colonial historical, aesthetic, scientific and social significance to the State.

The fifty community members who visited the Town Hall session were able to view plans, sketches, and detailed proposals for the dual elements of the Gardens – the formal lower area and the upper Gong area.

Proposals

Some proposals in the *Draft Master Plan* included

- a reconstructed Gong wall which incorporated safer pedestrian paths and links between the two garden sections, and a board walk along the edge of the Gong waters
- establishment of a path 'hierarchy' that 'responds to the various uses of the gardens' and including safer and more accessible crossing between the two sections
- ways of improving the water conditions both at the Gong and particularly in the stagnant ponds in the lower section

- identifying opportunities for tree planting to the Gardens surrounds, aiming to screen car parks and street trees.
- upgrading existing park furniture, signage and facilities including improved placement and relationship to pathways
- developing a tree replacement plan to ensure conservation of the heritage character of the Gardens.

The Draft plan included strategies covering (i) community, programming and amenity, (ii) cultural heritage, (iii) education and interpretation, (iv) access, circulation, and connections, (v) healthy ecosystems, habitat and water, and (vi) trees, vegetation and collections.

Above: Senior Council staff John Dyke (left) and David Turley meet before the drop in session.

Lower: Community members chat with Council staff about the various displays.



Peter's Harley is very much alive but different No more thumping roar

Things have changed at Harley-Davidson since its beginnings in a Wisconsin garage in 1903. Wind in the hair and noise out the back became the symbols of freedom to many a motorcycle enthusiast across the western world.

Now, Harley builds an almost silent electric bike and compulsory helmets mean there's no wind in the hair. However, the open road still beckons and they can do a ton legally so that famous Harley-emotion is alive – but different.

New bike

That's the view of Garibaldi resident, **Peter Camilleri**, sitting astride his new *Livewire eHarley* with a road trip to somewhere always on the horizon. Beside the weekly commutes to Latrobe University at Bundoora for his Archaeology studies, Hattah Lakes in northern Victoria was the destination for a recent camping trip for Peter, still in his youthful 20s, and his parents **Joe** and **Henrietta**.

While the parents prefer the straight-backed

ride of their conventional *Triumph*, they share the passion for modern electric vehicles. But Joe has to admit that the *Livewire* gets more admiring looks from bystanders than his old *Triumph 900cc Bonneville*.

Safer

The *Harley Livewire* has the electric motor situated at the bottom of the engine bay to lower the centre of gravity for stability. The RDRS anti-skid technology further enhances the safety aspects and modern tyre 'slicks' seem to have a good grip on the road surface at speed such that Peter feels secure despite the heavy 'feel' of the bike when at a standstill.

Maintenance is much reduced with electric vehicles as there are no grease and oil changes and far fewer moving parts. With EVs it's only belts, brakes and tyres to worry about. This has proved to be a bonus for Peter who used to suffer chiding from his parents for his lack of maintenance on his earlier conventional motor bikes like the *Kawasaki 60* and *Honda Motocross* when competing as a junior on the Creswick Motorcycle Club course.

And Peter considers the *Livewire* helps with the mental issues that sometimes surface until the open road blows them away.

Will he be riding Route 66 as the recognised road trip of a lifetime? "Maybe – who knows!" he said. In the meantime, it's home-grown trips further afield...with an eye to planning the distances between charging stations.

And what about the noise from this modern Harley? The thumping roar of the other Harleys are replaced by the 'whirr' of the rear drive belt – perhaps best described as the 'purr' of an electrified tiger!

– Russell Luckock

Peter Camilleri with his electric Harley-Davidson Livewire. The silver electric motor is at the bottom to keep the centre of gravity low.



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Six trees axed as



to the Crown Hotel corner, will see all the existing trees, including the Avenue of Honour trees and Chinese Elm on the National Register being retained and protected as part of the redevelopment works.

An additional nine English Oaks will be planted in the widened nature strips and car parking areas to create an avenue effect and further enhance this entrance into Buninyong. Additional landscaping includes new garden bed plantings and lawn areas, seating, and increased areas for outdoor dining.

For further information please refer to City of Ballarat's My Say page:

<https://mysay.ballarat.vic.gov.au/admin/projects/buninyong-streetscape-improvements>

WORKS START ON STREET PROJECT

From the commencement of the Warrenheip Street 'streetscape improvement' project, six mature ash and one alder tree were earmarked for removal. Their location on sloping and often slippery ground, and their protruding root structures have caused several serious falls.

They have been assessed by both Council and independent arboriculturists, and whilst perhaps appearing to be healthy, have poor structural form as they have been heavily pruned over many years for power line clearance, are lifting the footpath in several areas creating trip hazards, and were generally approaching the end of their useful life.

Dangerous

A Council spokesperson told *The News* that "one of the key objectives of the streetscape works is to reduce the steep cross-fall of the roadway and nature strip to improve pedestrian access and safety and to provide for better alfresco and other seating areas".

This requires excavation and alteration of the existing ground to achieve flatter finished levels. It is not considered technically possible to make these changes without significantly impacting further upon the structural root-zones of the existing trees.

This was conveyed during the community consultation process before the works were put out to tender.

Finish date

Works on the \$1.2 million project – being undertaken by local engineering company Enoch Civil – commenced in late January with a target completion date of 31 May 2022.

English Oak trees have been selected as the predominant replacement tree species to match the established oaks in Warrenheip St to the south. As the powerlines have been bundled as part of this project new tree plantings will not be pruned under powerlines and can achieve a maximum canopy size which is more appropriate to the scale of Warrenheip Street than the smaller Ash.

Oaks

The new plantings of five English Oaks (*Quercus robur*) and two Red Maples (*Acer rubrum*) will be as advanced in size as practical and be planted into tree pits to maximise growth and vigour.

The landscape works in Warrenheip Street also include sections of vines on trellis, new garden bed plantings and lawn areas, new footpaths, low stone walls, seating and increased areas for outdoor dining.

Works to be concurrently undertaken in Learmonth Street from the Old Post Office

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Board walk not axe

In late 2021 I attended a meeting where the City's plans for improvements in Warrenheip Street were outlined. I was dismayed to learn that pavement widening and levelling between the Community Bank and Forest Street was to come at the cost of removing the Ash trees on that eastern side of the road. This is needlessly destructive.

The trees are around forty years old and afford welcome shade and some grace to the town. An alternative would have been to place a level board-walk between the footpath and the curb with a guard rail along the gutter. A board walk would permit dining, allow water to get to the trees and could be interfaced with the concrete footpath. Why squander years of growth? Also why the obduracy on moving the bus stop?

I would have hoped that a landscape vision might also guide the City in Learmonth Street. If the former Fire Station was acquired and demolished we could achieve vital car parking spaces to allow a rethink of landscape architecture in front of the Town Hall and to the corner.

Peter Hiscock, Buninyong



Despite COVID impact on business Bank stands out from the crowd

Despite tough trading conditions and with record low interest rates resulting in bank margins being substantially reduced, Community Bank Buninyong reported strong results for the 2021 financial year at the AGM held in late November.

During a period that saw many banks generally reduce staff numbers or close branches, Board Chair **Ian Corcoran** reported that the bank's asset base, share price, number of account holders and profitability over the past twelve months had indeed strengthened. The decision to post a very healthy 10c dividend per share reflected this.

He said that much credit was due to the bank's team led by long-term Manager

Randall Dreger and bank customer service staff who had established great rapport with clients and the community in general.

Community help

"We are so pleased we've been able to remain profitable and distribute \$227,000 of those profits through our *Community Investment Program*. After all, it's exactly why we exist and what we're working for each day", Mr Corcoran said.

Over the past financial year, 36 projects were supported by the program bringing the cumulative amount of funds distributed across eleven years since the bank started in 2010 to a staggering \$1.38 million.

Branch Manager Randall Dreger pointed to a chart demonstrating continued positive

growth in bank activities. While, in the highly unusual trading conditions of the past eighteen months or so, many other community banks' trading and profits were in decline, Community Bank Buninyong performed well above the norm.

He said that, where many banks had reduced weekday trading hours, the company had maintained business operations including popular Saturday morning opening hours – a rarity in most banks these days. Similarly, that staff numbers actually increased during the period in the lending arena to meet demand.

Paddy's home

Communications Lead **Sam Elshaug** delivered a report on marketing projects, and also reported on the initiative to give the Community House building a name. It is to be called *Hedrick's House*, after **Hedrick 'Paddy' Jones** a local baker and delivery man who lived in the cottage for many years in the early to mid 1900s.

Mr Corcoran also announced that the main Conference room at the house was to be known as the *Emery Room* in recognition of the role played by the inaugural Board Chairman **John Emery** in leading the establishment of the community bank in Buninyong. The smaller 'Committee' room at the front of the building was to be named the *Stephen Falconer* room to acknowledge his role as a foundation Board member and long-term Company Secretary.

John Emery told the meeting that he was "pleased to lead the original Board in getting the bank off the ground, and was delighted with its success and community acceptance."

Ian Corcoran noted that staff member **Wendy Vandeven** had qualified to receive a 10 Year Service Award.



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MP meets some furry friends

Local MP Michaela Settle recently officially opened the Off-leash dog park in Buninyong.

The James Reserve off-leash dog park received \$40,000 in funding and was designed and delivered by Ballarat City Council. It is purpose-built, fully fenced, and includes ample space for many dogs to run and exercise in, plus there is seating and drinking fountains. Ballarat Council contributed \$13,000 towards the project.

The Buninyong dog park was funded through a \$2.5 million investment in seventeen new off-leash dog parks across Victoria, as part of the Victorian Government's \$2.7 billion *Building Works* package.

The dog parks were selected for funding through an expression of interest from local councils and assessed based on their shovel readiness to ensure construction could commence within six months.



Lions back with bangers

After a period of low community activity with Covid restrictions in place, the Local Lions Club swung back into action in early December by bringing their BBQ van back to the Town Hall precinct and catering for the community BBQ that was linked to the pop-up shop happening inside of the hall.

Arranged by the Buninyong Business Network and funded by the community bank, the pre-Christmas BBQ drew a good crowd of late afternoon shoppers and passers-by.

Shown are the Lions Club BBQ team (L to R) – new member **Ron Whatman**, **Bill Arnold**, **David Page**, and recent new member **Faustin Epeabaka**.



Photo: (L-R) Cr. Ben Taylor, Trudi Nicholson (with Oscar the – Whippet), Angela Pugh (with Lottie a Chocolate Labrador) and Michaela Settle MP.

Live well with Rev. Paul

Local Uniting Church Minister Rev Paul Sanders has advised of two Living Well programs to be held at the Uniting Church, Scott Street, Buninyong in coming weeks. Paul is experienced in facilitation, teaching and personal instruction, and is a contemplative and zen teacher.

- Saturday 12 February between 9.00 am and 12.00pm there will be *Introduction to Mindfulness Practice* which will cover core aspects of 'Mindfulness' approaches in practice and attitude.
- Saturday 26 February, 9.00am-11.00am. A continental breakfast, along with *Conversations on the Edge of a Mountain*. This program will look at the challenging rewards of commitment to holistic environmental farming, and working with the tensions of care and prosperity for people and the earth.

Fee for each session is \$20 (\$15 concession). For bookings phone 0407 833 515.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

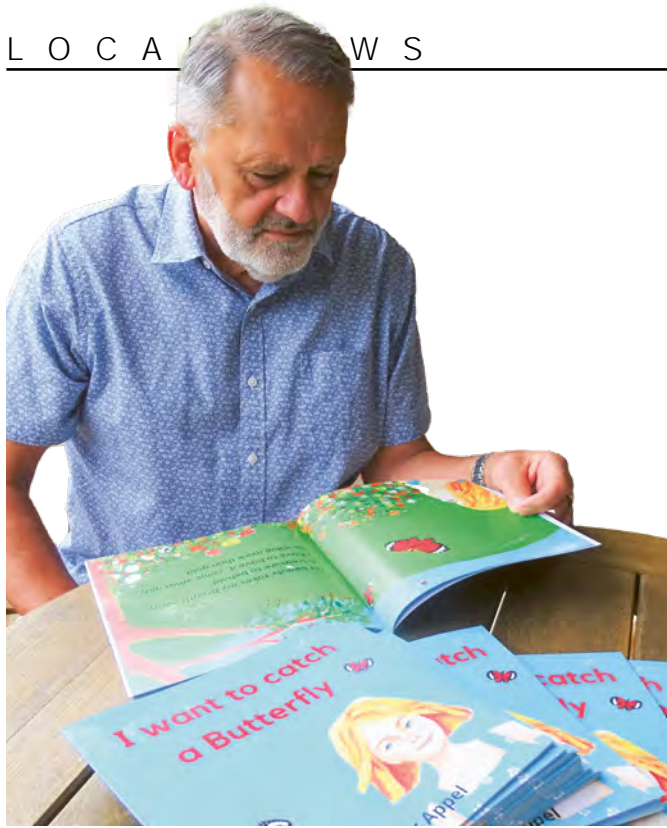
Thanks to News team

As a regular reader of *The News* over many years I want to convey my gratitude and appreciation to the small editorial, research and support team of Buninyong's community newspaper for your untiring and always stimulating efforts for our community.

As well as it being a wonderful record of significant people, events, activities and interests during these years, *The News* has prompted us to think about what it means to be a mutually supporting, self-sustaining and caring community.

To those who have participated in producing *The News*, thank you for your time, generosity, and skill, and best wishes.

– Linda Zibell, Mount Helen



Local's children's picture book Maddie's butterflies

For some, the path to writing their first book can be short and direct. But for one Buninyong resident it has been a long and winding road.

A mathematician turned mortgage broker, **Rainer Appel** published his first children's picture book in December 2021, when he was nearing retirement. It has already found readers in Australia, Germany, Belgium, and the USA. Their opinion is unanimous: it's a little gem!

Rainer grew up in Germany, in a small town near Munich, Bavaria. After completing his university degree in Mathematics, work took him to various places in Germany. A two-year secondment to the USA fanned his desire to see more of the world, and he brought his family to Australia, which immediately became home.

Quieter life

Seven years ago, he moved to Buninyong in search of a quieter lifestyle and to pursue his interests in music, literature, and gardening while still working part-time.

The book is based on a poem that Rainer had written and, realising that it could be transformed into a picture book, he collaborated with artist **Deb Webb** (from *Deb Webb Art*) to create the illustrations.

At the centre of the story is Maddie, a young girl who loves butterflies. Trying to catch one makes her reflect on the consequences of her actions. In a more general sense, the book's message is about acts of kindness and therefore appeals to children and adults alike.

The paperback book is available through Amazon Australia ([amazon.com.au](https://www.amazon.com.au)). Search under 'Books' for the title *I Want to Catch a Butterfly*.

RACE 2 ZERO - RACE TO THE

BUNINYONG

2022 SMART

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SUNDAY 20TH MARCH

10.00AM - 3.30PM

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BUNINYONG

(CNR HEDRICK & WARRENHEIP STREETS)

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Expo back in March



After watching the videos, following 'green influencers' on social media, and reading about planet-saving initiatives in the media, many may still wonder how to create a low-impact, low-cost lifestyle in their own homes.

Discover simple ways to green up your space by stepping into the *Buninyong Smart Building & Living Expo* on Sunday 20 March 2022 at the Royal Park Reserve.

Attendees at the Expo will get a complete snapshot of how to create a sustainable modern lifestyle, starting with generating your own energy and using it to power the home, for cooking, and in transport by using an e-bike or electric vehicle. At the Expo, apart from the many eye-catching exhibits, it will be possible to

- speak to building-design experts who'll pass on the knowledge and tools you need to retrofit your home with shading, insulation and window products to keep it cosy in winter and a cool haven in summer
- remove single use plastic from your home with easy swaps and learn how to protect your health – and that of your family – with personal products and utensils that don't contain harmful chemicals
- and, best of all get your hands a little bit dirty by browsing edible and native plants for your garden, as well as indoor pot plants that are perfect for cleaning the air inside your home.

Join the thousands of Buninyong and Ballarat locals taking up the challenge to reduce, reuse and recycle, by inviting family and friends along to Royal Park to the *Buninyong Smart Building & Living Expo* from 10.00am on Sunday 20 March 2022.

Updates are posted to the Buninyong Sustainability Facebook page. Exhibitors, including food vans, electric vehicle dealers and owners, sustainable living experts and product suppliers are invited to register with the event organiser.

Sponsors are also sought, with exciting opportunities offered for online publicity. For more information contact **Andrea Mason** on 0427 338 482 or email buninyongsustainability@gmail.com.

Ernie Neale's 2021 RAINFALL REPORT

Wet, wild and windy

What a lush year 2021 has been, from a very green January to the final few days of December! Spring seemed to have gone on forever, with mowers and slashers doing the rounds for weeks on end.

Such prolific growth was charged by regular rain events throughout the year, starting with an astonishing 104.4mm in January. Near 100mm falls also happened in May, June and October. These sustained pasture and crop growth, even through the relatively dryer months of February, April and September.

We received 806.4mm overall, making it one of the wetter recent years. It doesn't touch the long term 95th percentile of 994.9mm, nor the highest recorded 1123.3mm, but it bolstered the good times that most farmers are enjoying at

the moment. It also meant that there was no local fire season last summer, a great relief while we were preoccupied with the virus.

Wind damage

The one significant weather feature that did stand out through 2021 was the wind. When massive trees hundreds of years old were flipped over like unattended beach umbrellas then a significant event was happening. Such things occurred a couple of times in Victoria during the past year, with a swathe of destruction from the Grampians and Otways to beyond the Dandenongs.

The first tempest came in the second week of June. Much of the Central



Highlands was hit, with the forests a wreck of broken vegetation, Trentham was battered and isolated and the roads from here to Daylesford were covered in tree debris. The recovery work that the SES and Powercor started then was just getting ahead when the second turmoil happened in the last week of October.

Close to home

That time the worst damage was closer to Buninyong. Locals will know about the amazing destruction around Lake Wendouree, the Ballarat Botanical Gardens and the Memorial Drive. The sheer force needed to push over the huge conifers within the gardens is beyond imagining.

Once again Trentham and the Dandenongs were belted, and some recovery work is still being done there. In some parts, the residents had to drag out the generators they had just stowed away after the first event to keep them going through the mess that happened after the second. Yet again, the weather firmly reminds us just how dependent and vulnerable a life form we really are.



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2021	104.4	10.9	70.5	34.1	92.0	95.6	78.3	64.7	55.4	97.4	64.8	38.3	806.4
Average	44.5	35.3	40.8	53.9	72.8	68.6	69.3	75.0	69.3	61.0	65.6	43.2	699.3

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Make the time and you'll quickly see our innovative and customised cabinetry will create a functional and beautifully stylish lifestyle space.

Contact our team to begin your journey, and discover your beautiful new Kitchen.

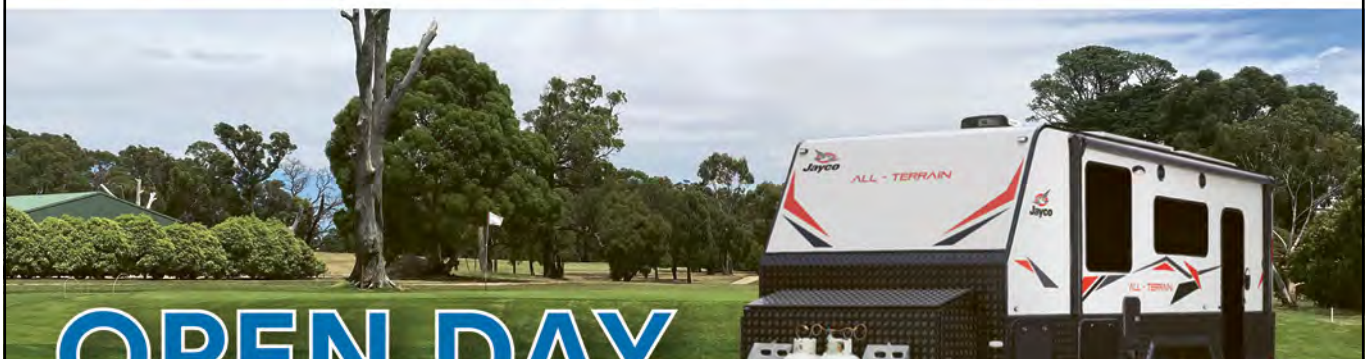


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OPEN DAY

Where : One Day only at Buninyong Golf Club

Date: Thursday the 10th of March 2022

Time: 10.30 am - 7.30 pm



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GREAT PRIZES AND GIVEAWAYS TO BE WON!**

New wicket now just the ticket for cricket



Buninyong and Napoleons/Sebastopol teams before the first game on the new turf wicket.

On Saturday December 11 the Buninyong Cricket Club and keen rivals and near neighbours, Napoleons-Sebastopol played the first game on the new Buninyong turf wicket.

It has been a long wait for those who had a vision to give local cricketers the best facilities possible. After a very successful minor grade presence in the Ballarat Cricket Association (BCA) for many years. Buninyong was accepted into the 'A' Grade competition in 2018.

For almost four years Buninyong had to play their home games away, mostly at St Patrick's College Oval in Ballarat.

Pleased

The new Buninyong wicket was laid in February and seeded in November 2021. The strip looked great for its debut game, and it performed as well as it looked. Curator, **Brett Gudgeon** is very pleased with the way the wicket has turned out. It is already flat and evenly grassed and will get better as the season rolls on.

A small opening ceremony took place before the game.

Fittingly Buninyong won the toss and batted. Opening batsman **Bobby Hind** scored the first run on the new strip and went on to make 57 of Buninyong's respectable score of 9-194. Unfortunately for the home team, the visitors were equal to the task and finished with 6-198 – winning the one-day fixture by four runs.

Big plans

"This will benefit not just the cricket club but the whole community," said Buninyong Cricket Club President, **Neil Blanchard**. "It is not just our senior side which will play there, but also our seconds. We intend to play some Under 17 games, and there is also future planning to showcase our female teams. The addition of a first-class turf wicket also opens opportunities for representative games in Buninyong," he said.

Neil was eager to thank the BCA, club families, local cricket followers and the Buninyong community for their support for this project that will make the Buninyong sporting complex the equal of any in the district.

– Ray Sullivan

Bowls Club champions Wins to Falconer and Meulan

Despite the wet winter and spring, and the COVID-19-delayed beginning to the bowling season, Buninyong Bowling Club has completed its Men's and Ladies Club Championship competition for season 2021/22.

After a tightly compressed knock out round of matches, **Ken Sergeant** and **Steve Falconer** competed for the Men's club title in December, and **Yvonne Clarke** and **Moon Meulan** competed for the Ladies' title in early January.

Both games were close, and played to a high standard, with Steve edging out Ken (25/21) for the Men's Championship, and Moon defeating Yvonne (25/20) for the Ladies' title.

Club President **Sandra Chapman** told *The News* that "there is always a fierce competition to find the club's champions each year, and Steve and Moon are worthy successors to 2020/21 champions **Ian McGregor** and **Sarah Tuddenham**. They will represent the club well in further regional-level competition."

With the collaboration of (and funding from) the City of Ballarat, the club's old rooms were completely replaced in 2014 with the current purpose-built modern clubhouse. The Club is in a solid financial position, membership is strong and growing, and the club has a friendly, old style feel. There are more than 90 bowling members with eight teams competing in the Ballarat Region pennant competition, and there are 30 social members.



NO ONE'S UNSINKABLE

To all those Unsinkable Guys out there –

You might think it's safe to have a few drinks around water, skip the lifejacket when you're out on the boat or go for a swim without checking the conditions.

But statistics prove that 4 out of 5 drownings are men.

Just remember that no one's unsinkable.

Q UNSINKABLE GUY

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AROUND
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Fairy tale cycling victory Fed Uni student wins national title

For the past four years Federation University has been a major sponsor of Cycling Australia's National Road Racing Championships. This year saw a fairy tale result for the university when one of its students was the brilliant winner of the Elite Women's Australian National Championship held on the Buninyong circuit on 16 January.

Nicole Frain, from Tasmania, is currently in her third year of studies in a Bachelor's Degree course in Food and Nutrition Science at the local University. Nicole, 29, is enrolled in the University's unique flexible study mode program, designed to allow elite athletes to combine their sporting activities with study. Roads through the University campus now form a significant part of the race circuit.

With three kilometres left in the 104 km race, Nicole launched a solo breakaway from the thirteen riders in the leading bunch and crossed the finishing line in Warrenheip Street four seconds clear of the other placegetters.

University Vice-Chancellor **Duncan Bentley** was all smiles on the presentation stage after the race as Nicole received her championship trophies. He told *The News* that Nicole's win would be a real boost for the flexible study program.



The Men's road race championship over 186 km was won by 21 year old **Lucas Plapp** in a time of 4h 52m. In 2021 Plapp won the Time Trial championship.

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