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Buninyong and District
Community News

Village VOICE

Buninyong Art Prize & Exhibition 2024: A Vibrant Celebration of Local Art

The 2024 Buninyong Art Prize & Exhibition was a resounding success, with an impressive 147 artworks displayed at the historic Buninyong Town Hall. The exhibition celebrated the creativity and talent of local and regional artists, drawing hundreds of visitors across the weekend and achieving the sale of 33 artworks. The event was held from Friday Night 18 October and ran throughout Saturday to Sunday 20 October 2024.

A highlight of the event was the announcement of the Community Bank Buninyong Acquisition Prize. Esteemed judge Barry Wemyss awarded the prize to Jon Crawley for his stunning watercolour, *Our Historical Street – Buninyong*. This beautiful piece, which captures the charm of Buninyong, will soon hang proudly on the walls of the Community Bank.

Opening Night saw over 100 attendees gather for an exciting evening that included refreshments, finger food, and the announcement of prize

winners. Barry Wemyss's thoughtful judging and appreciation for the artists' work added a meaningful touch to the evening.

The event was organised by Buninyong ARTpreneurs (a subcommittee of Buninyong Community Events Inc.) - local creatives Trudy Nicholson, Karen Garratt, Marg McKee, and Lisa Cressey, whose efforts helped establish this second Buninyong Art Prize as a cornerstone of the town's cultural life. Visitors enjoyed diverse artistic styles and mediums, from traditional landscapes to experimental works, all available for purchase.

What next

Looking ahead, the 2025 Buninyong Art Prize & Exhibition, scheduled for October 2025, aims to showcase even more local talent. The exhibition will continue to provide a platform for artists to share their work with the community.

Contributor: Lisa Cressey, Buninyong ARTpreneurs



Buninyong ARTpreneurs - Trudy Nicholson, Karen Garratt, Marg McKee and Lisa Cressey

Catherine King MP

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Authorised by Catherine King MP, ALP, 5 Lydiard St North, Ballarat VIC 3350

Buninyong District Community Association

**From Sue Yorsten - President,
Buninyong & District Community
Association (BDCA). October 2024.**

I'm writing this as I look back and ponder on my time with the BDCA. Firstly, has the BDCA made a difference? We have welcomed new members to the committee who bring their own vibe to the table. They give us fresh ways of looking at things that impact the town and have an eye for what could be rather than just what has been. We need to continue to work together with the council in the spirit of integrity and trust. We need to acknowledge that our council covers an area of 739sq kilometres with a population of approximately 122,000. Each area has their own competing, sometimes urgent priorities.

Village Voice

Following community consultation and with support from the Buninyong Community Bank, we engaged Shell Corcoran to oversee the implementation of a new local newsletter, the "Village Voice". We have had great feedback from the community following the initial publication. However, for me a vexed question is how will the newsletter survive? How do we assure its ongoing viability? Very few locals are prepared to be involved in the production of the newsletter. The small team we do have are committed and vibrant and making great efforts, but they also have other priorities in life. If anyone has any thoughts on how to attract more volunteers to the team, I would love to hear from you.

De Soza Park

Following on from the recent council elections, the BDCA will work with our local representative and interested community members to revisit the De Soza Park masterplan to ensure it reflects the way we all want to use the space now and into the future.

RV Friendly Town

We are continuing to work with interest groups to establish a Recreational Vehicle Friendly Town site. It has taken time to investigate several locations with a shortlist now in place.

Mt Buninyong Reserve

The previous Mt Buninyong Reserve Advisory Committee ceased in 2018 as it didn't fit the new reporting requirements under the new Local Government Act. Through discussions with Councillor Ben Taylor and Bridget Wetherall (Director Infrastructure and Environment), Council have acknowledged, that whilst the Snap, Send, Solve (SSS) application is the preferred method to report/manage maintenance issues, those identified on Mt Buninyong may be beyond the scope of SSS and warrant more detailed management.

The BDCA has, together with Council, established a new committee and structure to work on the management of the Mount. The intention is for this group to meet periodically and work cooperatively to ensure one of its greatest natural assets, Mount Buninyong, is kept in good condition. The new Mount Buninyong Maintenance Group will ensure the BDCA is aware of ongoing maintenance concerns on Mt. Buninyong itself. Examples include overgrowth of weeds and infestations and degradation of the South Walking Track. (Courtesy Darren Bowden).

Highway Safety

BDCA representatives continue to meet with the state government on the issue of safety on the Midland Highway as it passes through our town. It has been two years since the public meeting following the truck crash and nothing has changed. Should it, can it change and how? And importantly when? We need to continue to put pressure on the appropriate Departments, I think, to achieve a definitive outcome.

The BDCA

Someone local queried me when I joined this group. "Who and what is the Buninyong and District Community Association?" they asked. They were not newcomers to the area. I hope it is one thing that has started to change with the newsletter and the soon to be revamped BDCA website and Facebook page. To be relevant and express the views of the community the BDCA needs to hear from the community. The BDCA exists to represent the views of the community. An obvious way to do that is by survey so the BDCA will make every effort to listen to you to ensure its voice is the voice of the community.

AGM

At the recent AGM, we have had minimal changes to the volunteer committee for the coming year and it is with pleasure that I can inform you of the following roles.

- a. President—Sue Yorsten
- b. Vice-President—Darren Holland
- c. Secretary and Public Officer—Kevin Zibell
- d. Treasurer—Lisa Cressey
- e. Additional Committee Members:
 - Darren Bowden
 - Robert Elshaug
 - Gabby Allen
 - Andrew Aitken
 - Ross Pilkington

One position remains vacant. This could be YOU if you would like to nominate.

The BDCA have devised and adopted a social media policy and have elected 3 committee members to be admin of the BDCA facebook group. They are Kevin Zibell, Lisa Cressey and Gabby Allen.

The BDCA would like to thank Merle Hathaway for her contributions to both the committee and the FB group and wish her well as she moves from FB Admin to a valued community member!

We'd like to thank Neil Blanchard for his time as treasurer and for ensuring that we remain up to date with our finances and insurances. All the best in your newly acquired free time!

Our goal is to represent the community. You. Let us know how we can help.

Contributors: Sue Yorsten, President and Kevin Zibell, Secretary, Buninyong & District Community Association. Photo supplied by Lisa Cressey.





Book Review

SANCTUARY by Garry Disher

Grace and Erin are two women with hidden pasts and precarious presents. Adam and Brodie are two men with thoughts of revenge on these women for past involvements and, in their eyes, injustices. Predatory, angry men. All live in a world of disguise and subterfuge, of always being alert and ready to run.

Grace and Adam are thieves and scammers, while Brodie uses technology to search for and track down his estranged wife, who escaped from him and a world of domestic violence and coercive control.

Although Grace is living on the wrong side of the law, she is not an evil person and at times she risks her own safety to help others. She is likeable and at times the reader sympathises with her and her circumstances and feels like they are on her side. She longs for a "normal" existence: to have friends, a regular and legal

income, neighbours and perhaps even a family ... a sanctuary ... but her present and her past keep derailing this desire.

Erin finds it hard to trust and has isolated herself in order to survive. Grace and Erin meet when Grace takes a job in Erin's antiques business in the Adelaide Hills and also becomes her tenant in Erin's granny flat. Grace uses her knowledge of artworks and memorabilia to be the 'frontman' of Erin's business.

About the author

Garry Disher is a famous Australian author who grew up on his parents' farm in South Australia. He has written more than 40 titles including general and crime fiction, childrens' books, textbooks and books about the craft of writing. He travelled to Ballarat in April this year to speak at the Ballarat Mechanics Institute.

One of his most popular characters is rural police constable Paul Hirschhausen in the Hirsch series set in outback South Australia with realistic small town characters.

Sanctuary is a stand alone novel, quite a different read from his other series, with a build up to an ending which tied together the storylines in the final pages. There was also a feeling that we might read more of the character of Grace and maybe Adam in the future. As is expected from a popular and prolific writer like Disher, Sanctuary is a well written, tightly structured crime novel that takes the reader on a suspenseful ride with fascinating characters and an atmospheric sense of place and time. Another great Australian novel to be recommended.

Contributor: Bev Elshaug

BUNINYONG NEWSAGENCY



501 Warrenheip Street
Buninyong
Ph: 5342 2154

NEWSAGENTS . PETROL . LOTTO



OPENING HOURS
Monday to Saturday
5am–8pm
Sunday
6am–8pm



Magic Moments Youth & Leadership Summit

Seventeen students from Mount Clear College, Phoenix P-12 Community College, Ballarat High School and Woodman's Hill campus recently attended the five-day Magic Moments Youth and Leadership Summit in Sydney. The Youth Leadership and Business Summit has been developed by the Magic Moments Foundation to provide young people with the tools and strategies they need to succeed in an ever changing world. In 2025, twelve will return to complete the Graduate Program to continue to develop their skills and support their learning.

Together the Community Bank Buninyong, the Buninyong Mt Helen Lions Club and Soroptimist International of Ballarat Inc sent these local secondary students to join in the event. Community Bank Partnerships Lead Kelly Bevan said "It's wonderful we can play such a part in the development of these emerging leaders. For many, Magic Moments is a life changing experience. Most kids didn't know each other before attending the program, and have all created friendships beyond the program".

Community Bank Buninyong is a devout supporter of this program for the personal transformations and impact it has on individual students at this stage in their life. It's such a pivotal experience and can be the light bulb moment for what comes in the future.

This was an initiative of the Bendigo bank Community Investment project. The bank is open to supporting other community groups or organisations initiatives. Directly visit and ask at the bank or apply online at www.communitygrowshere.com.au/investment

Contributor: Sam Elshaug, Community Bank Buninyong

Produced By

This is a community project of the Buninyong and District Community Association, with the support of the Community Bank Buninyong.

Buninyong and District Community Association
Registration Number A0039386K
ABN 63 951 689 126

Management Committee

Village Voice: Buninyong and District Community News Production Team under the direction of Buninyong and District Community Association.

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Publication cut-off is 14th of month prior to production.

How to Contribute & Guidelines

Contact news.bdca@outlook.com

Max 400 words per article.

Electronic submissions must be in either Microsoft Word or plain text only. Photographs or images must be in jpeg format.

The photographer must be identified, and have provided permission for publication prior to the photo being published.

Hand-written articles or photographs may be posted to - Village Voice: 408A Warrenheip Street, Buninyong 3357. Please provide a stamped, self-addressed envelope if any material needs to be returned.

The author's name will be published.

Where to Read the Village Voice

Online via the website:

www.buninyongcommunityassociation.com.au

Facebook: Village Voice - Buninyong and District Community News

Via Poster QR codes on local noticeboards, for you to read or download to print at home.

Free limited printed copies will be available in local venues.

Disclaimer: Views, opinions, and responses expressed in "Village Voice: Buninyong and District Community News" belong solely to the author and do not necessarily represent their employer, organisation, or committee.

Buninyong Outdoor Pool has opened for Summer



The Graham Hannah Buninyong Pool opened on Saturday 30 November 2024. It features a solar heated 25m outdoor pool, shaded toddlers pool, BBQ and picnic facilities. The pool at 207 Forest Street, Buninyong, will provide welcome relief from hot days to all and sundry.

Prior to opening, the pool has received a fresh coat of paint, the water has been cleaned filtered and lightly chlorinated. The ducks have been gently encouraged to find a new place to paddle. Now all we have to do is wait for above 23 - degree days for the pool to operate. Grassy surrounds with trees and shade cloth for sun protection will add to the welcoming environment.

Hours of Operation:

During the 2024-25 summer season, the pool will be open during the following hours:

- Outside of school holidays
 - Monday to Friday: 4pm to 7pm
 - Weekends and public holidays: 1pm to 6pm
- During school holidays
 - Monday to Friday: 1pm to 7pm
 - Weekends and public holidays: 1pm to 6pm

(In hot weather, it may stay open even later.)

The Kiosk will be open for refreshments, which will be particularly sought after by local children following long, hot days in classrooms. In addition, the pool provides safe water toys for kids and more importantly, lifesavers will also be on duty.

We all know how important swim safety is and to this end, VICSWIM Summer Kidz Program will be running at the Buninyong Aquatic Centre in January, hosted by Ballarat Aquatic & Lifestyle Centre. The dates for Buninyong are: Week 1, 6-10 Jan; and Week 2, 13-17 Jan. Bookings are open now and details can be found on the VICSWIM website - vicswim.com.au

Admission fees as per Ballarat Aquatic and Lifestyle Centre website

Adult - \$7.20

Concession - \$6.30

Child 5 -15yrs - \$4.40

Family - \$18.90

Child under 5 - Free

Enquiries can be addressed to the Buninyong Aquatic Centre Phone: [5329 1167](tel:53291167) at times when the pool is open.

Let's hope we can all enjoy the pool's refreshing embrace where the water spins and dreams begin.

Contributor: Greg Dow

If you were curious to know what the ingredients were for the **French Apple Cake** recipe from our 1st Edition, here they are!

- 150g (1 cup) plain flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 125g butter, at room temperature, chopped
- 100g (1/2 cup) caster sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 60ml (1/4 cup) milk
- 3 large pink lady apples, peeled, cut into 2-3cm pieces
- Icing sugar, to dust



Baked Cheesecake with Strawberry Sauce

Recipe submitted by Sue Bartlett, CWA Buninyong

INGREDIENTS

Biscuit base

- 1/2 cup unsalted butter
- 2/3 cup Granita biscuits
- 1/3 cup caster sugar

Cheesecake

- 1 cup castor sugar
- 1000g softened creamed cheese
- 4 eggs
- 2 tbsp cornflour
- 200g sour cream
- Zest and juice of 1 lemon zested

Strawberry Sauce

- 250g strawberries trimmed and cut in halves
- 1/4 cup castor sugar

METHOD

Preheat oven to 130 C.

Grease and line a springform cake tin (23cm) with baking paper and set aside.

Melt butter and set aside.

Blend biscuits and sugar in a blender until a fine crumb then add melted butter. Evenly press mixture into base of cake tin and place in fridge to set until needed.

Place sugar and 500g cream cheese into mixing bowl and mix until blended. Add remaining cheesecake ingredients, including the second 500g cream cheese and mix until well combined.

Pour filling over biscuit base then bake for 1 hour 30 mins or until firm with slight wobble.

Turn oven off but leave door open with cake inside to cool for 1 hour.

Place in fridge for minimum 4 hours or overnight.

Place strawberries and sugar in saucepan and cook on stove until strawberries are syrupy and soft.

Apply strawberry sauce to top of cheesecake prior to serving.

Serve with cream if desired as cream is wonderful with this cheesecake!

Buninyong and District Historical Society

Our Society is excited to see the reincarnation of the Buninyong and District Community News, which has been such an important source of community information since its inception in 1975 until its last edition in February 2022. For those interested, the Society holds a complete set of the old newsletter, which is being digitized for the National Library's TROVE, with thanks to Buninyong Old Library Trust.

The Society held our 42nd Annual General Meeting on Thursday 17 October, at the Court House, (Buninyong Town Hall.) Our guest speaker was Susan Kruss who spoke on her doctoral research into the history of the Ballarat Field Naturalists Club, noting particularly the work done in protecting bushland in the Buninyong area.

On Saturday 19 October, the Society celebrated Buninyong's Treasures as part of History Month, when members were on hand at the Court House to show visitors

photos of the most treasured sites in Buninyong, and how they have been cared for.

Dr Anne Beggs-Sunter followed with an illustrated lecture on Buninyong's treasures, including the Botanical Gardens, Buninyong Town Hall, Buninyong Old Library and the house Ballantre. Anne will explain how a site gets nominated to the Victorian Heritage Register, what nomination means for owners, and the process of researching an historic house for nomination to the Register.

The Society is also working on a Wish List of sites that should be included on the Register, and should be included as part of the City of Ballarat's Heritage Gaps study. Suggestions warmly welcomed.

The Society warmly welcome new members to join us in our work of recording and promoting the history and heritage of our

area. Check our Facebook page at Buninyong and District Historical Society.

Email queries to - a.beggs-sunter@federation.edu.au
Web: www.vicnet.net.au/~buninhis

Contributor: Dr Anne Beggs-Sunter

A Snippet from the Past

Extracted from Sun News-Pictorial, Melbourne, 11 October 1935.
Danger Signs To Be Erected On Highway BUNINYONG. — A danger triangle will be erected along the Geelong-Ballarat road—the Midland Highway—almost opposite Buninyong Fire Brigade, as a means of reducing the speed of motorists passing through the township. A white centre line was recently marked in by the Country Roads Board at the sharp turn from Learmonth Street to Warrenheip Street.



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SparkTank Event Distributes \$50,000 to Local Groups



Photos supplied by Sam Elshaug.

Community Bank Buninyong's highly anticipated SparkTank event took place on Tuesday 12 November at the Buninyong Town Hall, where local organisations pitched to a panel of judges for a share of \$50,000 in community investment funding. Over 140 people gathered in the town hall to support the community groups, with each attendee given \$20 worth of Community Gold tokens they could use to vote for their favourite community project of the night.

Awards

Overall, the \$50,000 funding pool was awarded to ten of the local organisations, including:

- \$10,000 to Babies Above Incorporated;
- \$10,000 to Leigh Catchment Group Inc;
- \$7,000 to Ballarat Centre Against Sexual Assault;
- \$6,500 to Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre;
- \$6,000 to Buninyong Primary School;
- \$4,500 to Buninyong Landscape Alliance Inc; and
- \$1,500 apiece to Ballarat Police and Citizens Youth Club, Ballarat Pony Club Inc, Heartbeat Victoria Ballarat Branch, and York St Church of Christ (Reverse Advent Calendar initiative).

about fostering connection and support within our community, and we're so grateful for this opportunity to pitch our project."

Community Gold Tokens

In addition to the community investment funding, the Community Gold tokens given to the audience allowed attendees to have a direct say in the distribution of additional funds. The total amount of Community Gold awarded on the night was \$2,740, which will be spent back within the participating community groups, further driving the event's impact.

local community. The SparkTank initiative was designed to offer additional funding opportunities to local groups, focusing on strengthening the community's ability to address pressing issues. The company's Community Partnership Lead, Kelly Bevan, said, "We wanted to cast the net wider to include groups across the greater Ballarat region, some of whom we haven't supported before. It's also an exciting new way to engage the community and bring fresh energy to our program."

Contributor: Sam Elshaug, Community Bank Buninyong

Over the past 14 years, Community Bank Buninyong's Community Investment Program has returned over \$2.25 million of profit to the

The SparkTank event highlighted the remarkable work being done by local volunteer groups and demonstrated the strong community spirit that defines the Buninyong and Ballarat areas. It brought together local organisations, funders, and residents to create a night of inspiration, support, and community engagement.

Reverse Advent Calendar

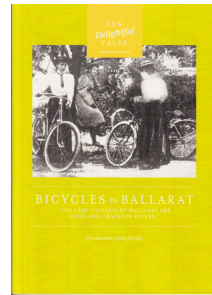
Reverse Advent Calendar representative Heather Luttrell spoke about the importance of her project: "In Ballarat, many individuals face food insecurity, and we know that for many families, Christmas is a particularly stressful time. Reverse Advent Calendars isn't just about giving; it's



Successful organisations with their cheques.

A Buninyong Treasure Miss Middlemist

People have been riding bicycles around Buninyong for over 150 years. They were massively excited, especially by the speed of bicycles - velocipedes - as they came down the hill from Mount Helen.



From The Ballarat Star, 30/08/1869

On Saturday afternoon the quiet town of Buninyong was excited by the arrival of eight bicycles, the riders having journeyed from Ballarat. The locals of the ancient village carefully inspected the mysterious-looking conveyances.

To Buninyong and back will most likely become a favorite trip. The ride down the steep hill to Buninyong is quite exciting. The velocipede goes down at a great pace and the rider has to do nothing but sit still and guide.

Tricycles are seen, but they are more difficult to work, and, strange to say, more dangerous to ride. One small boy, about nine years of age, may be seen riding about on a bicycle, much to the delight of a large crowd of juveniles, who follow him unceasingly.

My favourite story of bicyclists in Buninyong concerns Miss Annie Middlemist who in her nineties was still riding her bicycle around "the ancient village." We need to know more about this incredible lady.

From The Argus, 04/09/1941

Miss Annie Middlemist, 94, retired school teacher, was an assistant at Rev. Thomas Hastie's Presbyterian school at Buninyong. She was teaching at Sale on her retirement 47 years ago. When she returned to Buninyong, she took her 45-year-old bicycle with her and amazed people by her cycling vitality. She had ridden the machine almost daily and her best feat was a ride of 40 miles (64 kilometres) in a day.

Miss Middlemist was an organist at the Presbyterian Church in girlhood. She was an active worker for the war efforts of 1914-18.

This picture (left), not of Miss Middlemist of course, does show that the bicycle opened up a new, exciting world for the people of Buninyong, especially for ladies. Miss Middlemist led the way!

Contributor & Photos supplied: Doug Bradby



GET INVOLVED!

On Saturday 7 December 10.30am to 12.30pm Doug Bradby will be at the local library. He will ask you two questions: one about the article and one about your exploration around Buninyong. The first five correct answers will be given a free book on bicycles.

Lions Buninyong – Mt Helen Book Shop HUGE SALE!



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BUNINYONG'S CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL




The Buninyong Township will be full of Christmas Joy in all shapes and sizes! Starting in early December, Christmas activities will fill the town! There will be something for everyone and we welcome your participation!

For more information go to buninyongtownhall.com.au and the Buninyong Town Hall Facebook page.



Santa Photos
Fridays 5pm - 8pm
Weekends
11am - 2pm
Buninyong Town Hall



Find the Elves of Buninyong – grab your Treasure Map from a Buninyong shop or cafe and find the Elves of Buninyong – and their friends! You could win a prize!

The Buninyong Bowling Club will have Sunday Bare-Foot Bowls on 8 December & 15 December




Buninyong Business Christmas Shopping Night
Friday 6 December – from 4pm to 8pm
Support our wonderful local shops and get all of your Christmas Shopping done!

Every Day from 6 to 15 December
Open 10am to 5pm
The Buninyong Town Hall will be open to the public and will include: CWA Devonshire Tea, Stage Display, Christmas Dioramas, Santa Mail Box, Christmas Tree Sales



Motorbikes Come to Town!
The Annual Christmas Toy Run will be travelling through Buninyong on Sunday 8 December at 10.30am. This will involve up to 300 motorcycles raising money and taking donations for the Ballarat Toy Run. Line the streets and watch them go by!
Donations of toys and cash can be left at the Buninyong Town Hall in support of Grampians Health, Ballarat Lego and Backpacks 4 kids.



Christmas Carols in the Park



Family fun and a celebration of the festive season will again be the focus for this year's Buninyong Community Carols, set for Saturday 7 December. Once again the event will be held in De Soza Park, Warrenheip Street, Buninyong.

Talent co-ordinator and committee member Sally Bedggood said that the kid friendly environment is what makes the carols special. "It's a crazy family event," she said. "Kids are running around everywhere, parents are catching up with people they haven't seen for a year or two, relaxing on the grass and sharing meals. Everyone just loves it."

Local performers are always sought after, this year is no exception. Performances will include the Little Brass Band providing a lovely overture to start the night. Headliner acts are performers from Sarah Landy's Ballarat Vocal Studio. Reuben Morgan from the BallaRat Pack will also return to the stage. The Sing Australia Choir will provide their support of the carols. Emmaus Primary School choir are joining for the first time.

A collection will take place during the event. All proceeds from the event go towards the Ballarat Christmas appeal. The local Bendigo Bank is the major supporter. "We're moving with the times and will have eftpos machines and QR codes available as well as taking cash donations ensuring easy giving for everyone." Mrs Bedggood said.

There will be craft activities for the kids from 4:30pm. The Lions Club will have their BBQ running from 5pm to 7pm with the carols commencing at 7pm.

It is understood the carols started in 1995 which would mean next year will be the 30th year - if anyone has the exact history, please reach out to clarify.

This event is brought to the local community with the support of the Buninyong Mt Helen Lions Club and the Combined Churches of Buninyong.

Contributor (& photo supplied): Sally Bedggood, Buninyong Lions

BUNINYONG CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

JOIN US

Dec. 6th-15th 2024

buninyongtownhall.com.au

AT THE BUNINYONG TOWN HALL...

Open 10am-5pm, Dec. 6th-15th
Christmas Dioramas & Stage Display
Santa Post Station & Santa Photos
CWA Devonshire Teas & Christmas Shop

IN BUNINYONG TOWNSHIP...

Street Decorations
Late Night Shopping Dec. 6th
Lions Club BBQ & Bare-Foot Bowls
Find the Elves of Buninyong!

Community Bank
Buninyong

 Bendigo Bank



Supported by



Buninyong Bowling Club Season 2024-25

News

The Buninyong Bowling Club season is off to a flying start! So far, the club has entered eight teams into the Ballarat Regional competition, split between the Tuesday and Saturday pennant games. It's been a fantastic beginning to the season, and with a positive tone already set for the months ahead, everyone is excited to see what the season holds.

Practice sessions open to all

The club is inclusive of all ages—especially the young, and young at heart—and is always looking for new members to play or become social members; you don't have to play lawn bowls to enjoy the club's facilities. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned player, everyone is encouraged to drop-in and have a go.

If you're keen to try lawn bowls, please feel welcome to attend the practice sessions that are held on Wednesday and Friday afternoons, starting at 4 pm. For more information, please

visit this website:

<https://www.buninyongbowlingclub.com.au/>

Competitions and getting involved

Currently, the club holds annual championships, where members compete against each other to achieve the title of 'best bowler' for the ladies and men.

In the coming months, there are several opportunities to get involved in bowling, including:

- Barefoot Foot Bowl events on the 8 and 15 December (as part of the Buninyong Christmas Festival)
- the Corporate Cup, which will commence for a six-week competition in late January 2025.

Thankyou

Finally, the club expresses their heartfelt thanks to their members and supporters whose dedication and enthusiasm make the club what it is. As the festive season approaches, the



Photo supplied by Buninyong Bowling Club.

Buninyong Bowling Club wish you a safe and happy Christmas.

More information

Please see the flyers around town or visit the club's website as noted above.

Contributor: Ross Pilkington



We are Real ~~Estate~~ People.

Contact your local real estate agents to get an update on the value of your property or to arrange to lease your property.



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The Old Swimming Baths, Buninyong Botanical Gardens

The Old Baths in the Botanical Gardens go back to the beginnings of local government in the early 1860s. The Borough Council on 16 January 1861 agreed that a sum not exceeding £40 could be spent on a bathing house on the upper Botanical Gardens reserve.



Photo supplied by Dr Anne Beggs-Sunter, circa 1985.

The Baths were opened to the public in March 1872. In 1876 a Baths Committee agreed on fees of six shillings for a family ticket for a season, three shillings for an individual and tuppence for a single visit. It was part of the duties of the curator of the Gardens to also superintend the baths. At this time private bathing facilities were minimal, hence the importance of the public baths.

The Baths were fed by natural springs that flow into the Gong, a large dam above the gardens which feeds water down the hillside towards the centre of the township.

The basin of the baths was made of bluestone. At the end of World War I, Shire Engineer C.C.P. Wilson obtained a repatriation grant of £749 and organised a team of ex-servicemen to construct improved swimming baths, with pre-stressed concrete walls and changing rooms. This was a very early use of pre-stressed concrete.

Segregated bathing was enforced, and children from the next door school came for swimming lessons. During the 1930s, the baths were closed due to a high E. coli count. After World War II, the Baths became overgrown with weeds. However

they were cleaned up in the 1950s, and pupils from the Primary School got their Herald 'Learn-to-Swim' certificates at the baths in 1953.

In 1969, a group of citizens began lobbying for a new swimming pool for Buninyong, and the old baths lay empty and neglected, quickly overgrown with ivy and blackberry.

After a visit to England in 1992, local councillor Derick Leather had the idea of re-vamping the old baths, and drew up a plan to make a garden, following an idea from Sidmouth in Devon. This was pursued, and the baths were transformed into a tranquil sunken garden, one of the last projects of the old Buninyong Shire Council. They became a popular venue for weddings.

In 2019, Ballarat City Council suddenly closed off the area, erected a fence around it, and declared that the walls were unstable, while they investigated leaks from the Gong wall along Cornish Street.

Six years later, the wire fence still surrounds the baths, which are overgrown with weeds again, waiting for work to start on stabilising the walls and reviving the garden.

Would it have taken so long to act if the baths were in the Ballarat Botanic Gardens?

Contributor: Dr Anne Beggs-Sunter, Buninyong and District Historical Society, 2024

Discover unique treasures at Buninyong Gift House – handmade gifts, jewellery, plants & flowers, cards, artworks, local crafts, and perfect surprises for every occasion!

CHRISTMAS TRADING HOURS
Tuesday-Sunday
10am to 4pm



408 Warrenheip St, Buninyong

Emmaus Peace Pole

**Peace Poles are significant 'monuments' to draw attention to the important 'prayer'.
"May Peace Prevail On Earth" ~
Madonna Quixley.**

Earlier in the year, I was in the fortunate position to accompany student leaders at Emmaus Catholic Primary School to the formal launch of Compassionate Ballarat's 'Seeds of Compassion' project at their dedicated garden bed on Victoria St, Ballarat East. Compassionate Ballarat is a volunteer organisation encouraging compassionate decision - making and actions in our city.

The Project

This project entailed planting seeds of compassion to promote Ballarat as a caring city supported by the compassionate wishes of its future leaders. Our students took their wishes and physically handed them to members of the Compassionate Ballarat team alongside the garden.

Whilst at the launch the students and I were privileged to experience a profound encounter with Madonna Quixley, the co-convenor of Let's Talk Peace Ballarat. This encounter was the beginning of the Peace Pole project at Emmaus. We liaised with Madonna over time to recently unveil and bless our very own Peace Pole that now stands proudly in our school grounds as a place to contemplate peace in our world. Our Peace Pole is the third Peace Pole now in Ballarat schools. For the broader community there is another in Barkly Square.

History

The Peace Pole movement was started in Japan by the visionary Masahisa Goi. He was deeply distressed by the catastrophic devastation caused by the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, instantly killing 200,000 people. In 1955, he began a mission to spread the simple message, "May Peace Prevail on Earth."

Emmaus' Peace Pole

Our Peace Pole stands as a symbol of unity and respect. The inclusion of the message "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in our four chosen languages on each side of the pole, were carefully selected as important elements of our school story:

- The message in Wadawurrung language acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which our school sits, honouring their enduring connection to this place.
- The Japanese language reflects our commitment to fostering cultural understanding, and our place and role in a global context, through our languages program.
- Braille signifies our dedication to inclusivity, ensuring all voices are heard and valued in our community.

Together, these languages embody the principles of respect, learning, and belonging that guide us to a world filled with peace. Our Peace Pole would not have been possible without the generosity of Madonna and her friends at Let's Talk Peace Ballarat in



Photo supplied by Emmaus Primary School.

partnership with the Rotary Club of Ballarat South who co-sponsored the cost of our Peace Pole. We feel deep gratitude to have engaged in dialogue with Madonna at the time of the Compassionate Ballarat "Seeds of Compassion" project and Compassionate Ballarat's role is also acknowledged on an attribution plaque on the Peace Pole alongside the other sponsors.

As a school of faith, hope and love, our prayer is to spread the message of peace and hope for both current and future generations.

Contributor: Jo O'Kelly, Emmaus Staff Member



Luba's Landscapes

Buninyong's Spring Splendour!

- Apart from sniffs and sneezes, spring ignites our senses with colour, scent and visuals uplifting the spirit and filling our hearts with gratitude and wonder.
- Our neighbourhood is bursting with flora and fauna; let's make time to enjoy and savour the beauty of our surroundings!

Smart Living in YOUR Community!

Mark your calendars for 23 February, 2025, as the Smart Living Expo returns to Royal Park, building on the success of last year's event which drew over 3,000 attendees. This celebration of sustainable living will feature an even larger selection of electric vehicles, live music, food trucks, and over 100 exhibitors, making it a must-attend for families and individuals passionate about eco-friendly innovations.

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This year's expo will showcase advancements in sustainable building techniques and biodiversity, with a strong focus on health and community well-being. Attendees can explore the intersection of mental health and environmental consciousness, understanding how a healthier environment contributes to overall well-being.

An expanded electric vehicle showcase will allow visitors to see the latest in EV technology and understand the benefits of electric transportation.

Live building demonstrations will provide practical insights into energy-efficient homes and the use of modern sustainable materials. Local businesses and community groups are encouraged to capitalize on the Expo's presence by hosting pop-up events. This provides a fantastic opportunity to showcase eco-friendly products and services, enhancing community engagement and promoting sustainability efforts within the region.

The popular Sustainable Seekers hunt will also return, guiding participants through the expo to solve clues and learn about sustainability, with rewards for all who complete the journey.

In addition to the day's activities, Buninyong Sustainability has launched a new website, which focuses on People, Place, and Action within our community. The site is a resource for sharing knowledge about sustainable initiatives, particularly those at Royal Park and the Buninyong Community Garden.

The Smart Living Expo is more than just an event; it's a movement towards a more sustainable and healthier future. It brings together the community to share ideas, learn new skills, and inspire each other in the pursuit of a greener tomorrow.

We also invite those who are passionate about sustainability to volunteer at the Expo. Your contributions will provide invaluable support and bring fresh perspectives to the event.

We are also calling for potential exhibitors. Please make contact as per details below.

Please join us at Royal Park to engage in meaningful discussions and activities that promote sustainable living.

Whether you're interested in upgrading your home, learning about sustainable building, or exploring the latest in electric vehicles, the Smart Living Expo is your gateway to a more sustainable lifestyle. Register now and be part of this transformative community event.

For more information check:
buninyongsustainability.org.au or
smartlivingexpo.com.au

Contributor: Justin Weyers, Buninyong Sustainability

Photo supplied by Justin Weyers, Buninyong Sustainability.



Movement in the Village

Contributor & photo
supplied by Bev Elshaug

Movement Matters is an exercise class for seniors involving movements to music while seated in a chair. It may sound simple, but these movements are all purposeful; they stimulate brain function and improve stability, gait and balance. The program is driven toward improving its participants' range of movement, strength flexibility, agility, fitness, mental health and social wellbeing.

The sessions are curated for participants; music is matched to the class's age group, and routines are adjustable for participants to do what they can—taking into account body limitations, injuries, or recovery from injury.

Participants find the classes fun and a good challenge. Through exercising in a light hearted, non-competitive atmosphere, group members revel in the physically and mentally rewarding activities. Particularly for those who live alone, the classes are a great opportunity to get out of the house, meet new people and have a chat. It

allows attendees to join-in on the social get-togethers afterwards. Your body will thank you for joining a session.

How it started

In 2020 during Covid, Catherine Ross, a local Remedial and Bowen therapist, started looking into creating a seated movement class for seniors, and founded Movement Matters 55+ as a result. This year, Catherine Ross participated in the City of Ballarat run 'Buninyong Age-well Mini Expo' in March and was subsequently approached to run this initiative for six weeks on Thursdays, 11am–11:45am. Cost is \$5 per session and held in the Buninyong Town Hall. After commencing in July, the program was so successful that it has continued for the remainder of 2024. The program was free this year in October to celebrate Seniors Week.

Back next year

There is no compulsory attendance; group members turn up when they can, and anyone



aged 55+ is welcome to join. Movement Matters recommences February 2025.

For more information, please contact: Catherine Ross on crmessage.cr@gmail.com the Social Activities Team at the City of Ballarat by calling ph. 5320 5637 or emailing socialconnections@ballarat.vic.gov.au

HELPING VICTORIAN FAMILIES




\$400 SCHOOL SAVING BONUS

All public and eligible non-government school kids will receive a \$400 School Saving Bonus!

Details on how to access the bonus will be emailed to parents, and can be used for uniforms, trips, sports, and more!

If you have any questions or need some help accessing the bonus, contact my office and we'll be able to help you out.

Michaela Settle MP
Member for Eureka

 michaela.settle@parliament.vic.gov.au  5331 7722  /MichaelaSettleMP

CFA: MORE THAN FIRES AND VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

Your local Buninyong/Mt Helen Fire Brigade is involved in a wide range of activities throughout the year, not just in the busy summer fire season. On average the Brigade attends 3-4 call-outs per week, covering the urban areas of Buninyong, Mt Helen and Mt Clear as well as the rural areas of Lal Lal, Clarendon, Scotchman's Lead and Durham Lead. Further afield the Brigade supports the areas out to Dereel, Napoleons, Mt Doran, Mt Mercer, Elaine and Meredith.



Community Education

The Brigade is actively involved in community Fire education, visiting all local pre-schools, kindergartens, primary schools and secondary colleges. Individual visits are also provided on request to assist with smoke detector, fire extinguisher and house protection preparations. Community wide Fire Awareness meetings are held generally prior to the summer season. For these to be effective, increased public participation is essential. The Brigade has also carried out a program in recent years to alert residents, particularly in the urban fringe and rural sections, of planning for high risk fire days. Again, community involvement is crucial for this 'Plan B' initiative to be helpful in times when your Brigade may not be able to directly assist individual households.

Fund Raising

Perhaps less widely known are the fund-raising activities where members of the Brigade offer their assistance to the wider Victorian community. Each Good Friday for the past few years members have rattled the cans along the roadside raising money for the Royal Children's Hospital. This year members collected \$9,931.

More recently, twelve members trained amongst the University stairwells over ten weeks in preparation for the Melbourne Fire Fighters Stair Climb. This fund raising event on behalf of Crisis Support & Cancer Research involved members in full structural gear, including Breathing Apparatus, climbing 28 stories in the Crown Metropolis building. Each member carried 25kg of gear! The Brigade raised nearly \$31,000, second on the overall listing of Brigades.

Individually, Lt Tom Prunty raised \$8,865 for the Appeal.

Calendar Run

The local community is very supportive in donating to the Brigade during the annual Calendar Run conducted in November each year. The Calendar Run provides the Brigade with a further opportunity to assist the community with additional Fire awareness tips.

As an all-volunteer Brigade, members cover the local area 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year. Do not hesitate to ask for advice or assistance when members are in your area.

*Contributor & Photo supplied: Ron Gilchrist, CFA
Buninyong/Mt Helen Fire Brigade*

Buninyong Skatepark Upgrades

Good news, skaters and bikers!

Experienced pump track contractors will begin work on exciting upgrades to the Buninyong skatepark very soon.

These upgrades will include:

- a pump track constructed with asphalt,
- new jumps for even more thrills,
- a central jump complex to offer fun transfer options for advanced riders.

On top of this, a spoon drain will be added between the pump track and skatepark to help manage rainwater flow—keeping the community's new track in top condition. The track will also be positioned closer to the skatepark to create room for potential future expansions through community grants and funding.

The City of Ballarat wish to thank everyone who shared their ideas throughout the consultation journey; they can't wait to see you out there enjoying the improvements!

*Contributor: Tash Cook, Project Manager
Recreational Facilities, City of Ballarat*



What's Happening in Buninyong



December & January

Find the Elves of Buninyong!

from 1 to 31 December
Buninyong Village

Buninyong Community Events Inc.

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 3 December at 7pm
Buninyong Community House

CWA Buninyong General Meeting

Thursday 5 December
BYO Craft from 6pm - Meeting at 7pm
Buninyong Community House

Buninyong Christmas Festival

6 to 15 December
Buninyong Town Hall

Miss Middlemiss Quiz

Buninyong Information Centre
Saturday 7 December
10:30am-12:30pm
(see article for details)

Buninyong Village Christmas Shopping Night

Friday 6 December
4pm to 8pm
Buninyong Village

Buninyong Carols by Candlelight

Saturday 7 December
from 6:30pm
De Soza Park

Buninyong Barefoot Bowls

Sunday 8 & Sunday 15 December
from 1pm
Buninyong Bowls Club
\$10 per person

Ballarat Xmas Toy Run

Sunday 8 December
Travelling through Buninyong at
approximately 10:30am
Up to 300 motorcycles raising money
and taking donations for the
Ballarat Toy Run.
Line the streets and watch them go by!
Donations of toys and cash can be left at
the Buninyong Town Hall in support of
Grampians Health, Ballarat Lego and
Backpacks 4 kids.

Buninyong Playgroup Christmas Wonderland

Friday 20 December
Open at 11am
Buninyong Town Hall Precinct
Christmas Wonder Held at Scotsburn
Primary School
Performance by the Bard in Buninyong
Visit from Santa
Bunnings Craft
Pony Rides
Face Painting
and much more!

Ballarat & District Historical Society Open House

Saturday 21 December
9:30am to 1pm
Buninyong Town Hall
FREE ENTRY



CHRISTMAS DAY

Wednesday 25 December



NEW YEARS DAY HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

1 January 2025

CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2024 at the Churches of Buninyong & Mt Clear

Family Life Church – Mt Clear

Christmas Eve: 6pm
Address: 1185 Geelong Road, Mt. Clear
Contact: Andrew Battistella, 5330 1637
or visit familylifechurch.com.au

Buninyong Uniting Church

Christmas Eve: 7pm
Address: Learmonth Street, next to the
old CFA
Contact: Paul Sanders, 0407 833 515

Buninyong Anglican Church

Christmas Eve: 7pm
Christmas Day: 9am
Address: Corner Warrenheip and Scott
Streets, Buninyong
Contact: Mark Schnerring, 0401 022 107
or visit buninyonganglican.org.au

Buninyong Baptist Church

Christmas Day: 9am
Meeting at: Buninyong Uniting Church
Address: Learmonth Street, next to the
old CFA
Contact: Craig Semple, 0438 438 175 or
email byongbaps@gmail.com

Buninyong Catholic Church

Christmas Eve: 7:30pm
Address: St. Peter & Paul's, 701 Fiskien
Street, Buninyong
Contact: Parish Office, 5332 6611



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advancedcabinetry.com.au

A slice of Italy is coming to Buninyong!

The Crown Hotel bottle shop, which has lain idle for more than a decade, is now receiving a facelift and renovation to its 40 squares. It will be turning it into an Italian food mecca.

Carboni's Next Door Deli, the popular Eureka street venue, will have a sister location in Buninyong.

Donatello Pietrantuono and Irene Beghini, two very experienced Italian hospitality hosts, hope to share with the residents of Buninyong and surrounds the delights of the traditional Italian flavours that Carboni's is currently known for.

Donatello and Irene are confident that their new business will be well supported by the many people in Buninyong who currently travel to their Eureka street restaurant and deli. The Buninyong branch of Carboni's Next Door Deli will also offer ready to eat meals made according to traditional Italian recipes, artisan

pasta, cured meats such as salamis and prosciutto, cheeses, paninis, pizzas and freshly baked pastries. Take away Italian coffees and gelati will also appear on their extensive menu

In the meantime, significant work will continue at the former Crown Hotel bottle shop as renovations are required to bring the building into shape to operate as a modern Italian food delicatessen.

Donatello and Irene hope to welcome both their existing and new customers into their new location with an extravagant official opening scheduled for mid -February where live music and an abundance of tasty food will be on offer. It is intended Carboni's will be open 7 days a week.

In the words of Donatello 'We are bringing a slice of Italy to Buninyong.'



Owners - Donatello Pietrantuono and Irene Beghini outside the new Carboni's Next Door Deli, Buninyong

Contributor: Greg Dow



The Norris's saved \$5,772 last year on their home loan!*

All over Australia, homeowners are saving money with a free home loan health check.

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*Amount saved was annual payments reduction on an owner-occupier home loan when repayments dropped by \$481 a month from lower interest rate and loan restructure. Actual savings will depend on individual circumstances. All loans are subject to the bank's normal lending criteria. Fees, charges, terms and conditions apply and are subject to change. Credit provided by Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178 Australian Credit Licence 237879. A1963170 OUT_40397722, 17/09/2024