

Buninyong & District Community **NEWS**

Edition 478, February 2021

Barrels battle heads to VCAT

While the Council of the City of Ballarat was in election stand-down mode during the September-October period, the applicant behind the 'barrels' development planned for the side of Mount Buninyong took the opportunity to by-pass Council and go straight to VCAT seeking approval for the controversial project.

It is understood the reason given for this unusual move was that Council had not responded to the application within the statutory period after it was lodged.

VCAT has now advised that an online *Compulsory Conference* has been set for three hours on the afternoon of Tuesday 2 March 2021. The fifty or so objectors include Buninyong community groups such as the BDCA, the Historical Society, the Friends of the Buninyong Botanic Gardens, together with the heritage committee of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria.

Objectors who wished to continue to be a party to these proceedings were required to lodge various documents with VCAT before 12 January 2021 and pay a fee.

In the event that agreement was not able to be reached at the *Compulsory Conference*, VCAT has set aside four days – 17, 18, 19 and 20 May – for an online *Major Case Hearing*.

In the period prior to Christmas 2020, a meeting was held in Buninyong of many local objecting parties to discuss responses and representation before the VCAT proceedings.

Another meeting, attended by 25 local residents together with planning and legal advisers was held on 2 January.

A decision on Council's position on the 'barrels' application is set to be determined at its February meeting.

Left: Before meeting on site, residents point to the location of the barrels at the top of the Mt Buninyong southern slope. The 16m high barrel will be as high as the gum trees seen on the ridge.



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Pop-up shop brings Christmas cheer and lots of funds

Happily the doors were able to be opened at the Buninyong Town Hall just prior to Christmas to host the pop-up shop. This brought some welcome cheer to Buninyong and the surrounding areas.

From 4 to 13 December the hall was filled with original gift ideas from over twenty-six local craft makers and artists. With people forced to stay at home over the preceding months, many had found new talents and interests, resulting in a huge variety of enterprising items on display – from jewellery, cards, cushions, drinks, artwork and woodwork to plants, Christmas cakes and locally-made jam.

Nobody could have any difficulty buying something different for that person who has everything!

The new lawn area in front of the hall was put to good use too with a giant Santa and kangaroo (sponsored by the Bendigo Bank and constructed by the Buninyong Men's Shed) adding to the festive atmosphere. Photos with the wooden Santa could even be safely taken.

The organisation of the shop was done by a small group comprising **Brigid Corcoran, Miranda Donald, Sonya Sutcliffe** and **Sharon Develyn** and supported by more friends who volunteered their time at the front-of-house.



Margaret McCarty and **Martine Foerg**, two of the volunteers (pictured above), said they loved working there. "Everyone is so friendly, and there is a really happy and vibrant feel about the place. People just passing through Buninyong have stopped, come in, browsed, chatted and really appreciated the variety of the items on sale," remarked Martine.

The Christmas Pop-Up Shop will now become a regular on Buninyong's Christmas calendar with the 2021 dates being December 1 to December 8.

Hall funds were boosted by an incredible \$5,000 raised by the shop.

– Rita Russell



Left: Local shoppers Graeme and Cathy Keating were pleased with their purchase of Trudi Nicholson's painting, *The Plains*.



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New look to hall gardens

In what has been seen by some as a controversial move, the Town Hall Committee has removed all plants and shrubs from the garden beds at the front of the hall and replaced them with artificial grass.

When the major works were being undertaken in front of the Town Hall and along the adjoining shopping strip in 2015, initial Council plans would have seen the entire hall forecourt area covered in asphalt.

Spaces left

But after strong representation from the Community Association (BDCA), Council agreed to leave areas for planting and the construction of the low feature bluestone walls and floodlighting there.

The Friends of the Buninyong Botanic Gardens (FBBG) group took on the responsibility of planting and tending of the garden beds.

A spokesperson for the FBBG said the group was "shocked" to see the plants and shrubs removed in late November 2020 with no reference to the group or to senior

*The new Town Hall forecourt area was popular during a free community BBQ held in early December which gave Lions Club members the chance to bring out their well-equipped BBQ trailer after its COVID lock away. In the foreground CFA member **Des Sunderland** chats with local vet **Rebecca Jennings**.*



gardens and landscaping staff of the City Council. One member of that group was so incensed with the change that she removed part of the artificial grass.

Responsible

Chair of the Buninyong Town Hall Committee, **Miranda Donald** said that the Town Hall gardens are now the responsibility of the Town Hall Committee. "The recent action was taken because the front garden was neglected and the bark and dirt surface was not appropriate for the up and coming months of activity at the hall. The existing shrubs were not flourishing and there was no structure to the design," she said.

"If and when a Garden Sub-committee, (as part of the Town Hall Committee) is formed, alternative ideas can occur in the future." Ms Donald said that it was hoped that the community would enjoy the new, improved, and useable public space.

"The synthetic lawn area is now an outdoor community space that will be used by locals and visitors in the coming summer months," she said.



At work on the Macs Road site were **Mark Stewart** and **Hayden McDonald**.

Moving the earth

Many have been wondering what's going on at the golf course land at the corner of Macs Road and the Midland Highway where a large excavator was at work for several weeks during December.

Using part of the funds from the sale to the CFA of the land adjacent to the clubhouse, the Club has partly-cleared the area and has stock-piled up a 10m high mound of the top soil scooped from that area.

Now work is well advanced on construction of a major 20 megalitre dam at the nearby sixteenth hole. The fill from the huge dam excavation (some 2000 very large truckloads) is being spread at the corner site where it will be covered by the piled-up topsoil, and landscaped to form a new hole or practice area.

The remainder of the CFA-land sale funds will be used on the proposed clubhouse renovation project.

In the meantime, the extensive ground works for the new CFA station adjacent to the golf club are well advanced and the building framework is beginning to appear.

Bus stop blues

Every once in a while Buninyong gets the chance to see improvements made to its village streetscapes. Several years ago the works done around the Town Hall precinct created a much more useable and people-friendly space.

Now there are plans for a major streetscape upgrade of that neglected strip on the east side of Warrenheip Street between Forest and Eyre Streets. For the past five years the BDCA has been pressing for improvements there.

Over recent years, business development along that strip has moved ahead, and with the opening of the Community House and the expected new sushi shop, more is just ahead.

Dangerous

But the strip is dowdy if not dangerous. There are those sloping, slippery, unkempt grassed areas, the clutter of items near the Post Office, that ugly slab of bus-stop concrete, and protruding tree roots that have caused a number of serious falls.

With very limited parking hampered by the 45m long bus stop, it is an area visually off-putting to locals, visitors and tourists.

A team of Council planners and landscape staff now has drawn up concept plans, with new paving, a levelling of kerb and nature strips, paved areas outside of hospitality venues for al fresco gatherings, new trees, and hoped-for extension of the street vines.

Funding

Overhead power and other cables will be "bundled" to reduce the impact on tree foliage, that collection of waste bins, bike racks, post boxes, seat and telephone boxes will be better placed and reduced, and small garden and grassed areas will be incorporated into what promises to be a vastly improved business strip.

And...the funds are there...with \$300,000 from an RDV grant, \$200,000 from Council and a \$100,000 commitment from Buninyong's Community Bank.

But the present sticking point is the attitude of middle-ranking boffins from

Public Transport Victoria (PTV) who continue to refuse to remove the bus stop and relocate it just 150 metres to the north. This would double the number of parking spots, and enable the planners to better turn the strip into an integrated community-friendly space.

Back in 2016 PTV held "community consultations" meetings at the Buninyong Bowling Club and later at Federation University. Face to face presentations were made by the Community Association at each, and followed with written submissions pressing for the bus stop to be moved to an existing bus stop a little to the north. Nothing has happened.

'PTV's own data show passenger impact claim is clearly wrong'

The reason given by PTV was "the impact on passengers." But a review of PTV's usage data for the stop shows that in the full year of 2019 there were 1861 'touch-offs' at this stop (or an average of just 5.2 persons per day spread across at least eleven bus trips.

Of these 889 were students, and just 15 touch-offs across the year were by persons using a disability card.

In the face of the present intransigent 'Can't do it' attitude of PTV, the local big guns have now been called in to help. Member for Buninyong **Michaela Settle** has been asked to approach Transport Minister **Ben Carroll**. So too, Interim Council CEO **Janet Dore** has been briefed on the current impasse and asked to assist.

It's time that senior levels of PTV at their Collins Street, Melbourne headquarters, listened to this community and its leaders, and cooperated in what is a simple, virtually no-cost solution which will free up the strip to become a feature of the township.



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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).

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Hala leads a child centre comeback



Hala at reception ready to show parents around the centre.

After a challenging period following its start in Buninyong in early 2018, the Buninyong Kindergarten and Child Care Centre has commenced a positive new era with changed management and new staff in place for the past twelve months.

Smiling new manager at the centre is **Hala Arfish** who, after migrating to Australia with her family from Sudan in 2000, has spent five years as a social worker assisting other newly-arrived migrants, and for eleven years was the Director of a child care centre at Moonee Ponds.

Home here

At present Hala travels from Melbourne each day. But with her husband and six children she hopes to soon move into a new home in Mount Helen.

When she commenced work in Buninyong in December 2019, the enrolments at the child care centre had dropped to just nine children. She has now built enrolments back up to 40 children. The centre has a capacity for almost 100 children.

The present staff of six full-time child care workers and three casual assistants have all been engaged since Hala's arrival.

She is excited about the prospect of approval being granted by the Education Department for the commencement of a free kindergarten in early 2021. She said that it would differ from other local kindergartens in that food would be provided to the kindergarten children, as there is a qualified chef on site cooking meals for the other children in child care.

'Free kinder... with meals'

Already, a qualified and very experienced kindergarten teacher, Buninyong resident **Debra Baker** is on staff.

More details about the centre and the proposed free kindergarten can be found on the website buninyongchildcarecentre.com.au or on Facebook.

Meanwhile the smiling Hala would be delighted to meet and chat with parents (5341 2641).

streettalk

NEW OWNERS of Buninyong's *Foodworks* store have kept a low profile since taking over the store from **Alison** and **Trevor Rickard** in early December. **Alex Ng** and **Susanne Lau** already have three *Foodworks* stores in their stable – at Casterton, at Lorne and a very large one at Bacchus Marsh. Current manager **Alan Neilson's** role will become a little more hectic it seems.

IN THE SPORTS pages of this edition there is a story of Buninyong's Inglis family who are making their mark on local golf. But around Christmas time a fire caused by an electrical fault totally destroyed a shed at their home with their golf clubs inside. Senior local golfers such as top woman golfer **Helen Pascoe** have helped out with spare sets of clubs.

THE GOLF CLUB seems to have backed a winner in greatly expanding its fleet of motorised golf carts. However, across the holiday period several groups of players, filled with Christmas cheer, had to be kicked off the course for thrashing the carts around in dangerous ways. Worse happened at the Ballarat Golf Club, it seems, when they "lost" two of their carts. Later found submerged in a deep dam on the course.

THAT BLACK SUV spotted just before Christmas caused a few chuckles. It's very personalised plate read EXWIFE. Not clear as to which party was driving it!

IN EXTREMELY WINDY conditions in December 2020, young local tennis star **James O'Sullivan** easily defeated **Tim McConchie** 6-2, 6-1 to snare the Ballarat Regional Tennis Centre Open Singles.

Cemetery thanks Bank

The Trustees of the Buninyong Cemetery recently invited representatives of the Buninyong Community Bank to inspect a plinth and plaque which recognised the \$11,000 grant made to repair the entrance gates and roadway. Other features of the cemetery, such as the

Dell of Memories and the neglected Chinese section, were also shown.

Pictured looking at the plaque near the cemetery entrance are (L to R) Cemetery Trustee **David Beames**, Bank Board Treasurer **Richard McDowell**, Bank Manager **Randall Dreger**, and Cemetery Trustees **Kelly Dalby** and **Jane Robson**.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fire bug watch

Not everyone loves the look of the communications towers up at the top of Mt Buninyong. But most accept that they certainly play a key role in the good phone and television reception in this district.

However, after the 2020 Cup Day fire on the Mount, (and the one lit on the south side a few years earlier) I am seriously concerned that there will be further attempts by arsonists to strike at the towers up there by lighting fires – this time inside the loop of the mount circuit road. Previous fires have been able to be stopped at this road.

Long range CCTV cameras should be installed on the Telstra tower to capture images of those using the access roads and lanes, and fire fuel must be cleared away from the vicinity of the towers.

Also locals and visitors should be alert for suspicious activity in this area over

the next few months. While local 'rural' dwellers are noted for their observation of unusual happenings, many areas of the mount are hidden.

**Local resident
Name and address supplied**

A call from Finland

I am writing concerning your article entitled *RSL Thanks the Bennetts* in *The News*, August 2019.

Bob and Evelyn Bennett hosted me as a Rotary Youth Exchange student in Wagga Wagga, NSW, in 1993, but I lost their contact details years back. I have tried to find them several times during the past years, unfortunately not succeeding.

I am, therefore, writing to you hoping that you could help me to get in touch with Bob and Evelyn Bennett again. I would be delighted, if you could forward this email to them, or if you could send me their contact details instead.

Please accept my apologies if this is not the right email address that I have contacted in this matter.

**Marko Kantomaa
Helsinki, Finland**

Ed: The News was able to put Marko in touch with the Bennetts, now living near Werribee.

Tin baubles

Bedecking the throat of Mt Buninyong with a string of tin barrel baubles is really an exercise in gilding the lily for the exclusive benefit of a bunch of privileged lotus eaters who would have no connection with the land or the landscape.

Casual admirers would flit in and flit out with no appreciation of the ancient history that surrounds them.

**Phillip Smith
Buninyong**

Local mushroom farm Hobby to gourmet fare

News reporter Cassandra Carland was in for a surprise when she headed off to do a story about a local mushroom farm. "I thought I knew what a mushroom was – smallish, whiteish, a bit tasteless, something to be added to a casserole or to scrambled eggs," she said. But after meeting a former Damascus College student at his local farm, her eyes were opened to the real and fascinating world of mushrooms.

Jason Crosbie started growing mushrooms as a hobby about six years ago, and started the business known as *The Mushroom Connection* early in 2017. From a very young age he had always been fascinated by the biology of mushrooms.

Mushrooms have an incredible diversity of species – from the pivotal role they play in the cycle of life on earth, to the multitude of dietary, medicinal and spiritual uses they've had for humans throughout recorded history.

Background

Also, coming from an IT background Jason always had a strong interest in science and technology. What he loves the most about cultivating mushrooms is that it combines his love of these subjects with a love of nature and the outdoors.

"I knew there was a demand in the Australian market for gourmet mushrooms

and I also knew that there weren't many growers around. I worked full time and eventually saved up enough money to put together a small scale grow operation consisting of two insulated shipping containers and started supplying wholesale to local restaurants and cafes," he said.

As demand increased, the two containers eventually grew to four containers. Jason was soon producing roughly 100kg of mushrooms per week in total and supplying businesses in Ballarat, Daylesford, Melbourne and surrounding areas. He grows a variety of different mushrooms including Oysters, Shiitake, King Brown, Lions Mane, and some other more-difficult-to-cultivate varieties that cycle in and out.

New farm

This year he moved to a new property at Scotchmans Lead near Buninyong and

expanded the farm again and started construction of a 350 m2 purpose-built commercial mushroom farm. Sales obviously took a hit with the virus lockdowns, but the downtime gave him time to finish the new farm and explore other avenues of sales and develop new products.

Jason now offers online sales to the public of home-delivered fresh mushrooms, dehydrated mushrooms, and mushroom-grow kits. "I am trying to branch out into as many areas as possible as the hospitality industry has suffered significant damage due to the lockdown and will take quite some time to return to normal," he said.

Anyone interested can order home delivered fresh mushrooms and grow kits to their door from the website www.themushroomconnection.com.au

– Cassandra Carland

Jason Crosbie takes a break in his hi-tech mushroom-growing laboratory.





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Fed Uni's new boss wants

Town and gown links

For someone who has lived and been educated in many countries world-wide, the recently-appointed Vice Chancellor of Federation University has a refreshing attitude to the university's role in the local community and exposing its students to broadening learning experiences and activities in the wider community of Ballarat, and even of Buninyong.

After senior positions in four other Australian Universities – at Queensland's Bond University, at Curtin University in Perth, at Victoria University, followed by five years at Melbourne's Swinburne University – Professor **Duncan Bentley**, 60, took over the top role at Federation University in August 2020.

He brought with him a childhood which included a family background in the UK, his father's later role as a police officer in Kenya and Palestine, farming and coffee-growing in Kenya and Zimbabwe, and living on a game-reserve in Botswana.

Shocked

Duncan's early primary schooling in Kenya was interrupted in 1968 when, after the country became independent, the family was forced to bundle all of their possessions onto a ship and head for South Africa. But, shocked by the conditions they found there under the Apartheid regime, the family then moved on to join friends in Botswana, where his father later managed a game lodge in the middle of the Okavango Delta.

Early secondary schooling took Duncan to a boarding school in then-Rhodesia. He occasionally travelled home to Botswana via a two day journey on the back of a truck. The family subsequently moved to Rhodesia around the time of its becoming Zimbabwe in 1979/1980.

Duncan Bentley's later secondary education saw him at schools in Bulawayo and Mutare, followed by a year's compulsory National Service in the Zimbabwean Army.



Vice Chancellor of Federation University Duncan Bentley relaxes in Buninyong after a chat with The News about his plans to more closely link the university to the Ballarat and Buninyong communities.

After Robert Mugabwe's election in 1980 and his subsequent seizing of much of the farming land and properties, his family "sold" its farm there in 1984. The catch was that payment took the form of Government Bonds which, by the time that they matured, "were worth about \$27!"

In 1980 Duncan moved to Cape Town where he undertook studies at the University of Cape Town, completing a Law Degree. There he also met **Sally**, a New Zealand woman, "the love of my life."

The couple married in Cape Town and later moved to London where he completed a Master's Degree in Law at the University of London. But he was not permitted to practise law in the UK because his undergraduate degree was from South Africa.

With-wife Sally and one child, Duncan moved to Australia in 1990 – initially to Paramatta (which they had been told was a 'quiet little town' outside of Sydney). A second child was born there, and subsequently all became Australian citizens. Sadly, Sally died of cancer in 2009.

It may have been from Sally that Duncan developed some of his present interests in community engagement and his 'thinking outside-of-the box' approach to education and to life. He told of a time when, Sally a music teacher, used music to teach English to children from farms near the Botswana border.

University and community

Another influence in the new Fed Uni's Vice Chancellor's approach to education and community involvement came from an experience in San Francisco. There he was greatly interested in the way that university and other educational facilities and equipment were used 24/7 by community members, tradespeople, community groups, and even by groups such as Defence Force personnel.

"Federation University is already well advanced in this regard, especially through its Health Sciences programs and facility uses, but there are many more opportunities for us to engage with our immediate and broader communities and community facilities," Professor Bentley said.

He gave examples of how the University has established links with the local Buninyong Community Bank, and its ongoing sponsorship of the annual cycling events here. He is already an active member of Committee for Ballarat.

While Professor Duncan Bentley holds an impressive brace of higher degree and other honorary awards, he certainly is not confined to any ivory tower. He comes across as an affable, approachable, down-to-earth and creative educator who will be a terrific fit and leader for a developing university with a growing international profile and four campuses in regional community settings.

Ambulance vet Aged 103, George is laid to rest here



During 2020, there were two burials at the Buninyong Cemetery that caused a search of the historic cemetery's record books. In late April long-term Buninyong resident Jessie Bath was buried having reached the grand age of 99 years, nine months and nineteen days.

Then, in November, a World War II veteran **George Prolongeau** was laid to rest at the age of 103 years and eight months – seemingly the oldest person to be buried at the cemetery.

Born and bred in Sebastopol, George described himself as a farm labourer and tractor driver.

He was conscripted into the army in the Second World War, but as a devout Christian he asked to be posted to a non-combatant role.

After starting as an army cook, he then went to the war zone in New Guinea where he enlisted 'in the field' in 1943 and was posted to the 15th Australian Field Ambulance where he attained the rank of Corporal.

After the end of the war George returned to Sebastopol and became Ballarat's first civilian ambulance officer, serving in that role for twenty-two years.

Following the hearse at Mr Prolongeau's funeral were two ambulances – one a vintage 1950s model, the other one from the current fleet located in Sebastopol.



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Bill surely did his bit



Bill Jolly working on a community project in the Men's Shed.

One of Buninyong's most readily recognisable characters and someone who contributed to life in the Buninyong community in many ways lost a two-year battle with cancer on 19 December 2020.

Up until a few years ago **Bill Jolly** could often be seen walking his little dog along village streets or working on projects at the Men's Shed clad in his bright green fluoro vest, or helping out with Lions Club activities. He died at the age of 80 years.

Men's Shed President **Chris Kruger** said, "Bill was one of the original members of the Men's Shed and a prime mover in getting the shed set up at its Forest Street location. He was President and was active in the group right up to the time of his passing."

When the BDCA graffiti removal trailer project was completed in 2015, Bill was one of the group from the Men's Shed who were trained in its use and in the removal of graffiti from around the township.

In 2007 Bill transferred membership of a NSW Lions Club to that of Buninyong Mt Helen. He was also a member of that Club for some ten years, and its Secretary between 2011-2015. Lions Club Executive member **David Page** said, "Bill was an enthusiastic member, who was instrumental in getting many grants during his time as Secretary. He will be sadly missed as a member of the community, the Lions Club and as a friend."

A keen pennant and social bowler, Bill also later took on the role of Secretary of the local bowling club for several years.

He is survived by his wife **Irene**, and sons **Anthony** and **Michael**. Irene also is well known for her community work especially through the establishment of the Lions Club Bookshop, along with Bill, in its original home in the old Adams' Bakery shop, and then at its present location in Mavis Bath's old cottage on Warrenheip Street.

An advertisement for Bendigo Bank Buninyong & District. The top section features a colorful illustration of a community scene with a playground, a bus, and people. A circular logo on the right says "BANK LOCAL". Below the illustration, the text reads: "Community Bank Buninyong & District", "Your town. Your bank. Everything you need", "We deliver the products and technology you'd expect from a big bank, plus the personal service you wouldn't.", "Feel good about who you bank with. Try Bendigo.", "Find out more. Call 5341 8066 or search Bendigo Bank Buninyong.", and "bendigobank.com.au". The bottom section features the Bendigo Bank logo and fine print: "Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 088 040 110, AFSL Australian Credit Licence 230789 A145522 / OUT_1753619, 12/01/2021".

 An advertisement for Breaze Energy Solutions. The top section features the Breaze logo and the text "BREAZE ENERGY SOLUTIONS". Below this, the word "SOLAR" is written in large, bold, yellow letters, followed by "\$1,888 REBATE" in large, bold, yellow letters. A bulleted list of services is provided: "As one of a limited number of Clean Energy Council (CEC) Approved Solar Retailers locally, we can claim the Solar Victoria Rebate for you", "Local Consultants & Accredited Installers actually live in Golden Plains, Moorabool & the City of Ballarat", "On-Grid, Off-Grid, Domestic & Commercial Projects", and "Expertise in Solar Power, Batteries & Hot Water". The bottom section contains the text "Contact your Local Consultants Rene or Dale ...", the phone number "03 4309 4027", the website "www.breaze.org.au/pv", and the email address "energysolutions@breaze.org.au".

Buninyong Streetscape Upgrades



Exciting news for the Buninyong community with concept plans prepared for upgrades to two key Buninyong streetscapes. Council is seeking your thoughts and encouraging feedback via the mySay page on the City of Ballarat website.

Project

Stage 1 - Warrenheip Street (between Eyre and Forest Streets)

Stage 2 - The n/w corner of Learmonth St and Warrenheip Street.

Both stages of works are scheduled to begin in early 2021.



Engagement

The plans have been developed in consultation with the Stakeholder

Advisory Group (SAG) made up of representatives from local business, Bendigo Community Bank and

The Buninyong District & Community Association.

Funding

The project is funded through a generous contribution from Bendigo Community Bank, a grant from Regional Development Victoria and City of Ballarat Council funding.

Streetscape Works

The proposed works subject to final design and cost management include:

Stage 1

- Improved accessibility and pedestrian safety
- Bundling of the overhead power lines
- New paving and activity areas for outdoor dining and community events
- Increased parking from 8 spaces to 13 inclusive of 1 x disabled persons car space
- A redesigned bus stop for better access and amenity
- New street trees located clear of the powerlines for shade and streetscape effect
- Streetscape furniture including seats, bicycle racks, bins and bollards
- Other subject to approvals and cost planning:
 - Mid-point connection across Warrenheip Street (pending VicRoads approval)
 - Grape vines on trellis – subject to funding
 - Stone entry wall Eyre St corner (TBC)

Stage 2

- Conversion of the existing exit/entry as activity space and for pedestrian safety
- Construction of a new exit onto Learmonth Street
- Re-aligned parking bays for one-way east bound traffic
- Protection of existing trees
- Demolish surplus asphalt and form grassed verge with tree planting
- Streetscape furniture including seats, bicycle racks, bins and bollards

Your Feedback is welcome

Take a look at the concept plans on display in shop windows including the Bendigo Bank. Feedback via Council's mySay page.

Buninyong Streetscape Upgrades



Concept Notes

Forest Street - Eyre Street

1. Replace parallel parking with angle bays (60 degree) on the east side b/w Forest + Eyre Street for improved access and increased parking.
2. Increase parking from 8 parallel bays to 13 new angle car spaces including 1 no. disabled persons parking.
3. Raise drainage invert of improved gradient and access from parking area to footpath.
6. Define central space for activation and outdoor dining opportunities.
7. Informal pedestrian access across Warrenheip St (Vicroads approval required).
8. New paving throughout including exposed aggregate nodes and asphalt pathways (TBC).
9. Improved drainage and pavement gradients.
10. Replacement of Ash trees (east side) with large form street trees.
11. Consider infill planting opportunities along the west side to enhance the avenue.
12. Aerial bundling of over head powerlines.
13. Provision of grape vines and ground-cover plantings where appropriate.
14. Upgraded bus stop for compliance and amenity.
15. Define precinct entry at Eyre Street corner with trees and under planting.
16. New street furniture (seats, bins, bike racks and bollards) throughout.
17. Consider stone wall at Eyre Street entry.

LEGEND

	Street Trees - existing		EW Entry wall
	Street Trees - new		S Furniture seats
	Trees remove		B Bins
	Garden beds		BR bike rack bollards
	Grass		b Demolish
	Vines on trellis		
	Paving 1 - Exposed Aggregate		
	Paving 2 Asphalt		

Stage 1 Works

Design Development Note

This plan has been developed in consultation with the Stakeholder Group. All elements shown on this concept are subject to further detailed design, cost management within funding parameters and project scope and approvals by relevant authorities.

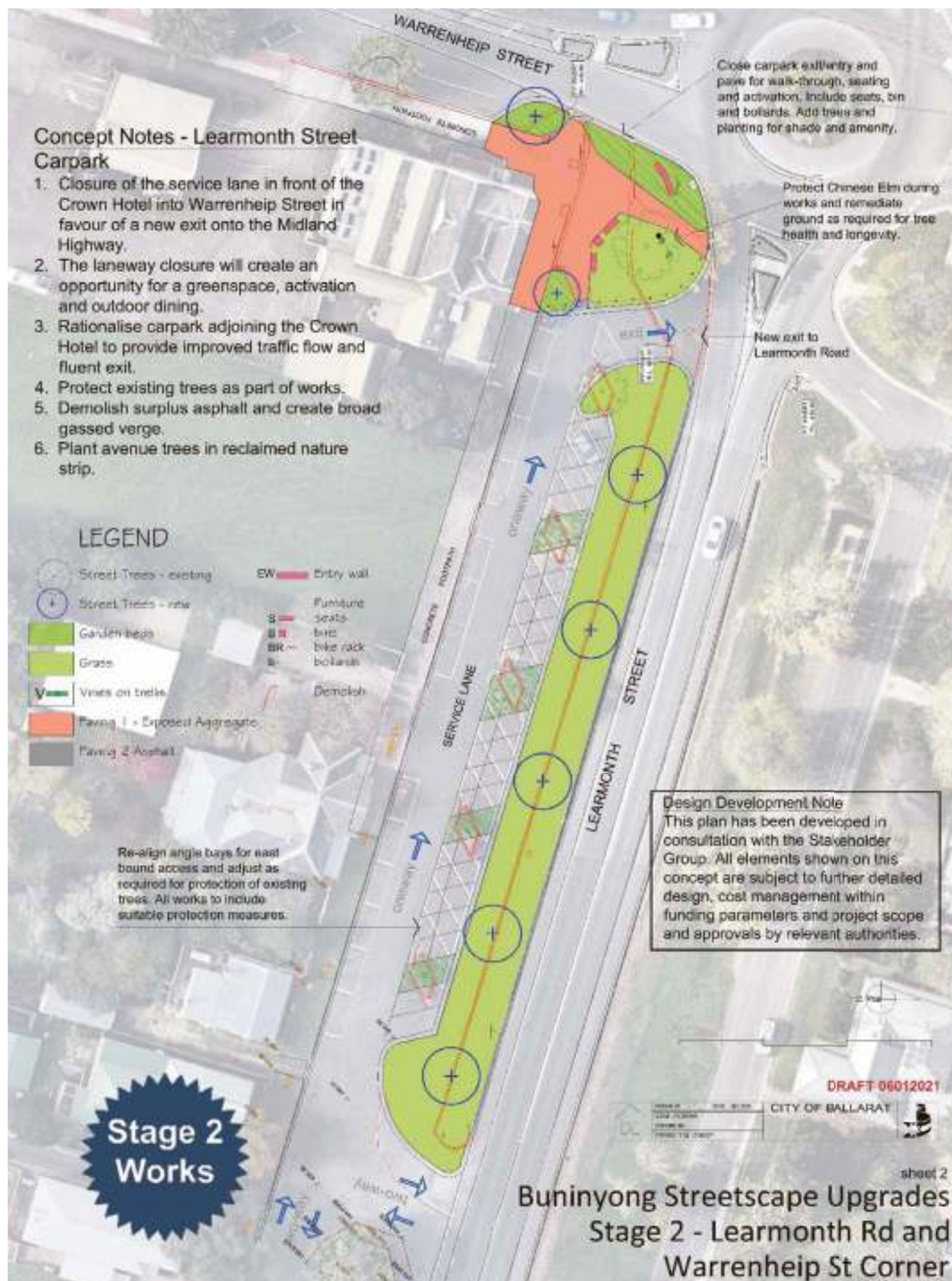
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CITY OF BALLARAT

sheet 1

Buninyong Streetscape Upgrades Stage 1 - Warrenheip Street Concept

Buninyong Streetscape Upgrades



Buninyong Streetscape Upgrades



Walkable streetscape - Flat even surfaces



Artwork - Sculpture and usable art



Distinctive paving and seating



Trees and greening - new garden beds and street trees with canopy cover



Gathering areas - community space for seating and outdoor dining



Please let us know what you think on the proposal for upgraded streetscapes for Buninyong.

Foliage and Texture



An unusual mix

Rugby, horses and safety

For someone born in New Zealand, followed by a family move to Cairns, spending time in England, Patchewollock, Bendigo and Ballarat, settling down in Buninyong on a horse stud and B & B property over twenty years ago came as a welcome and stabilising change.

Along with husband **Erik, Caylene Vincent** is the owner of the 20 acre property on the lower slopes of Mount Buninyong on the Midland Highway just before Scotsburn.

Her interest in horses goes way back to her grandfather in NZ's North Island. He was a dairy farmer and also trained a few racehorses. With her family she moved to Cairns in the late 1970s. After moving to Central Queensland as a late teenager, Caylene adjusted her age "by a year or two" and was granted a licence to train racehorses there.

A first

But it was her other love, for Rugby League, that began to take over her life. Still in her late teens she became the first woman in the world to referee top grade Rugby League in Cairns. So well did she do, that she was



Above: Caylene with one of her mares with foals. Below: She was the first woman to referee major rugby league matches in Australia. In the 1980s a British airline sponsored her on a tour to referee rugby league in the UK and Europe

sponsored by *Britannia Airlines* to spend six months in England, again refereeing amateur rugby league.

So intrigued was the sporting world at this young woman referee that major London newspaper, *The Evening Mail*, covered her career in a two page spread. Her overseas experience also extended to The Netherlands where she refereed the first international amateur tournament held there.

Returning to Australia around 1990 she settled for a while in the Mallee town of Patchewollock where again she was a key referee in the rugby league competitions in the Sunraysia district.

HR degree

Away from sport, Caylene had graduated from Charles Sturt University with a Bachelor of Business degree with major studies in Human Relations. While living in the Mallee she managed HR and Payroll at the Ouyen Hospital. Then followed stints working at Bendigo's Mount Alvernia Hospital, and in 1993 coming to Ballarat as the HR Coordinator for the City of Ballarat around the time of the municipal amalgamations.

Regional and State management positions with *Parks Victoria* in HR and Occupational Health and Safety were followed by a role

as Safety and Security Manager at St John of God Hospital, Ballarat, and other appointments with *Nicholson Constructions* and *Maxitrans*.

With such wide background experience, it was no surprise when she started up her own OH&S and HR consulting company, *SafetyXperts*, in 2004. The company provides organisations and business with "an extensive range of services to enhance worker safety and morale, and reduce costs associated with workplace accidents".

But a visit to the Mount Buninyong property, purchased by her in 1999, quickly shows her love of breeding horses, particularly coloured warm bloods. Along with two shaggy dogs, a 'borrowed' stallion safely in a yard near the house, are several thoroughbreds, young foals, yearlings and a leggy two year old wandering happily about the well-grassed paddocks overlooked by Mt Buninyong.

Given their business commitments, the many chores associated with the horses, looking after two children, **Jacob** and **Jazmin**, and running a popular self-contained 'air' B & B on the property, there are not too many quiet moments in the lives of Caylene and Erik.



Friends, nature in poems by children

Following the publication of three short stories by children in 2020 editions of *The News*, Grenville resident Hayley Quach has sent in three poems by district children together with comments on each by poet and former Buninyong resident, Fred Mackay.

The children's poetry has a focus on nature and on friendship. Fred Mackay has provided a brief comment on each poem.

SPRING

"I loved the quirky twist in Archie's *Spring*, a poem that for me is about regeneration and beauty, is it a weed or a plant? It probably doesn't matter. Good work Archie!"

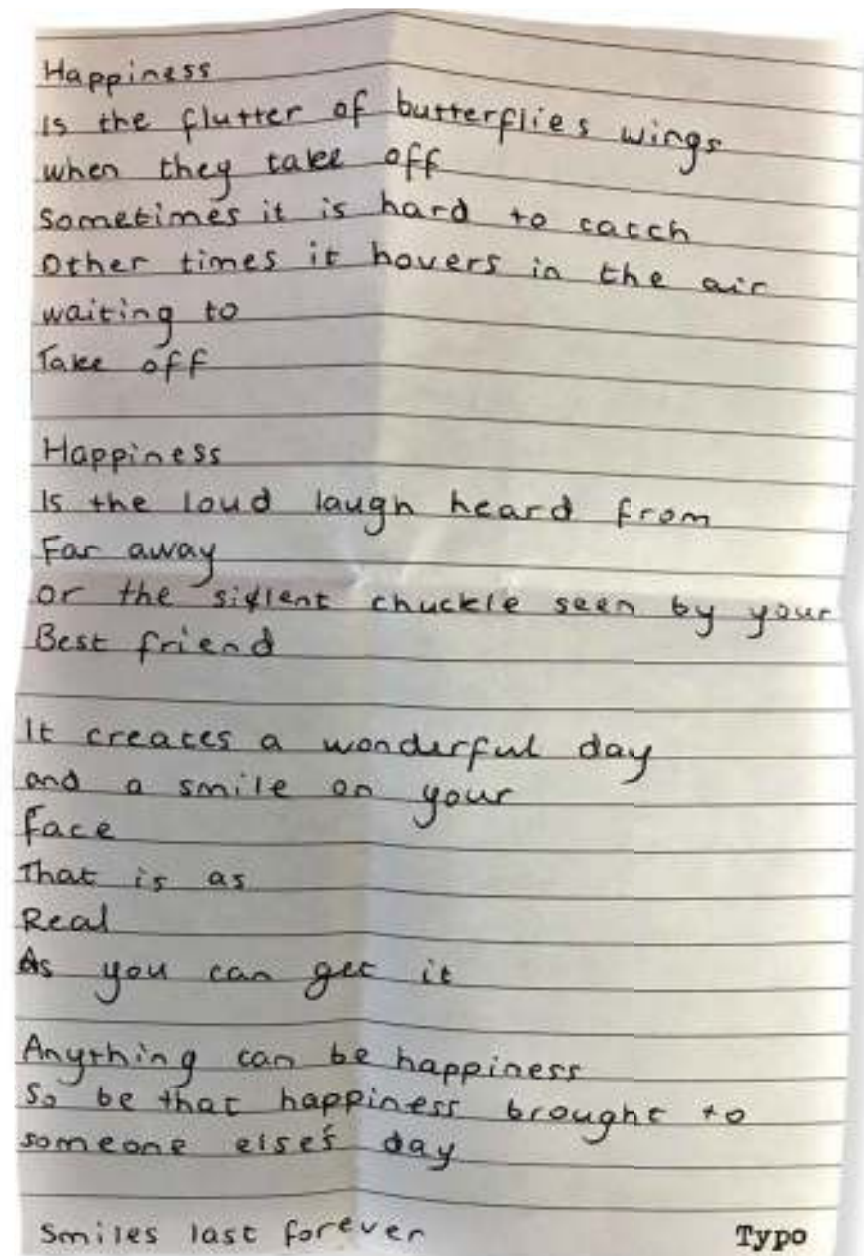
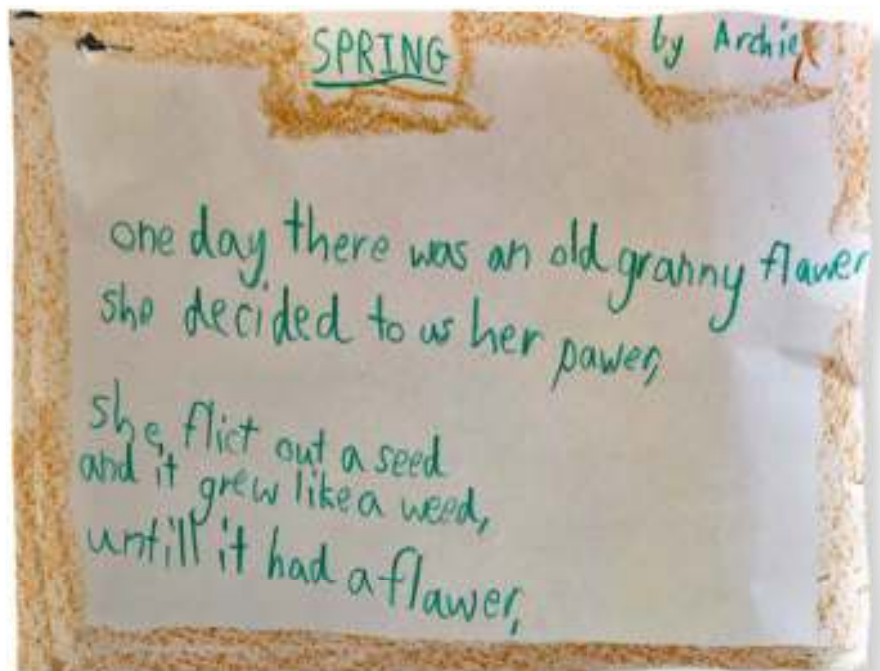
HAPPINESS

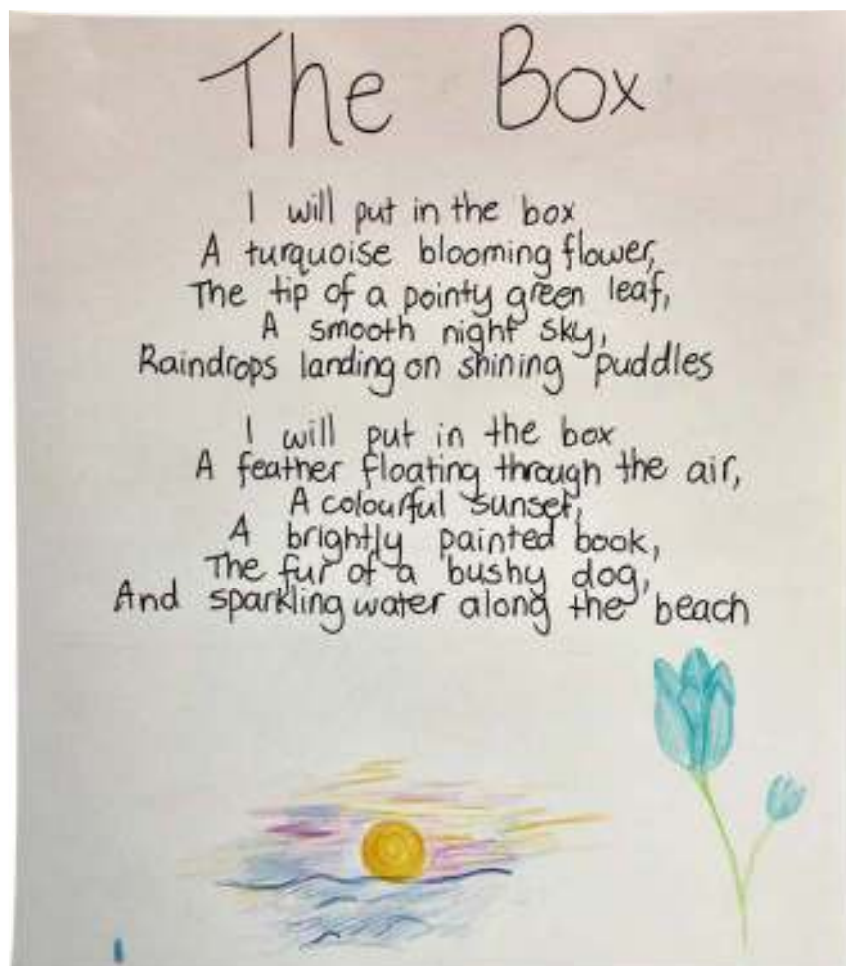
"Madison's *Happiness* is a wonderful acknowledgment of how we can find joy in simple natural things and in friendship. The poet shows a heartfelt appreciation for the feeling when one is connected to friends and to nature. Inspiring work Madison!"

THE BOX

"Lia's poem *The Box* is a delightful burst of optimism and self-determination.

I enjoyed her rather unique imagery and the clarity with which she conveyed her thoughts...well done Lia!"





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Buninyong

Earnie Neale's 2020 RAINFALL REPORT

Great rainfall in tough year

There is no denying that 2020 has been a tough year in many ways. But when it comes to the weather here in Buninyong it's been one of the best in a long time. The year wound up with a strong La Nina event delivering gentle conditions as Summer unfolded.

We received 50.7mm of rain back in November, followed by 49.6mm in December. That brought the annual total to 826.1mm, making it the wettest year since 2011 and putting it in the top 10 per cent on record.

All months received sound rainfall. The table below shows just how evenly the rain came, with no month under 35mm and none over 125mm. The averages are for the years between 2009 and 2020.

Such consistent rain produced wonderful growth in crops, gardens, fodder and stock. Harvest continues and the yields

are great. The birds loved it too, with several hatchings of baby magpies and crows being very noticeable.

Challenged

Yet, regardless of this, some long-term patterns were still challenged. In mid-winter, June and July were actually two of the driest months, while summertime's January and February were unusually wet. Most noticeable was how strongly an early Spring came on through August, September and October.

This gentle and reliable year of rain has been a balm for all on the land, and for the regional communities dependent on them.

BOM is indicating that we might expect more of the same as summer runs into



Ernie Neale is the owner of the Buninyong Blueberry Farm, and has been the rainfall reporter for The News since 2015. The rain records are taken at the farm on the south-west slopes of Mt Buninyong.

autumn. The three-month outlook gives a 70 per cent chance of above-median rainfall, with slightly elevated maximum temperatures.

So good riddance to 2020 in lots of ways. But, a fond farewell in other ways - with full tanks, green gardens and a safe start to summer lingering as its legacy.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2020	59.6	84.0	36.2	123.2	77.3	52.2	40.0	93.1	75.1	85.1	50.7	49.6	826.1
Average	39.5	37.3	38.3	55.5	71.2	66.3	68.5	75.9	70.5	58.0	65.7	43.6	690.3

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Federal Member for Ballarat

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Buninyong community*

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AUTHORISED BY CATHERINE KING, 5 LYDIARD ST NTH BALLARAT 3350



New bridge opens on time

Smiles all around

The December handover of the *Red Door Pizzeria* business saw happy smiles on the faces of new owner **Katrine Taylor** and former owner **Trevor Whitworth**. Kate reopened the business for take away orders from 15 January, and will be opening up for sit-down dining from Thursday 11 February.

The spanking new Franklin's Bridge on Scotchman's Lead Road, spanning the Yarrowee River between Buninyong and Napoleons, was opened to traffic as promised just prior to Christmas. Now elevated and widened and with vastly improved approach roads, the old low, single lane bridge sitting between two dangerous blind curves in the road is now just a memory.

Grant to Lal Lal kids

As part of the State Government's Capital Works Fund, a grant of \$146,000 has been made to the Lal Lal Primary School for an oval resurfacing upgrade.

Member for Buninyong **Michaela Settle** (pictured with excited children) said that Lal Lal was one of eight schools in the electorate to share in an allocation of \$1,150,000 that has been made for the upgrading of fences, ovals, gymnasiums and playgrounds. Projects will commence from early 2021.



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Avenue project finally opened

After delays caused by COVID crowd restriction rules, the 2020 project to complete works on the Cambrian Hill Memorial Avenue was officially opened and re-dedicated at a ceremony at the Glasson's Road site on Tuesday 15 December.

Member for Buninyong **Michaela Settle** and Mayor of the Golden Plains Shire **Helena Kirby** were present, together with some 60 district residents and relatives of the service men and women commemorated in the Avenue. A lone piper, Buninyong's **John Young**, played during the ceremony.

2014 avenue

The present avenue of 56 English Oak trees was planted in 2014. It replaced the original avenue planted along the nearby Colac-Ballarat Road in 1917.

The key element of the 2020 project involved detailed research work on each of the 56 servicemen and women from the district who had enlisted and served in either World War I or World War II. A bronze plaque containing considerable information about each was cast and attached to a concrete plinth adjacent to each tree.

Acting Principal **Sue Izzard** of the Napoleons Primary School, with school

captains **Isaac** and **Harrison** laid a wreath. Michaela Settle, Helena Kirby, and representatives from the Buninyong RSL, the Ballarat Avenue of Honour Committee, and families of the service personnel were others to lay wreaths.

Booklet

Early in the 2021 school year a copy of the sixteen-page commemorative booklet will be presented to each pupil at the Napoleons Primary School by members of the Buninyong RSL.

Buninyong RSL President **Ron Fleming** told those present that "it is particularly important to have these young students here today, along with those of you who have older memories of the avenue and of those remembered by it. We trust that the coming generations will come here and hopefully look after it as these wonderful trees mature."



Above: Michaela Settle MP chats with long-term local resident Rocky Hazlett about the avenue's history. Below: Buninyong piper, John Young, plays to welcome guests as they assemble before the opening ceremony. Watching on are Michaela Settle and Golden Plains Shire Mayor Helena Kirby.



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State Member of Parliament for Buninyong

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Authorised by M Settle MP, 15 Main Road, Ballarat. Funded from Parliamentary Budget



CYCLING CHAMPS ON SOON

Major races of the 2021 National Road Cycling championships will again be held on the famous Buninyong township and mountain circuit in just a few days' time on Saturday and Sunday, 6 and 7 February.

On the Saturday morning, U 19 Women's and Men's events will start in Warrenheip Street just prior to 10.00 am, and the 139 km U 23 Men's event will start at 1.20pm. The five lap *Gran Fondo*, with a capacity field, will start at 5.15pm.

Park fun

Saturday evening will see a big community program of events in Desoza Park from 5.30pm, and will include free children's activities, food trucks, live music and, at dusk, the outdoor cinema will screen a



popular family-friendly movie *How to Train Your Dragon*. Winner of the movie snack pack, courtesy of Maggie & Kate was **Ruby Hayden** of the Buninyong Primary School. Capacity at the event will be limited so come down early.

On Sunday morning, 7 February, the U 23 and Elite Women's Championships over 104 km will start at 8.50am, followed by the 185km Elite Men's Championship classic at 12.30pm.

Zones

To ensure the safety of everyone on site, the Buninyong road race precinct will

involve three zones where fans can catch the live action.

Each zone will offer its own combination of food and beverage and live cycling action. Buninyong locals will have the opportunity to watch roadside from the start/finish hub, the Federation University live site, and the King/Queen of the Mountain live site.

Earlier in the week on Wednesday, 3 February, exciting time trial events are scheduled for a circuit within Federation University from noon with the Elite Women starting at 4.30pm and the Men at 6.00pm.

National strategy to get women and girls Back into golf

Women and girls have been playing golf at Buninyong Golf Club since 1926. In the early years of the Club there were more female members than male. Today females make up less than 17 per cent of club members.

This reflects the situation in most countries in the world where there has been a significant decrease in the number of women and girls participating in golf. The international figure is 19 per cent.

National moves

Golf Australia has now developed a national strategy, *Future of Women and Girls in Golf*. This aims to ensure that golf is a sport where women and girls are inspired to participate, feel welcomed and nurtured throughout, and empowered to achieve their goals.

Accompanying the national strategy is Golf Australia's *Vision 2025* program, of which Buninyong Golf Club is a part. This is

playing a critical role in increasing female leadership and participation in golf in Australia.

Buninyong Golf Club is committed to Golf Australia's Vision 2025 which aims to encourage and welcome women and girls into golf. The club has agreed to participate in coming national initiatives designed to improve the participation rate of women and girls in social or competitive golf programs.

At the local level, planning is underway to offer free come-and-try clinics, initially for juniors. Other local programs and activities for women and girls will soon be announced. These will include clinics for women and girls.

Anyone interested in playing golf, or taking part in beginners' golf clinics is welcome to contact the Club on 5341 3217 or email admin@buninyong.golf. The women's captain will make follow-up contact.



Mollie Neagle winner of the 1932 Russell Cup at Buninyong GC.



Coach Jye Gourley checks out young player Penny Arnott's forehand during an Orange Ball session.

Balls of orange

With restrictions on sport gradually being eased, the district tennis season is finally underway. With an increased number of juniors fronting up at the local courts, tennis in Buninyong and district is in a good place.

A popular new initiative this year is the *Orange Ball* competition for beginners and younger players. Participants learn the skills of the game using modified rules and a low compression orange ball.

Coach **Jye Gourley** facilitates the programme at Buninyong, helping the juniors to develop the skills that will set them up to take their tennis further. This has been a first for the Buninyong and District Tennis Association (BDTA). Joint President, **Haley Quach** said it has been really successful with over thirty kids registering. It will resume again from 11:00 am on Saturday mornings in Term 1, 2021.

The regular BDTA Junior competition is also going well, catering for over 150 players in eleven district clubs. Teams from Gordon, Navigators, Warrenheip, Dunnstown, Ballarat Lawn, Buninyong, Mount Helen, Meredith, Grenville, Napoleons and Ross Creek play their matches on Saturday mornings. The senior competition is held on Saturday afternoons.

A *Tennis 4 Teens* program will be run at the Buninyong Tennis Centre on a weeknight after school in Term 1 2021, for ages 12-17. This will provide existing and new players an opportunity to engage with the sport in a social environment with other young people of similar age.

For information about any of these programs contact **Jamie Turner** (0404 485 426) or **Hayley Quach** (0403 668 029).

Young Luke storms home

The March 2017 edition of *The News* featured a story about a 13-year-old Elaine cricketer, Luke Inglis, who had taken a hat trick for his side in the local junior competition. Three years later Luke has made the switch from cricket to golf.

Encouraged and mentored by his grandfather, well known Buninyong golfer **Graeme Diamond**, Luke recently has shown that the change was worthwhile.

Luke's brother **James** and sister **Anna** are all regulars on the Buninyong golf course and the Inglis name has featured often at the top of club result sheets. In 2019 Luke won the Buninyong, D Grade Championship from a handicap of 21. His form during the Covid-affected 2020 season has seen a steady reduction in his handicap.

By the time the 2020 Club championships were played Luke had lowered his handicap to 12, qualifying him for B Grade.

Because of his hot form Luke was considered a chance to perform well. However, after three rounds he was twelve

shots behind the leader, had missed out on playing in the select group of eight leaders, and looked out of contention.

Luke saved his best performance of the year for the last round. He fired an amazing two shots over the card – a 74-to overhaul the 'select eight' and win the B Grade Championship by one shot.

Cup win

Luke also won the coveted *J.M. Armytage Cup* (the Buninyong Golf Club equivalent to the AFL Brownlow). This annual trophy is awarded to the golfer who tallies the most points for the year in a 3-2-1 system in singles events across all grades.

Luke and younger sister Anna also qualified for the final of the **P.C. Coad** mixed knock-out event. In a tough match played in extremely cold and windy conditions they went down 2 and 1 against **Lucas Oram** and **Amy Leeson**.

– Ray Sullivan

Luke Inglis chips close to the pin to set up a win on the tenth hole.





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A year of your News

For the past six years *The News* has done its best to record local events, happenings, issues, and views, to recount some snippets of local history, promote local business, and to capture details of community personalities, both past and present.

These front pages of 2020 editions might spark some memories of local news in the most unusual year just gone by.



May



September



February



June



October



March



July



November



April



August



December