

Buninyong & District Community **NEWS**

Edition 477, DECEMBER 2020



*Thick smoke greeted CFA volunteers when they arrived to fight the Mt Buninyong fires.
Photo Des Sunderland.*

MOUNT ABLAZE

The fire which burnt about ten hectares of bracken and scrub on Mount Buninyong on the afternoon of Melbourne Cup Day is believed to have been deliberately lit.

Twelve CFA tankers and other vehicles were used to fight the blaze assisted by the *Helitack 376* helicopter.

The fire was started over a considerable distance along a walking track on the top of the on the north side of the mountain near Hogarths Lane West. Local CFA brigade Lieutenant **Matthew O'Brien** said that crews had to wait for the fire to burn out to roadsides before they could attack it because of the very steep terrain.

Fire crews remained on the scene for about five hours until 9.00pm before it was declared to be extinguished, although a few hot spots remained.

Detectives from the Ballarat CIB are investigating reports that a person was seen leaving the scene soon after the fire was spotted.

Towers target

A resident living nearby said that he believed that given the blustery northerly winds, the fire was intended to reach the telecommunications towers at the summit of the Mount.

He said that in March 2018 another fire was deliberately lit on the southern side

of the Mount when southerly winds also then swept the fire towards the summit.

“In many parts of the world there have been reports of fires deliberately lit by anti 5-G activists who believe there is a link between mobile phone towers and the Covid virus,” he said.

Buninyong CFA Communications Officer **John McLeod** said that the local CFA brigade had been called to a spate of deliberately-lit fires in the district recently.

Two were lit in the Whitehorse Road, Mount Clear area, in the early hours on 15 November, and another later that day in Boaks Lane. “Since Fathers’ Day we have attended nine deliberately-lit fires,” he said.

Bridge finish getting closer

With the huge concrete girders lifted into place in mid-November, engineers working on the new Franklin's Bridge spanning the Yarrowee River between Buninyong and the Colac-Ballarad Road near Napoleons are confident that the road will be reopened "near Christmas".

There was an original completion date of "late November" for the project but site engineer **Edward Condon** told *The News* that some bad periods of weather and river conditions had pushed the schedule out by several weeks. Travel between Buninyong and Napoleons is still via the detour along Nolans Road which runs to the right off Scotchman's Lead Road.

The \$2.8 million project is a joint venture between the Golden Plains Shire and the City of Ballarat.

The new bridge with its realigned road approaches replaces the narrow 1921 single lane bridge which sat low down across the river on curved sections of Scotchman's Lead Road about seven kilometres from Buninyong.



Above : Aerial view of the progress work on the Franklin Bridge, looking towards Buninyong on 10 November 2020 showing the heavy duty crane lifting and placing the massive concrete beams that form the bridge.

STOP PRESS

State awards to News

The Buninyong News won two awards at the annual State conference of the Community Newspapers of Victoria (CNAV) held on 14 November. Seventy community newspapers from regional areas and fringe metropolitan suburbs are members of the group.

The News was announced as the winner of *Best Editorial Comment* for the Opinion piece *Ban the Barrels* which appeared in the September 2020 edition. This was a commentary on the proposal to build barrel-shaped accommodation on the slopes of Mount Buninyong.

The News was also awarded the Runner-up prize in the *Best Feature Story* category for the double page article in the June 2020 edition titled *A Very Different Year*. This reported on the impact of the COVID-19 lockdown on the lives of six of the village's key personnel – the Pharmacist, the Coach, the Real Estate Agent, the Restaurateur, the Principal and the Funeral Director.

The 2020 CNAV Awards continue the run of multiple awards won by *The News* since it was published in its 'new-look' format six years ago.

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South Ward Council election results

One new face

Two long-term Councillors, Des Hudson and Ben Taylor, were comfortably returned to South Ward vacancies on the Council of the City of Ballarat when results of the 2020 elections were declared on 6 November.

However, the third retiring Ward councillor, **Jim Rinaldi**, lost his position when distribution of preferences moved candidate, **Tracey Hargreaves**, into the third place.

After first preferences were tallied, Hudson (5841 first preference votes), led Taylor (5348), with the other six candidates closely grouped with between about 1300 and 2300 votes. Of these **Jackson Snep** (Greens) had 2333 votes, Tracey Hargreaves, 2315, and Jim Rinaldi, 2079.

However, with Hudson and Taylor easily reaching the required quota of votes for election, the distribution of their surplus votes, followed by the votes of candidates first eliminated (**Muir, Jakobi**, and then **Aitchison**), the final candidate elected was Tracey Hargreaves with 5637 votes. Greens candidate Jackson Snep followed with 4503 votes with retiring councillor Jim Rinaldi on 3105 votes.

On the record

Newly elected Councillor Tracey Hargreaves said that she had “a brilliant time in the election lead-up getting to speak with people from all walks of life throughout the South Ward. One thing that became very clear is how Buninyong is viewed as an incredibly special and unique precinct.

“It’s mixture of precious natural landscape and village feel is something to be both protected and cherished. I believe with careful planning and collaboration with the community we can ensure the area retains those distinctive features and even enhance the liveability for residents over time,” she said.

Councillor Des Hudson said that he was proud to have been elected to his

sixth term on Council. “I am still as passionate and motivated as I was back in 2002.”

He said that he was mindful of community expectations to progress strategic projects such as the Buninyong Township Plan, as well as needing to work towards an understanding of traffic issues in and around Buninyong, and what opportunities there are to remove heavy vehicles from entering the township.

“I am excited to see the continuing progress of the new soccer facility at Royal Park

as part of the City’s Soccer Strategy which will be a real boost to the Buninyong Soccer Club,” he said. Cr Hudson also acknowledged the previous contribution of Cr Jim Rinaldi and welcomed Cr Tracey Hargreaves into her first term in the role.

Ben’s thanks

Retiring Mayor Ben Taylor thanked the community for its support as he entered his ninth year on Council.

He said that as a local, living just down the road in Durham Lead, he “loved Buninyong” and was pleased to see action on local projects such as the Warrenheip Streetscape project, and the works at Royal Park that have secured Stage 1 funding.

“It is exciting to see the changes at Royal Park, but there needs to be ongoing discussions through Council Budget and partnering with State Government to deliver the additional facilities for the various user groups. An additional \$1 million will be needed to finish off the project,” he said.

He noted the need for continuing discussion and planning concerning Buninyong’s traffic problems, and for “the option of an alternative route to the east of Buninyong” especially when the Link Road



Cr Tracey Hargreaves

connects in twenty years. “I will continue to advocate for this with RRV and State Government,” he said.

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A time for thanks

As the new Council of the City of Ballarat settles down to work, and as various senior staff posts are being filled with some new faces, it seemed a good time for *The News* to put aside the usual list of issues, concerns and complaints about Council works needing to be done in Buninyong, and to record some 'thanks'.

In the October edition, *The News* carried stories about the 'unsafe bridge' in Desoza Park and how Council had consulted before installing another stark, steel cattle-race one. Now we look forward to a new, OK-looking bridge coming.

In the same edition there was a story about 'Killer Ivy' on Mt Buninyong. This followed an earlier Letter to the Editor about the same problem. Now, as **Russell Luckock's** photograph (below) shows the ivy has been sprayed and is heading for oblivion.



Finally, thanks must be given to former South Ward Councillor **Jim Rinaldi** who missed out on his crack at re-election for a third term. While he kept away from messy Council politics, Jim was a dedicated, interested and hard-working Councillor who showed keen interest in many projects and activities of this part of the City. Thanks Jim.

Ivy which was running rampant across areas on Mt Buninyong has been sprayed and killed by Council.

Back in the August edition of *The News* there was concern expressed by local residents about the 'dangerous' and muddy condition of the footpath leading from the Tandarra Estate towards Desoza Park. Now almost completed, is a newly formed and levelled pathway along the verge of Learmonth Street and also inside the western section of Desoza Park. Lots of work and a good budget commitment there!

Recognition must also be given to the regular mowing and maintenance being carried out by Council along the length of the Avenue of Honour. It's only three or four years ago when the avenue was marked by scrubby growth, long grass, rubbish, dead and untended trees, and general neglect. Now, with Council's interest and care, this Avenue is a proud feature of the village.

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.

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From Sturt Street to Simpson Street

If walls had ears there would be many interesting stories to be told from the old houses in Buninyong, but none more so than those in historic Havilah Cottage, that lovely old home with the flag flying out front in Simpson Street.

Built in the 1860s, this heritage-listed cottage is distinguished by a battlemented parapet which lines the front façade and is the much loved home of **Norm and Jane Hand**.

Hall home

It is a far cry from their previous residence when Norm and Jane and their three children, **Emma, LeRoy and Grafton**, along with their dog **Sunshine**, lived in an upstairs apartment in the Ballarat Town Hall.

Norm was employed there as Hallkeeper and Mayor's Orderly, whilst Jane worked on the switchboard. In 1988 whilst Norm was in Japan with a City of Ballarat Sister City delegation, Jane saw Havilah Cottage was for sale and knew immediately that this would be their future home.

The original owners of the cottage (c 1875) were the **Trehellas** who had established a carrier business which ran from Havilah Cottage to Geelong.

Gold

Norm and Jane were told that the name of the cottage meant *Gold from the Earth* reputedly because the cottage and the surrounding land grew mainly cauliflowers, cabbages and rhubarb.

The Trehellas lived in Havilah Cottage until 1937 when it was bought by the **Whites** and subsequently by **Mrs Lloyd** who sold it to Norm and Jane in 1989.

They love the cosy atmosphere, open fires and historic feel of the cottage, especially the kitchen which was an old railway signal box and was added to the back of the house in 1901. Both Norm and Jane are keen gardeners and over the last thirty years they have developed a beautiful cottage garden which surrounds the house.

Poultry

Both Norm and Jane live busy lives now that the children have flown the nest. Norm is a life member of the Ballarat Poultry Association and shows and judges poultry all over Australia.

He is also a keen bowler and a Past President of the Buninyong Bowling Club, whilst Jane is a keen quilter and enjoys art and poetry. Jane also loves nothing better than having her children and grandchildren home and cooking for them – a trait that must run in the family as both Le Roy and Grafton are chefs, whilst Emma is an artist.

Jane and Norm have always felt very privileged to live in such an historic and interesting home which is one of the earliest to be built in Buninyong.

– Rita Russell



streettalk

PLANS FOR the sushi shop adjacent to the post office to be open by Christmas have been put on hold. The sale of the owners' current business, *Sushi Noodles* in Mair Street, Ballarat, has been delayed because of the impact of Covid restrictions on the food/hospitality industry.

OPINIONS ARE DIVIDED over the decision to clear out the garden on the west side of the Town Hall. Some are pleased that the pathway to the disabled access door and to the rear car park is now much more open and less threatening after dark. Others have complained to *The News* that the area with its bushes, agapanthus plants and rocks all removed is now soulless and stark. And what on earth has happened to the gardens out the front? Surely not more hard paving.

BIG DECISION soon to be made concerning the future of the landmark Clubhouse at the golf club. Early betting was that it was certainly earmarked for demolition. Now the smart money is backing a lower level refurbishment, with the upper level to be separated and leased out- and not for hospitality use.

THAT SECURITY fence that has gone up next door highlights the additional space that the new CFA building will have compared to its present constricted site further up Learmonth Street.

THERE'S ACTION happening on the Warrenheip Street streetscape project but the issue of the relocation of the bus stop, which seriously reduces and chokes up business parking on the east side of the street, has yet to be resolved.

THE MASSIVE expenditure on those safety wire-rope works now spanning a long stretch of the Midland Highway to the south of the village still is puzzling. Why the wires are being strung up at great expense along straight, treeless sections of the road with grassed paddocks on either side seems to represent a huge waste of money.

Bill and Anne happy to help

It didn't take long after each retired, for long-term Buninyong residents Bill and Anne Arnold to get back into an active and busy life style.

The couple has been living in Buninyong for over thirty years, and after a brief break taking a caravan trip or two, Bill and Anne have now found plenty to do – as new members of the local Lions Club.

The daughter of a Ballan farmer, Anne retired after many years working in the Classified Advertising department of the *Ballarat Courier*. Prior to that she had worked for Australia Post.

Friends

She now is actively involved as a volunteer in the Lions bookshop on Warrenheip Street where she spends four hours every Saturday. "I just love it," she said. "It's a great place make friends and meet and help the many people from the district and elsewhere who come to the bookshop on a regular basis."

'It's a great way to make new friends and to help people'

Until his recent retirement Bill, 66, was an employee of Woolworths for 42 years, most of his working life. Likewise, he really

enjoys his time with his Lions Club friends, keeping busy with working bees, splitting wood for the ill or elderly, helping out with the Lions BBQ trailer, and "anything else which we take on to raise funds for local charities or those in need".

Birdsville out

The Covid problems of 2020 put a dampener on the couple's plans to travel in September in a group of ten caravans north to the Birdsville races in outback Queensland. "We are not really interested in racing, but this event seems to be such a unique experience that we were really looking forward to it. But maybe another year," Anne said.


Local Lions Club Secretary **Gary White** said that it was "great to have Bill and Anne on board as new members. But we are always keen to have others – young or older – come to join us," he said. "Like



After cutting the grass around the Lions' cottage in Warrenheip Street, Bill Arnold (right) is rewarded with a cup of coffee from wife Anne who had been helping out in the bookstore.

Anne and Bill our members get a buzz out of being able to help on a range of community projects." His contact number is 0418 502 975, and that of Club Membership Director **David Page** is 0418 543 772.

According to Bill and Anne, a phone call to the Lions will certainly be worth it.



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Buninyong's Dale Fraser, Health Care CEO, is **A TIGER FOR WORK**

Buninyong is home to many of Ballarat's leaders in politics, education, health care and business. For most of this year in the midst of varying health crises, one of the busiest certainly would have been the CEO of Ballarat Health Services, Dale Fraser.

But when he joined me in a local coffee shop for an interview recently a few days after the AFL Grand Final, there was no sign of business attire. Instead he was proudly wearing the yellow and black scarf of his beloved Richmond Tigers.

BCAE graduate

Dale grew up in Horsham and first came here in 1987 to attend University (BCAE in those days). A good choice of coffee shops is just one of the things he loves about Buninyong, along with the supermarket, the self-contained 'village feel' and the sense of community.

Dale was appointed Chief Executive Officer of Ballarat Health Services in June 2016, after working with regional health services in various leadership roles at Lakeside then Geelong and Shepparton.

Ballarat Health Services is Ballarat's largest employer with over 4000 staff and is one of Victoria's biggest providers of public aged care and disability services. The hospital has a large annual teaching component with approximately 2000 students – a 'pipeline of talent' as Dale put it. The hospital also compares favourably to the Royal Melbourne Hospital which doesn't cater for births, paediatrics, cancer or aged care.

Busy Emergency

A 2017 *Clinical Services Plan* analysis identified future needs in the areas of aging, cancer treatment and emergency treatments for road trauma, strokes and heart disease. There are approximately 65,000 treatments in the emergency department each year alone.

Another major redevelopment of the main hospital is about to start with an



approximate completion date in 2027, so that patients can be cared for in Ballarat rather than sent elsewhere.

Impact

The local impact of the virus so far has been contained, with an overall total of 57 positives locally with twelve needing hospital care (including two in ICU) and no deaths. However, Dale said we will need to be constantly on the alert until there is a vaccine.

Together with disaster preparation and training, a surveillance program is in operation with all local water companies monitoring signs of any *Corona* virus in the waste water system.

The hospital has been very busy since February with the teams running 24/7. A team of seven (such as the Head of Nursing, Head of Medicine, and Head of Human Resources) works with Dale. Each of those seven also has a team.

Sometimes a day consists of continual meetings and is, as Dale put it, 'very full on for everyone'. One minor plus has come out of the year – they are all now Zoom experts!

As well as his passion for the Tigers, Dale collects Australian art and, prior to Covid, was an enthusiastic traveller. His ambition to travel to all seven continents is now 'on hold'.

– Cassandra Carland

The Bard takes a break

Pause for Shakespeare in the Gardens

Since summer 2017, the *Bard in Buninyong* has presented four family-friendly versions of Shakespeare at the Buninyong Botanic Gardens. These picnic theatre productions have grown in popularity each year with now more than 1000 people now having seen the shows. Unfortunately, as a Covid casualty, there will be no show in 2021.

Artistic Director **Susan Pilbeam** has been monitoring the situation regarding live outdoor performances. It seems that a 'best case' group scenario may

be a maximum of fifty people, but that would include cast, crew, musicians, and children.

Usually, at this time, a script is being edited, the design process is beginning and *The Bard* team is preparing for auditions and the allied *School Holiday Arts Program*. "Everyone involved is so sad not to be doing a show this summer, but we're all keen to be back, better than ever, in 2022," said editor and actor **Robert Kelty**. "Our initial plan was to stage the four garden plays, *The Tempest*, *As You Like It*, *Love's Labour's Lost* and *A Midsummer*

Night's Dream. So we now have a bit of time to think about what will be next."

Wide support

From the outset the performances have received support from community groups such as the *Buninyong and District Community Association*, the *Lions Club* through their Bookshop and Op Shop, *Friends of the Buninyong Botanical Gardens* and *Yarrowee Productions* which provided initial seed funding. In kind support has come from *Buninyong Primary School* and local media coverage from the *Buninyong Community News*, and later *The Courier* and *WIN TV*.

In 2018 the *City of Ballarat* funded the *Buninyong Men's Shed* to build animals on wheels. Various musicians donated their time and then in 2019 received a fee. Other forms of support came from *Red Door Pizza*, *Envision*, *Greenvale Butchers* and the *Buninyong and District Historical Society*.

In 2020 the *Bendigo Bank* supported the pre-show entertainment by local musicians and the *Friends of the Buninyong Botanical Gardens* also contributed.

The *Bard in Buninyong* team would like to thank all their supporters and their wonderful audiences and look forward to seeing everybody again in summer 2022.

A scene from the February 2020 production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* showing a section of the appreciative audience.



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Old time farmer at home on the mount

As the old saying goes ‘if you want a job done and done well, you ask a busy person – the others don’t have the time’. Buninyong local, Danny Spruce, is one such. For Danny, now in his early 80s, and his trusty tractor are always on the go!

The blue Ford tractor is often seen in the paddocks around the Mount, keeping landholders happy spraying their thistles and blackberry and slashing to reduce fire risk. At other times Danny is feeding and carting stock, supplying water and carrying out virtually everything else that’s required to look after the land.

Fifty years

Danny Spruce and his brother Vic have lived on the family farm since taking over from their parents who died in the late 1960s, early 1970s. Vic worked for the old Country Roads Board while Danny worked the farm.

Danny remembers a childhood where nothing was easy – but he has no complaints. His parents, **Sam** and **Ellen** (called **Nell**), ran a mixed farm out Yendon way. The occasional trips to Ballarat in the gig to shop for supplies were memorable for Danny as the way home went past the *Royal Highlander Hotel* (later the *Peter Lalor Hotel*).

The horses were unyoked by the hotel as part of the service and a shandy of ¼ lemonade to ¾ beer was passed out the window at 6 o’clock closing – with a small glass for Danny!

Up early

The children’s day started at 5.30am in the summer as their job was to get the cows in for milking in time for the milk and cream to be sold locally. The mixed farm also grew garden peas and potatoes

and raised pigs. Potatoes were a mainstay on many a farm around the Mount.

Two horses were used to pull a hillside plough around the slope while another man walked behind with a sack of seed potatoes over his shoulder and would sow a ‘snowflake’ seed potato a bit larger than a golf ball along the ploughed line.

Then at harvest, one man with a special wide ‘potato’ fork could dig up and bag 20 to 30 bags of potatoes, each weighing 140 pounds (63 kg), in a day.

Rolled home

The sacks would then be rolled down the hill as it was too steep to get any wheeled carriage up to them.

Danny remembers how people survived even after the Great Depression – for rabbit was on the menu – roasted, baked, boiled, cold or casseroled whichever way you wanted it! In the early 1950s the last of the swaggies came around seeking food and shelter for the night.

And the women had it tough in those days raising children and having to wash clothes stirring manually with a thick wooden stick in the copper of old.

Happily, after a long, hard day on the tractor, Danny still enjoys a shandy – and a talk – for local history just flows out of him!



Danny on the job recently with his trusty Ford tractor.

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– Russell Luckock

Stop, shop and pop

Across the month of December there will be lots of good reasons to wander down the street, look for the pre-Christmas action in the village and shop to support local businesses.

Between 4 and 13 December there will be a huge range of things to look at and buy at the Christmas pop up shop in the Buninyong Town Hall. There will be locally hand-made goods, and local businesses will have their wares on hand. It's a fund-raising initiative of the Town Hall Committee.

Thanks to funding from the Community bank, the village also will be given a Christmas spirit lift by the appearance of two life-size brightly-painted Santa and his Kangaroo timber cut-outs made by the Men's Shed.

There's also a community BBQ with the local Lions Club using their super BBQ trailer on Tuesday 8 December outside of the Town Hall. Again the bank has supported this.

And of course, there's much more happening now at all local restaurants and coffee shops since much larger numbers of guests are able to enjoy food and drink inside and outside.



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Avenue works complete but **OPENING DELAYED**

Despite the 'official' opening of the Cambrian Hill Avenue of Honour project planned for 10 November being delayed by Covid social restrictions, works have now been completed following the recent installation of signage at the memorial site.

The existing Avenue of 54 English Oak trees planted was planted in 2014. It replaced the original 1917 Avenue on the nearby Colac Road which had suffered over the years through roadworks and power lines, and a later 1986 avenue planted with eucalypts which was not successful.

Markers

The 2020 'completion' project involved undertaking detailed research, placing concrete plinths and bronze plaques near each tree to mark the 56 men and women from the district who served in



Three generations of Hazletts have a great interest in seeing the Cambrian Hill Avenue of Honour completed – (L to R) Looking at one of the new signs are Mitchell, 12, with his new Jack Russell pup, Mitchell's father Paul Hazlett, and grandfather Rocky Hazlett.

the two World Wars, installing a flagpole, seating and interpretative signage near the memorial cairn, relocating the head-of-avenue signage. A sixteen page commemorative booklet has also been printed.

Two additional oak trees also were donated and planted by **Tony Coxall** to recognise two local servicemen missed during the planting of the 2014 avenue.

This project was an initiative of Cambrian Hill resident **Rocky Hazlett** who asked **Barry Fitzgerald** to put together a team to obtain funding and to arrange details of the project to complete the memorial avenue.

Other team members were Buninyong RSL President **Ron Fleming**, and long-term local resident and historian **Les George**.

Working bees of RSL members took on the tasks of fixing the bronze plaques to the concrete plinths and then installing the memorials against each of the 56 trees which line Glassons Road in Cambrian Hill. RSL member **Ron Delaland** assisted greatly with use of his mini-excavator.

Major funding for the project came from the Victorian Government, with smaller grants from the Buninyong Community Bank and the Buninyong RSL, with major in-kind assistance from the Golden Plains Shire.

Tree planted as students go

Recently, a tree was planted to help mark the time at the Buninyong Primary School, Scotsburn Campus of the 2020 Grade Six students who are transitioning onto secondary school in 2021. The weeping cherry tree was generously donated by Bunnings as a Graduation Tree.



Back from left – Despina, Indi, Ivy, Mason, Jackson, Bella, Quinn and Logan. Front (Kneeling) – Mallacai and Koby.

It's been a tricky year for all students, but now there is an important reminder of this group of students. NAIDOC Week 2020 which recognised and celebrates the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people was observed at the school in early November.

This year, along with the campus students and staff, the Leigh Catchment group paid respect to the *Wadawurrung* people, the traditional owners of surrounding land and water.

Students tackled the Crater Walk at Mount Buninyong which starts at the bottom car park on Blackberry Lane. It's an easy walk taking approximately 80 minutes. Downloading the free *Wadawurrung App*, *A Self-Guided Cultural Walk of Mount Buninyong*, helped all to learning some *Wadawurrung* words.

By using the App the students were able to identify native plants and animals to be seen around Mount Buninyong. They then drew them onto a poster, labelling both animal and plant names in English and *Wadawurrung*. These posters are on display to view and test language skills.

Thanks to **Bianca Fammartino** from the Leigh Catchment Group for organising the activity, gaining funds and helping out along the way.

Dog park project starts this month

As reported in the July edition of *The News* funding for the off-leash dog park at Buninyong's James Reserve has been secured.

The area is close to becoming a reality with the announcement by the City of Ballarat that construction is scheduled to start this month.

The project is supported by the Victorian Government through the *Building Works* package.

Council officers have now consulted with local residents, *Buninyong Landcare* group and other stakeholders.

The project works will start before the end of December 2020 and will include fencing, seating and signage.

Below: The James Reserve - Buninyong Proposed Dog Park and Associated Works plan was released by the City of Ballarat in early November.

The time-frames for the project are

- consultation November 2020 - December 2020
- concept Plan Approval - December 2020
- construction to commence - December 2020
- project completion-March 2021

The designated dog exercise area is 3000m2 with capacity for further expansion.

The rural/farm style fencing will be 1200m high and other details of the project can be seen in the plan below.

Provision will be made for pedestrian access around the area which has ample natural shade. Timber seats, logs and rocks will be incorporated into the works.

Changeover at Red Door Pizza

In a surprise move Red Door Pizzeria owner Trevor Whitworth has decided to retire from the bustling restaurant and takeaway business in Warrenheip Street. "I'm about to turn 60 and look forward to leading a quieter life, perhaps returning to my first career as a building tradesman doing work as it suits me," Trevor told *The News*.

He started up his local pizza business in 2013 in the tiny building now the home of the Lions Op Shop. In October 2015 he moved to the historic Whykes' grocer shop building, adjacent to the community bank, which had been the home of *Unique Garden Décor*.

From late-December ownership of the *Red Door Pizzeria* will transfer to local hospitality identity **Katrine Taylor** who started up her popular coffee shop and food business, *Maggie & Kate*, in May 2016. From January, Katrine will run both *Maggie & Kate* and the *Red Door Pizzeria*.



- Proposed Dog Park Site**
- Close to existing gravel carpark and access off Geelong Road.
 - Well setback from majority of surrounding residents with possible additional screen planting.
 - Relatively high profile with reasonable passive surveillance and natural existing shade.
 - Setback from Creek for pedestrian access around it.
 - 3000m2 size shown with capacity to enlarge to the east, subject to demand and funding.
 - Proposed fencing and furniture to reflect bushland character of the parkland including:
 - Rural farm fencing style (1200mm high) to dog park enclosure
 - Timber seats, logs and rocks
 - Pine post and rail fencing to control vehicle access into the Reserve.

	<p>Disclaimer Note The City of Ballarat nor the State of Victoria does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of the information in the Publication and any Person using or relying upon such information does so on the basis that the City of Ballarat and the State of Victoria shall bear no responsibility or liability whatsoever for any errors, faults, defects or omissions in the information.</p>	James Reserve- Buninyong Proposed Dog Park and Associated Works		9/11/2020	
				1:1000	



Newell and Sheila Barrett at his 90th birthday party with daughter Catherine.

Deaths of Newell and Sheila Barrett

Old Shire's friendly face

There's now a dwindling number of Buninyong residents who were here in the days of the old Shire of Buninyong prior to its forced amalgamation with the City of Ballarat in 1994.

Those who lived here in the latter years of the Shire would well remember its much-respected Shire Engineer, **Newell Barrett**. In those days a stop by the shire offices, a telephone call or a written note to Newell was usually enough to get local problems fixed.

In the midst of the COVID virus lockdown, he died on 22 August aged 93 years, at The P S Hobson Nursing Home in Wendouree. None of his very large family consisting of his wife of 63 years Sheila, or any of his eleven surviving children was able to be present. Only ten members of his very large family could attend his funeral in the church or at the graveside.

Daughter **Catherine** said that the family was only able to contact him twice each day by

phone, and while that was a comfort, the family still find it difficult to cope with not being there in his final moments.

The son of a Western District doctor, Newell was born in Warrnambool in 1927. In his early career as a cadet civil engineer for the old Shire of Heytesbury, he was based in Cobden. He married **Sheila Geary** in 1956, their marriage spanning 63 years.

First holden

He achieved some local fame in the district by being the first to purchase one of the first of the 215 Holden cars that rolled off the assembly line in 1948. He remained a Holden devotee all of his life.

His early career as an engineer even took him to Papua New Guinea to work on an airport there. Then followed stints as Shire Engineer at Warragul, Beaufort, Kyneton and finally Buninyong.

In later years Newell Barret was also a Councillor and Deputy Mayor of the City of Ballarat.

Always lean of build, Newell took up athletics with the Ballarat Harriers at the age of 50, ran about fifty marathons, and then as a triathlete, won many medals at the Masters' level in Australian Championships.

Friend

His close friend **Fred Reus** told *The News* that Newell "was a very active member of many charitable groups, and helped many people in Ballarat and district. He was a remarkably generous and compassionate man who truly loved his family and society in general."

To add much more grief for the family, **Sheila Barrett** also passed away just two months after her husband on 21 October, 2020 at the St John of God Hospital. She is now buried with Newell at the Buninyong Cemetery. A small consolation for the family was that changed regulations meant that fifty family and friends were able to be at the graveside for her burial.

Gerry Rabbette

Loss of local Lions leader



Friends recently have heard that well-known Buninyong identity Gerry Rabbette, passed away aged 77 years on 22 August 2020 at a nursing home on Queensland's Sunshine Coast.

Gerry moved here in the early 1970s with the Department of Agriculture. He set up home in Forrest Street and became a valued member of the community.

He was on the steering committee for the *Back to Buninyong* which later became the *Buninyong Festival*.

Lions fellow

In 1975 Gerry was a charter member of the Lions Club of Buninyong-Mt Helen. He served two terms as President between 1982-83 and 1991-92. He also was Treasurer for several years.

For his commitment to humanity and the community he was awarded a *Melvin Jones*

Fellowship – the highest recognition within Lions International.

Gerry was also a valued member of the golf club. His gregarious personality and ease with which he made friends endeared him to members, whether he was on the first or the nineteenth hole.

Family move

On his retirement he moved to the Sunshine Coast to be near his sons and grandchildren. He later resided in an assisted living unit.

His three sons, **Justin, Tim and Chris** and his seven grandchildren have a lot to be proud of. Gerry had a selfless nature, was a wonderful human being and will be greatly missed by his many friends in and around Buninyong. He is survived by his sons, grandchildren, and his two sisters, **Rosemary and Jacqueline**, living in New Zealand.

Ernie Neale's Monthly RAINFALL REPORT

October's great rains

October has been a dry month in recent years, with reduced falls and early high temperatures. However, it has been wonderful this year. Not only did we score 85.1mm of rain but our progressive total made it to 725.8mm. That is more than we have had in full for many recent years. We might even make it to 800mm this year, which will be a first since 2011!

Thanks to the rain this year, stock are now wading through grass up to their bellies, record hay production is in the offing, crops are higher than the fences and grain yields are going to be phenomenal. It has been a hard year in many ways, but farming districts and centres from Cape Otway to the Murray River are about to boom. La Nina seems to have arrived and is now delivering.

Well spotted to those doubting September's average last time – it should have been 70.5mm.

OCTOBER 2020			
Date	Rain	Date	Rain
1	2.2	16-18	7.1
5	15.0	24-25	25.8
7-9	33.9	29-31	0.8
13	0.3	30	0.5
Total		85.1mm	
Average		58.0mm	



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Thank you, mask up and stay safe.

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Bank and Salvos

For the fifth year running, staff at the Buninyong Community Bank are collecting toys and non-perishable food items for the Salvation Army's Christmas Appeal. The toys and food items can be dropped off at the bank up until Monday 14 December for collection on the following day.

The presents and food items will be distributed to local children and families by the Salvation Army in time for Christmas. Every Christmas, The Salvation Army provides around 160,000 meals and over 64,000 hampers and vouchers to individuals and families in need.

Falls at Gong

There have been two recent reports of quite heavy falls on the walking path near the green seat on the north side of the Gong.

A woman fell on what she described as a "messy, muddy slope" and sprained her wrist. Then, a few days later, a teenage girl running along the path with her dog slipped and fell cutting her knees quite badly. Over now to Council to have a look and take some action down there.

Acting action

ATA Acting Studio will be in face-to-face mode for its classes in Buninyong this January. There will be two workshops over the holidays followed with the regular classes starting back in Term One.

Studio students have had great success, scoring lead roles in Film, TV and Stage shows such as *Neighbours*, *Matilda*, *The Elephant Princess*, *The Society* and *Babyteeth*.

The holiday acting workshops will concentrate on both Stage and Screen techniques, while classes will place emphasis on self-development whilst building professional acting skills.

ATA Acting Studio will run the following:

- Senior holiday acting workshop on Monday 11 January
- Junior holiday acting workshop on Tuesday 12 January
- Regular term classes on Tuesdays starting Tuesday 2 February.

All Classes and workshops are at Buninyong Town Hall. For bookings and enquiries call 0419 593 257 or visit the website ataactingstudio.com.

Gardens AGM

Friends of Buninyong Botanic Gardens has rescheduled its 2020 AGM to Monday 7 December.

The meeting, to be held in the staff room at the Primary School commencing at 4.30pm, can be attended in person or at home via a Zoom transmission.

Details can be found on buninyongbotanicgardensfriends.org.au.

Lights back on

One of the features of the front garden of the historic Dr Longden's house (1892) in Learmonth Street are a pair of lights locally made and installed over 40 years ago. The lamps were in extremely poor condition with most parts either missing or broken. One lamp had even fallen off the existing lamp post.

Current owners were delighted to learn that the extensive repairs could be undertaken by Ballarat business *Heritage Metal Craft & Lighting*. With over 33 years' experience in the heritage lighting industry, restorer **Brandon Perrett** recently completed a full refurbishment of these beautiful copper lanterns.



Merry Christmas and a happier new year

We hope your year's highlights are still to come and keep on coming in 2021.

If you need us over the festive season, our team is here for you.

Find out more. Call 5341 8066 or search Bendigo Bank Buninyong.



Community Bank
Buninyong & District

Shaun leaves lasting legacy

After seven years as Head of the Scotsburn Campus of the Buninyong Primary School, popular teacher Shaun O'Loughlin will finish in the role at the end of the 2020 school year.

Over the years Shaun has led the development of an amazing relationship between parents, teachers and local community groups and members in developing programs and facilities for the students at the little school campus at Scotsburn.

When Shaun took on the role of Campus Head in 2014 there were 40 students at the Scotsburn site. Now there are over 60.

He also has been a great advocate for the campus and its students through the pages of *The News* where he has regularly reported on interesting Scotsburn happenings (see this edition p 11).

Shaun said that he is really proud of the culture of friendship, support and importance of education that has been built up on the campus over the years. "Our pupils love coming to school and really enjoy their time there," he said.

Jarrold Morgan, another member of the Buninyong Primary School staff, and a close Buninyong Football Club colleague of Shaun O'Loughlin's, will take over the role as Campus Head in 2021.



Schoolkids love new shade sails

The children and teachers of Buninyong Primary School soon will have more shade in their busy playground thanks to a \$21,220 Victorian Government grant which will enable the school to install four large shade sails. The overall area of the sails is 13 x 14 metres, with four large separate shades surrounding a central pole.

Michaela Settle, Member for Buninyong, recently announced that the school was a successful participant in the \$1.3 million round of the *School Shade Grants Program*.

She said, "It's great for kids to spend time playing outdoors and keeping active. This grant means Buninyong Primary School children can still enjoy the outdoors while having the necessary

shade to be protected from the sun."

School principal **Bernie Conlan** said that the sails will help replace the large cypress tree planted in the 1800s which provided much shade in that area of the playground, and which had to be removed earlier this year. "We are delighted to be a recipient of this grant, which will enable us to reinstate some shade and shelter to our playground," he said.



Michaela Settle MLA and Bernie Conlan in front of an artist's impression of the new sails to be installed at the school.

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Cycle champs back soon

After widespread cancellations of major sporting events over past months, Cycling Australia (CA) has announced that the Road National Championships, including two packed days in Buninyong, will go ahead in 2021.

The major change is to the schedule which will see a move from its traditional early January slot to the 3-7 February period. Event organisers have been working with the Department of Health and the City of Ballarat to agree on safe condition for competitors and spectators.

Federation University will again be the naming rights sponsor, and the road

races will include a swing through the grounds of the University Campus before returning to the Midland Highway for the sprint into Buninyong.

Events here

After the Sturt Street criterium event in Ballarat on Friday 5 February, Saturday will see the U 19 Men's and Women's and the Para Cycling Championship held on a 10.2 km circuit through Buninyong. On Saturday evening there will be a family-friendly movie night in Desoza Park, along with free kids' activities, food trucks and live music.

On Sunday 7 February, the U23 and Elite Women's Championships will be followed

by the Elite Men's event commencing at 12.30pm around the gruelling 11.6 km circuit.

General Manager of Cycling Australia, **Kipp Kauffman** said, "Our broadcast partners are coming back, event partners are locked in, and this will be the first of another three year contract."

He said that the Road Nationals drew largely from domestic-based riders and should not be greatly affected by any riders who choose to remain overseas.

Regional tourism operators and Buninyong businesses expressed delight at the news.



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Bowls, cricket Covid style

This News reporter decided it was time to check out several Buninyong sporting clubs to see what effects COVID-19 restrictions were having on these sports. The first stop was at Buninyong Bowling Club and from the number of cars parked outside and the noises coming from over the fence you could have been excused for thinking that all was back to normal.

That was until you entered the gate and saw first-hand that this was not a normal practice session. All bowlers were wearing masks. These must be worn at all times and can only be lowered when a bowler is playing a shot or communicating instructions or game strategies. Social distancing was being practised and bowlers were only allowed to handle their own bowls.

Missing

Only a limited number of people are able to be in the Clubhouse at the same time, and afternoon tea was missing. Many local and opposition players will be most disappointed when the season starts as Buninyong's afternoon teas are legendary. Club members are hoping that there will be further easing of restrictions as the season gets under way.

The next stop was at the Buninyong tennis complex. Nothing to report there as the place was empty.

Local cricket got underway in mid-October so there was likely to be a game on at the local oval. Indeed there was, with the match being between Buninyong's Third XI and the Brown Hill Bulls Indian team.

Clean balls

The huge contrast between the bowls and the cricket was the absence of masks.



Premier leader Kevin Lee shows good early form.

It appears that they are not required for batting or fielding. There are Covid differences however and they mostly seem to involve the ball. There are no end-changes after an over has been completed, and five overs have to be bowled before changing to the other end.

So too, the ball must be sanitised after ten overs. Only players may handle the ball. Players must not spit on the ball or use sweat to retain the shine.

The Brown Hill players, most of whom are of Indian descent, seemed very happy that they were able to play despite the restrictions. Had they been in India conditions would be much worse and there would be no cricket at all. The Indian national

teams, currently in Australia, have been playing in Dubai for the past year or so.

Incidentally, Buninyong won by three runs.

– Ray Sullivan



Buninyong 3rd XI Bowler Kade Wells, loosens up between innings.

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