



*Buninyong and District  
Community News*

# Village VOICE





# SparkTank Comes to Buninyong

Community Bank Buninyong's innovative new SparkTank event will be showcased at the Buninyong Town Hall. This will be held on Tuesday 12 November and promises to be a fun event, bringing community groups together for a night of entertainment, encouragement and cheering on volunteer organisations.

The all-of-community event will see selected community groups pitch for their share of up to \$50,000\* of community investment funding on the one night after months of application preparation and selection processes taking place.

Community Investment Committee Chair Debbie Rybicki said "we had an

incredible turn out to our information session, there's been so many groups come up with incredible project concepts and we've been rapt with the professionalism of the applications received. I'm really excited about the idea of Buninyong coming together at our SparkTank event, not only because our funding will create lasting legacies, but for people to network, learn off each other and socialise together".

Community Bank Partnerships Lead Kelly Bevan said "we're looking for the community to come along on the night and support the groups whether they are a part of them or not. It's going to be quite a thrill for us to distribute up to \$50,000 and the more energy and

excitement in the room the better. We'll also be joined by our panel of community representative 'Sparks' George Fong, Ellen Jackson and our very own Debbie Rybicki will be judging and awarding funds on the night", Community Bank Buninyong invites the local community to attend and participate in the distribution of these funds. SparkTank will be a FREE event, however tickets will be required to ensure adequate seating and catering. Tickets will go online in October via the information website [www.sparktank.org.au](http://www.sparktank.org.au).

Be sure to pop 12 November in your diary now and be part of something unique in the Village.

## 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.

**How much could you save? Call Branch Manager Randall on 5341 8066 to find out more.**

 Community Bank · Buninyong



 **Bendigo Bank**

\*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



## A Mover and Shaker

**Barry Fitzgerald was awarded an Order of Australia Medal on Australia Day 2024 for service to the community of Buninyong.**

This article is to acknowledge the contribution to Buninyong's community spirit by Barry who previous to becoming the tireless Editor of the Buninyong News for seven years, had pursued an impressive career in academia, the Law Society, and health administration.

Barry's community efforts include the following:

As a leader in the Community Association, Barry chaired many public meetings including at election times and on other occasions. He was a member of the small team who, along with John Emery, Ron Delaland and others, worked to convince the

Bendigo Bank to establish a Community Bank in Buninyong. This has become a significant community asset with its focus on assisting local projects. Barry subsequently became a founding Director of the Bank serving from 2009 to 2014.

It was Barry Fitzgerald -and his wife Gayle Adams - who led many of the beautification projects in Buninyong such as the vines on the verandahs, the street signage, the large stone signs at the four entrances to the town, and the installation of plaques on historic buildings. In 2017 he put great effort into the project to restore Buninyong's 1917 Avenue of Honour. In this he worked closely with the local RSL.

Barry has compiled and edited all five editions of the Buninyong Visitor Guide. Currently, he is Chairman of the Buninyong Cemetery Trust where he has led many recent improvement projects.

Buninyong is all the better for Barry and Gayle choosing to retire in the town.

Both are public spirited. Gayle was a very effective Secretary and President of the Community Association over many years, and is the long-term Executive Assistant at the Committee for Ballarat. Many others got behind their endeavors, but it takes someone to lead. In that both Barry and Gayle excelled!

Our thanks go out to Barry for his community efforts.

*Contributor: Peter Hiscock*



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408a Warrenheip Street, Buninyong  
Thursday-Saturday 10am to 4pm

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# Local Star Raises \$13,500 for Ballarat Foundation

Community Bank Buninyong's Kelly Bevan participated in this year's Ballarat Foundation Dancing with our Stars.

The local bank could not have be prouder of Kelly for taking to the dance floor with the final amount raised by participants being \$212,017 to assist in ending the cycle of disadvantage locally.

Community Bank Buninyong Communications Lead Sam Elshaug said "this was a completely different way for our Community Bank to gain awareness of what we do in the community. Normally, we support independent community groups and do the heavy lifting and have done so to the tune of over \$2,000,000 now,

however this time we supported one of our own".

Not only did Kelly participate, but Community Bank Buninyong contributed \$7,500 towards the cause as they understand how important it is to support the Ballarat Foundation's work around food security, housing and family violence.

Kelly and her partner Mark performed the Viennese Waltz to the cheers of her support crew from both Community Bank Buninyong and around the room.

Kelly said "I absolutely loved it. Dancing was so much fun and I gained much more out of the



experience than I expected. We raised a combined total of \$212,000 and it was amazing to contribute in a significant way to projects that will now assist in our own community".

*Contributor: Sam Elshaug for Community Bank Buninyong*

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## Our Heritage, Our Future

The Friends of Buninyong Botanic Gardens commissioned a report which is about to be released called "Our Heritage, Our Future". Residents would be aware the City of Ballarat is planning to demolish and reconstruct the Gong wall between the Heritage Victoria listed Upper and Lower Gardens, despite community objections, Community passion for protecting the heritage values of the Buninyong Botanic Gardens is reflected in the report. It is noted expert advice from a leading independent Heritage Consultant firm commissioned by Council cautioned, "Reconstruction of a new dam wall will have detrimental impacts on the cultural heritage significance of the Buninyong Botanic Gardens."

The "Our Heritage. Our Future" report proposes that Council considers an alternative approach to remediation works at the Gong. This alternative would not cause the heritage degradation potentially being inflicted by Council's plan.

One recommendation is about the design with implementation of a wetland to the east of The Gong dam wall. A series of water holding ponds would obviate the need for destruction of landscape and position the Gong as a community asset. It allows responses to climate change and avoids loss of bio-diversity and destruction of habitat. Such an option would allow for preservation of the existing Gong wall and its vegetation. This allows for retention of

fishing and water-based activities in the dam. Environmentally, this approach would increase vegetation cover for shade and cooling, provide habitat for birds and other native species and, in step with Council's position on biodiversity, create opportunities to rethink the Gardens' plant collections through the implementation of a strategic corridor connecting the Gong to outlying remnant bushland.

The 30 page, illustrated "Our Heritage. Our Future" report can be requested free-of-charge by contacting - [info@buninyongbotanicgardensfriends.org.au](mailto:info@buninyongbotanicgardensfriends.org.au) - ensure you enter "Our Gardens" in the Subject line.

*Contributor: Roger Permezel, President, Friends of Buninyong Botanic Gardens Inc.*





## Maintaining Mt Buninyong

How lucky we are to have Mt Buninyong on our doorstep. Locals and tourists visit the Mount all year round. Preserving one of our most significant natural assets for current and future generations to enjoy, is of utmost importance for the local community.

Buninyong and District Community Association (BDCA) is bringing together local residents and council representatives to better understand the planned maintenance schedule, bring awareness of current issues requiring attention and explore how community volunteers can partake in works.

This is designed to build upon the work of the previous Mt Buninyong Reserve Advisory Committee which ceased in 2018. Initial discussions have focused on weed control, signage, upkeep of Zig Zag and South tracks and road surfacing.

Local Buninyong resident Roly Nam said "Together, with council, we walked along some of the tracks which had serious maintenance issues with signage, surface, obstructions and subsidence. We discussed the control required of the Elderberry trees along the south and southwest of the Reserve. Along the roadside embankments we looked at the required plantings of Derwent Speedwell, Boot lace bush and golden tips."

Local residents and the BDCA look forward to working toward upkeep of the Mt Buninyong Reserve. If you are interested in being involved, please contact [news.bdca@outlook.com](mailto:news.bdca@outlook.com).

*Contributor: Darren Bowden*

### 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.

### Key Dates

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

### How to Contribute & Guidelines

Contact [news.bdca@outlook.com](mailto: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](http://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.

# Cricket is back

Buninyong Cricket Club has a long history of representing and supporting the Buninyong community, with the club first formed in January of 1858.

At its heart, Buninyong Cricket Club is a community club, committed to providing opportunities for everyone in our community to participate in healthy, safe and inclusive cricket activities in a fun and family orientated environment. The Club's amazing dedicated team of volunteers tirelessly provide their skills, time and assistance to ensure the club can offer a variety of structured programs and social events, adding to the great culture of the club. We encourage anyone, player or not, to jump in and get involved.

In recent years we've transitioned from the Ballarat District Cricket Association to the Ballarat Cricket Association - enabling us to install what is widely considered one of, if not, the best turf wickets in the region. To complement this we have established a relationship with Federation University (Mt Helen Campus) that gives us access to two hard wicket grounds for our junior teams. In season 2023-24 the club had 5 senior teams (including 1 female side), 6 junior teams (including 2 female sides) and Woolworths Cricket Blast program. This year we hope to further strengthen our commitment to women's cricket and add 2 more female sides (1 senior and 1 junior U11).

As with most local sporting clubs we are slowly but surely recovering and



rebuilding our club to the glory days of pre-COVID-19. Whilst we have seen success in our junior club - with two premierships in the past three years - we hope to build on this with senior side success this year, with new player signings and the addition of new playing Senior Head Coach, Jack Sheppard.

Jack comes to us directly from his playing career with Aberfeldie Cricket Club (VTCA) and is a very experienced and successful cricketer having played over 250 premier games, with 80+ of those in the 1st XI. Jack has won multiple bowling awards and even picked up the prized scalp of the 'Big Show' Glen Maxwell!

Jack's experience will bolster the entire club, with senior finals action a definite possibility for the coming season.

If you are interested in getting involved with our club please reach out via:  
Facebook: [facebook.com/BuninyongCC](https://facebook.com/BuninyongCC)  
Email: [buninyongcc.president@gmail.com](mailto:buninyongcc.president@gmail.com)  
Phone: 0407 886 695.

Or if you are ready to sign up - go to: [bit.ly/BCC-register](https://bit.ly/BCC-register)

*Contributor: Kara Tierney*

## French Apple Cake

*Recipe submitted by  
Rheannon Mann, CWA Buninyong*

- 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

### Step 1

Preheat oven to 180C/160C fan forced. Grease a 21cm springform pan and line the base with baking paper.

### Step 2

Sift the flour and baking powder into a bowl. Use electric beaters to beat the butter and sugar in a separate bowl until pale and creamy. Add the eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Beat in the vanilla.

### Step 3

Fold the flour mixture and milk (or rum, if you're using it instead of milk) into the butter mixture, then fold through the apple. Transfer to prepared pan and smooth the surface. Bake for 35 to 40 minutes or until a skewer inserted into the centre of the cake comes out clean. Set aside in the pan for 10 minutes, before transferring to a wire rack to cool completely.

### Step 4

Serve the cake dusted with icing sugar.



# City of Ballarat Youth Awards: Amy Hobbs

The City of Ballarat Youth Awards are a celebration of local young people particularly those who are doing extraordinary things and making a difference in our community. Special congratulations to Amy Hobbs who won the Community Bank Buninyong Major Award 18-25 years.

The Buninyong Community Bank sponsored the major award at the recent gala presentation. The 2024 awards ceremony was held on Friday August 9, where all nominees were recognised and winners announced. Our local Community Bank supports projects like the City of Ballarat Youth Awards. It is seen as important to inspire a new generation of future leaders and community contributors.

Awards Coordinator Chloe Thomas said “this annual youth-led initiative pays tribute to young people making valuable contributions in a range of sectors. It awards someone who has made consistent and genuine efforts in various aspects of their life.



2024 Youth Awards Major Award 18-25 winner Amy Hobbs with Community Bank Chair, Ian Corcoran – Photo by Meda Design

This may include secondary and tertiary studies, employment, community involvement or supporting their peers”.

Community Bank Chair Ian Corcoran said “the awards recognise the great work our youth do and we’re contributing to this. The whole night was about building youth resiliency and we’re proud to support the concept for people who will make a real difference in the future”.

Amy Hobbs is a committed volunteer with St Johns Ambulance and in 2024 alone has contributed more than 160 hours with St Johns. She has recently taken on a leadership role as the Operations Officer of the Ballarat Division. Amy supports peers through training new recruits and has worked in bushfire emergencies. Amy is also studying paramedicine and nursing. Congratulations to Amy on her award!

*Contributor: Sam Elshaug, Community Bank Buninyong*

**BUNINYONG VILLAGE  
SPRING  
MARKET**

**BUNINYONG TOWN HALL  
SATURDAY 26 OCTOBER  
1PM TO 5PM**

The poster has a yellow background with floral illustrations. On the left, there are pink and white flowers. On the right, there are white daisies with yellow centers and pink flowers. The text is in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

## The Buninyong 2nd Hand Bookshop Book Club

Buninyong / Mt Helens Lions Club and staff at the second hand bookshop would like to welcome a community book club to Buninyong.

A book club with a significant difference. "We don't read the same book each month. We read a specific genre and then discuss. So far it has made the club a very lively discussion that goes far beyond just the book but an experience of our lives".

Each month we meet at the Buninyong book shop or the Community House in Warrenheip Street Buninyong on a Tuesday afternoon with a 12.30pm start and going for about an hour.

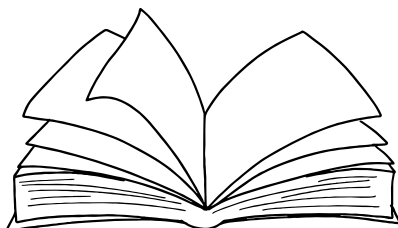
Tea and coffee is available.

Dates for the remainder of the 2024 year are:

- October 15
- November 19

If you wish to come along and join the fun send Martine a text message on 0418 503 844 with your name and email address.

Contributor: Martine Foerg




## Hotel Update

Our photo in the introductory edition raised questions re the status of our local iconic hotel. The Village Voice asked Simon Coghlan for an update.

He stated "Renovations are well underway at the Buninyong Hotel with the first few months being exclusively demolition works".

Simon also tells us that plans have been submitted to council and on the basis they are processed efficiently the Coghlan's are hoping for a February re-opening.



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**TOUR HIGHLIGHTS**

- Explore the otherworldly the magical Zhangjiajie National Forest park with a series of beautiful walks and visits to geological wonders
- Discover stunning Jiuzhaigou National park, commonly known as the nine village valley
- Step back into China's dynasty past at Beijing's Forbidden City
- Take a relaxing cruise down the Li River from Guilin to Yangshuo
- Walk along the incredible Great Wall, China's modern wonder



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# Are you after an activity for busy and active kids?

If you're after a fantastic activity that combines fun, fitness and a sense of community for your child, then look no further than Buninyong Little Athletics!

## New Season commences 11 October!

The new season kicks off in Term 4 and runs through to the end of March 2025 (across school terms 4 and 1, excluding school holidays). Little Aths is a fantastic way to keep your child active and engaged over the warmer months. The kids absolutely love it and it's also fantastic preparation for school sports days.

Little Athletics is a wonderful program designed for children aged between 5 and 17. It's an ideal way for kids to learn essential motor skills that will benefit them throughout their lives, all while having a blast. Little Aths is not just about developing athletic skills; it's also about creating memorable experiences. Little Aths offers a family-friendly atmosphere where kids can run, jump, and hop their way to new friendships and exciting achievements. The sense of camaraderie and encouragement within the Buninyong Little Athletics club ensures that every child feels valued and motivated.

Whether they're taking part in a competition or just enjoying a friendly Friday night session, there's always something to look forward to. Little Athletics isn't just an activity; it's an inclusive community experience that involves and benefits the entire family. So, head along and join in this season.

### Located Locally

Little Aths is located at the Buninyong Recreational Oval, Forrest St, Buninyong (behind the Tennis Courts). Hence eliminating the need for time-consuming trips in and out of Ballarat each week.

### Keep your weekends free

On Friday afternoons, families can pop down to Little Aths. The program is kept out of your weekend space to ensure you can still head away without it impacting other activities. And for added convenience, Little Athletics offer a BBQ tea option, making it easy to feed the family on a Friday evening.



### Free trials

Sign up for your TWO FREE sessions today so your child can experience what Little Aths is all about and the fun and excitement for themselves.

**TO REGISTER** for the season or for your two FREE trials visit

[www.lavic.com.au/centres/buninyong](http://www.lavic.com.au/centres/buninyong)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To find out more about involving your child in an environment where fun and fitness go hand in hand, email: [buninyong@lavic.com.au](mailto:buninyong@lavic.com.au). You can also follow on Facebook @Buninyong Little Athletics Centre.

*Contributor: Sam Elshaug for Buninyong Little Athletics*







## Spring is almost here - the Buninyong Community Garden is now OPEN!

Managed by the local 'sustainable living' group, Buninyong Sustainability Inc, the Community Garden has been a hub for the past 10 years. Located at Royal Park, 1101 Warrenheip St, the site historically hosted the Buninyong Highland Society Games in the 1850s. Today, Royal Park is home to Buninyong Sustainability, the Smart Living Expo, Buninyong Redbacks Soccer Club, and the intended future site of the Buninyong Community Building planned for 2026.

Earlier in 2024, renovations were made

to the garden, adding a new shelter, all-ability garden beds, and pathways.

These improvements were funded by the Hon Catherine King MP, the City of Ballarat, and supported by Buninyong Sand and Soil, with the hard work of our gardeners and Buninyong Sustainability members. We thank our community gardeners for their patience during this process.

Our gardening team has exciting plans for the future, including: creating a community meeting space;

collaborating with local organisations and schools; hosting workshops; installing composting stations and reintroducing fruit trees.

We especially encourage families and young people to get involved and share in the exchange of ideas and homegrown vegetables.

We are now ready for planting and have plots available. We invite people in the Village and the district to join us to grow your own vegetables and join like minded people to further develop this community asset.

Sign up for a FREE membership to Buninyong Sustainability -

<https://www.friendsofroyalpark.org.au/>

... and keep up to date with Royal Park developments.

If you are interested in gardening, secure a plot for a small annual fee and we look forward to meeting you in the Garden.

We look forward to warmer weather, the return of the bees, and seeing you at Royal Park soon. Come say hi!

*Contributor: Betty McGuinness - Secretary, Buninyong Sustainability*





# Exciting Relaunch of the Country Women's Association of Victoria – Buninyong Branch

We're thrilled to announce the relaunch of the Country Women's Association (CWA) of Victoria – Buninyong Branch, which officially commenced in April this year. This revitalised branch promises an array of engaging opportunities for our community to care, empower, and contribute.

Our new schedule is designed to foster camaraderie and personal growth. We host three regular events each month, each offering a unique way to engage with fellow members and the broader community.

## First Thursday of the Month: Meeting Night

Our monthly meetings are a great way to catch up, share ideas, and discuss future plans. These gatherings are open to all and provide a platform to get involved in our ongoing projects and initiatives.

## Second Monday of the Month: Creative Session

Unleash your artistic side at our creative sessions. These mornings are perfect for trying out new crafts, sharing creative ideas, and enjoying some relaxed, hands-on fun with others.

## Third Wednesday of the Month: Dinner Group

Join us for a delightful evening of food and conversation. Our dinner group meets regularly to enjoy a meal together; discuss various topics, and strengthen the bonds within our community.



Throughout the year, we also host a variety of special events featuring guest speakers and fundraisers. These events are designed not only to entertain and inform but also to raise crucial funds for our cause. The money raised goes directly to supporting vulnerable women, children, and families, making a real difference in their lives.

We also pop up at the Buninyong Village Market in the Town Hall, serving delicious Devonshire teas and other seasonal treats!

Whether you're a long-time member or new to the area, we invite you to be part of our rejuvenated branch. For more information or to get involved, please follow us on Facebook, Instagram by searching on CWA Buninyong or visit our website.

<https://cwabuninyong.wixsite.com/cwa-buninyong>

You can also reach out to us via email at [cwabuninyong@gmail.com](mailto:cwabuninyong@gmail.com) or call Sonya on 0417 168 456.

Join us in our mission to support and uplift our community whilst enjoying engaging activities and building lasting connections. We look forward to welcoming you!

*Contributor: Sonya Sutcliffe – President*

**BUNINYONG**  
**ART**  
PRIZE & EXHIBITION - 2024  
BUNINYONG TOWN HALL, LEARMONTH ST  
GALA OPENING NIGHT  
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INCLUDES DRINK ON ARRIVAL + NIBBLES  
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WWW.BUNINYONGARTPRENEURS.COM.AU



On 25th July 2024 Friends of Buninyong Botanic Gardens members and Council Gardens staff were in attendance at the Gardens with long-time Buninyong resident Miriam Powell and her family to observe the planting of a new Indian Bean Tree (*Catalpa bignonioides*).

The Indian Bean Tree is one of a number of rare trees in the Buninyong Botanic Gardens. It is a deciduous tree, growing to around 12 metres. Its large broad leaves, up to 20 cm across, are green on top and fuzzy below, producing a licorice/aniseed smell when bruised.

The fragrant flowers are very attractive, in large upright clusters of many frilly white flowers with yellow and purple blotches. These are followed by clusters of long, pendulous, bean-like seed pods, hence its common name. Officially, *Catalpa bignonioides*, the Indian Bean Tree hails from south-eastern USA.



Originally an Indian Bean tree had been planted in 1988 in tribute to Miriam's late husband, builder John (Jack) who was associated with various community projects and developments around the township. This tree had been damaged and hence Council's decision to replace

# Thank you Miriam

the tree and invite Jack's family to the new planting.

Subsequent to this occasion, on the 12th September 2024, Miriam Powell died aged 98 yo. Miriam had lived a remarkable life marked by resilience, independence and a quiet strength that defined her.

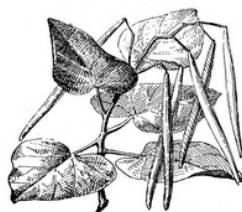
As a dedicated nurse she was compassionate, meticulous and always committed to the well being of others. Her unwavering sense of duty and care touched many lives both professionally and personally.

Her family notice includes the words "Jane Austin once wrote "There is no charm equal to the tenderness of heart". Though not one for outward displays, Miriam showered her care through her actions, her wisdom and her steadfast presence. She will be missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her."

The Village Voice wishes to pass on the community's condolences to Miriam Powell's family upon her recent passing.

The presence of the Indian Bean tree in our gardens will continue to honour and remind us of both Jack and Miriam Powell.

*Contributor: Roger Permezel and Lorraine Powell*



Beside the newly planted Indian Bean Tree are:

(L to R) Penny and John Powell with Felix and Theo; Tim and Robert Powell, Ash Crawford, David and Lorraine Powell; Matriarch Miriam Powell with Etta Powell and Emma.

Photo: Russell Luckock - Date: 25 July 2024



Miriam Powell at her last Buninyong Village Market, February 2023





# Re-imagining the use of a church building!

In country villages such as Buninyong, church buildings and faith communities occupy important places in the cultural psyche of people. For some nostalgic, for others respect for the historical presence these buildings offer.

For a regularly gathered community the church is an expression of spiritual faith and service. Buninyong is fortunate to have an iconic church building located on an acre of land, with beautiful green space and elm trees.

Today, spiritual life for many is associated with community cohesion, cultural diversity, and inclusion, planetary care, justice and deepening our respect and love through all our relating. Might love and valuing others be internalised as the God-image we carry in our lives. It may be a deep desire to be larger, more generous in our thinking. For many ideas and beliefs attributed to 'God', have become exhausted and stretched by the agitation and curiosity involved in the quest to find meaning. What remains alive in us, despite divergent and strong views, is the passion to engage and explore. Our ideas of the sacred can become too heavy, unrelatable and irreconcilable with the world. For many

For many church buildings convey an age which has slipped into a past world. Yet we are all in this human-earth project of being generative and co-creators of life. We share the perils and opportunity to find harmony. Might this itself be an emergent understanding of God, (ultimate reality) teasing rather than confining our deepest longings. So how might traditional religious spaces become daring and affirming places for inquiry, celebration and connectivity?

What if church buildings could be seen as community assets, investments others have made in shaping community and spiritual life. Could these iconic historic sites resonate with our highest and loftiest intentions? My hope is the distant and forgotten, might be reimagined and activated into a new appreciation of place and symbol. This public asset may be re-imagined as a community asset with the space being more purposeful than one hour on a Sunday.

Rev. Paul has begun to foster with the Buninyong community changed uses for this iconic setting for respectful, daring conversation, practice, creativity and learning. Use of the church for other community purposes has begun with

hosting of Chamber of Music events; the forthcoming blessing of animals and the Peaceful Earth Art Exhibition to be held in the church 22-24 November as part of Opera and Market.

He would be happy to speak with you about your ideas or experiences which could be explored and delivered in an old wonderful heart space of the Buninyong Uniting Church. If you have ideas contact Paul on 0407 833 515.

*Contributor: Rev. Paul Sanders is the minister of Ballarat South Uniting Church (Buninyong). He is also a Contemplative and Zen teacher.*



# Time To Start Preparing Your Property For The Coming Bushfire Season

Winter is over and now is a great time to get out in the garden to prune, trim back bushes and generally tidy up our yards and surrounding bush areas. Consequently, it is the ideal time to assess the fire safety issues on your property.

Buninyong Mt Helen Fire Brigade is encouraging people to use the cooler months of Spring to start preparing their properties for the upcoming bushfire season. This preparation applies equally to urban and rural properties.

There are many simple things you can do around your house to reduce fire risk. Reducing the fuel load reduces fire risk. Less fuel slows the fire and it burns with less heat.



CFA volunteer Nigel Butterworth cleaning up fallen tree litter on his property.

Suggestions to get you started with your fire hazard reduction work include:

- Clearing any branches overhanging your house or decking. Where possible, keep tree branches and shrubs more than 10 metres from buildings, particularly next to or under windows.
- Breaking up the fuel – have gravel pathways, use fire resistant plantings in garden beds, and trim lower branches of trees. Fire needs a path for fuel to travel. Break up this path!
- Reducing grass to less than 10 cm, particularly in rural areas or urban blocks adjoining bushland.
- Cleaning up fallen or hanging bark and any flammable materials under trees. Fire accelerates rapidly upward in our eucalypt settings.

There are many other helpful ideas to assist in your 'tidy-up' program. The CFA has produced an excellent booklet called "Your Guide to Property Preparation" to help you. It can be found at -

[cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare](http://cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare)

... or use this QR code to take you directly to the booklet.



Your Guide To Property Preparation



If you are having a burn of any sort it's important to notify your neighbours and register your burn on 1800 668 511. This reduces the chances of an unnecessary call-out by your local volunteer brigade. Again, this applies to both urban and rural areas.

If you need further advice and assistance or would like someone to visit your property and discuss your fire planning and preparation you can contact John McLeod, your local Buninyong Mt Helen Brigade Community Safety Coordinator on 0408142031.

*Contributor: John McLeod, Buninyong Mt Helen Fire Brigade*

BUNINYONG UNITING CHURCH PRESENTS

## PEACEFUL EARTH

AN EXHIBITION OF ART

**THEME: 'PEACEFUL EARTH'**  
YOU ARE INVITED TO PAINT A WORK OR PROVIDE AN EXISTING WORK INSPIRED BY THE THEME. WE ARE ALL BECOMING AWARE OF OUR UNIQUE AND IMPACTFUL PLACE ON THE EARTH. HUMAN OVER PRODUCTION, LINKED TO CONSUMPTION ARE SEEN AS THE CAUSES OF CHANGES IN CLIMATE AND THE DIMINISHING QUALITY OF OUR LIVING. WE ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY CONCERNED FOR THE LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY AND THE INCREASING DECLINE IN SPECIES AND HABITAT.

THERE ARE ALSO MANY PEOPLE WORKING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE - PROMOTING HARMONY, PEACE, INCLUSION AND CARE FOR ALL BEINGS RELIANT ON A HEALTHY PLANET. YOU MAY CHOOSE ANY ASPECT RELATED TO THE THEME 'PEACEFUL EARTH'.

SUBMISSION FEE FOR AN ART WORK: \$10 FOR EACH ARTWORK

**TO APPLY & FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
TRUDY NICHOLSON - PH. 0427 613 038  
EMAIL - INFO@TRUDYNICHOLSON.COM

**OPENING NIGHT**  
FRIDAY 22 NOVEMBER, 7PM  
AWARDING ACQUISITION PRIZE + PERFORMANCE BY 'GOLDSTRINGS DUO'

THE EXHIBITION 'PEACEFUL EARTH' WILL BE HUNG IN THE UNITING CHURCH, AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING OVER THE WEEKEND - INCLUDING THROUGHOUT THE BUNINYONG VILLAGE SPRING MARKET.

**SATURDAY 23 NOVEMBER**  
10AM TO 4PM

**SUNDAY 24 NOVEMBER**  
12.30PM TO 3PM

BUNINYONG UNITING CHURCH  
MIDLAND HIGHWAY, BUNINYONG



# Buninyong Football Netball Club Netball Season Review

This year has been a fantastic netball season for our club, filled with growth, resilience, and plenty of reasons to be proud. We introduced a D grade team for the first time, which has been an exciting addition, showcasing the depth of talent within our club. Across all grades, our players have proven themselves to be committed and exceptionally talented, and the future of our club looks very promising.

Our 17's & Under, C grade, and B grade teams all made it to the finals, an incredible achievement that speaks to the skill and determination of our girls. C grade, having won back-to-back premierships in previous years, came into the season with high expectations. With a younger team this year, they demonstrated remarkable resilience and played some beautiful netball.

Their semi-final was a thrilling match, but unfortunately, they were edged out by just 1 goal.

The 17's & Under team had a brilliant season, making it to the preliminary finals. They consistently impressed with their hard work and team spirit, but despite their best efforts, they were unable to advance to the grand final. Regardless, their season has been nothing short of amazing, and we are immensely proud of what they've achieved.

It's been a memorable year for all our teams, and the progress we've seen is a testament to the talent and dedication of our players and coaches. With so many bright young stars in our ranks, 2025 is already looking positive. We can't wait to see what the future holds for our club!



2024 "C" Grade



2024 17's & Under



## Luba's Landscapes



Saturday 14th September 4.50pm. It was 2°C and bitterly cold.

- Impeccable timing for a drive up Mount Buninyong to experience the beauty and wonder of our landscape.
- Hail, snow, sunshine, light, a rainbow and magnificent views.
- Getting wet and having numb fingers was a small inconvenience.

Regardless of time or day, Mt Buninyong always delivers wonder and aha moments.

# What's Happening in Buninyong

## OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

### CWA Buninyong Meeting

Thursday 3 October  
BYO Craft from 6pm  
Meeting at 7pm  
Buninyong Community House

### BDCA Council Election Candidate Forum

Thursday 3 October, 730pm  
Buninyong Town Hall

### Savoy Opera Company presents HMS Pinafore & Trial by Jury

5 October, 2pm  
Buninyong Town Hall  
More info -  
[savoyoperacompany.com.au](http://savoyoperacompany.com.au)



### Buninyong Art Prize & Exhibition

Friday 18 October, 7pm  
Opening Night & Award Presentations  
\$10 - includes drink on arrival & nibbles  
Saturday 19 & Sunday 20 October  
10am-4pm  
Buninyong Town Hall  
FREE ENTRY

### Back to Clarendon

Clarendon Recreation Reserve  
is 150 Years!  
Saturday 19 October, 11am  
Clarendon Recreation Reserve  
For more info & RSVP -  
ph. 0428 125 202  
[backtoclarendon@gmail.com](mailto:backtoclarendon@gmail.com)  
Facebook Event "Back to Clarendon"

### Buninyong Village Spring Market

Saturday 26 October, 1pm to 5pm  
Buninyong Town Hall Precinct

### Oktoberfest

Sunday 27 October from 12pm  
Espresso Depot & The Shared Table



### Blessing of the Animals

Sunday 27 October, 930am  
Buninyong Uniting Church

### BDCA AGM & General Meeting

Thursday 31 October, 730pm  
Buninyong Community House

### Trick or Treat Night

Thursday 31 October

### CWA Buninyong AGM & General Meeting

Thursday 7 November  
BYO Craft from 6pm  
Meeting at 7pm  
Buninyong Community House

### "Peaceful Earth"

#### An Exhibition of Art

Friday 22 November, 7pm  
Opening Night & Acquisition Prize Award  
\$10 - includes drink on arrival & nibbles  
Saturday 23 November - 10am to 4pm  
& Sunday 24 November - 1230pm to 3pm  
Buninyong Uniting Church  
FREE ENTRY

### Buninyong Village Christmas Market

Saturday 23 November, 2pm to 7pm  
Buninyong Town Hall Precinct

### 'Creating a Meditative Way of Living'

Tuesdays, starting 12 November, finishing 10 December (5 weeks)  
Buninyong Uniting Church, Midland Highway  
7pm-8.30pm

We are all beginners, there are no prerequisites and all are capable of attentive awareness.

#### Course will cover

How to begin and sustain a practice

The important place of mind, body, and attitude in everyday practice

How our practice relates to relational living

A brief history of contemplative and meditation wisdom practice

How equanimity, insightful awareness and relational integrity are vital for our planet and each other

Teacher/facilitator Rev. Paul Sanders Roshi. Paul has 35 years in retreat leadership and is a contemplative teacher in the Christian mystical path and a Zen Teacher.

Contribution \$10 each week

For more information and bookings

Ph. 0407 833 515

Email: [cloudmountain97@bigpond.com](mailto:cloudmountain97@bigpond.com)





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# Playing Music on Buninyong's Porch

Play Music on the Porch Day has been around for 10 years. Started by a few volunteers in the United States, it is now an international event happening on the last Saturday in August in over 70 countries. The motivation is simple “What if for one day everything stopped? And we all just listened to the music?”



Thanks to Buninyong Community Events Inc. and Marshmallow Jam Cafe (formerly Dynamite Cafe and now under new management), Buninyong found its own porch on the 29 August where 11 local musicians and bands entertained the all ages cafe crowd and passers-by with solid sets from 11am to well after 4pm.

Our community was treated to blues, rock, folk, punk, traditional and youth acts all featuring local talent. Well

known band Blues Fusion generously supplied amplification equipment and Asta of Marshmallow Jam kept the coffees and food flowing all day. Despite a few showers, the event was a huge success. Buninyong Community Events Inc. President, Lisa Cressey, saying, “With such amazing local talent on show, I hope this will be the start of a larger community music scene in our village”.

The final act of the day was Queens

Grace, composed of students from Mount Clear College who entertained the crowd with electric guitars and rock classics. Two encores later, the crowd were still calling for more encores in a sign that youth talent is front and centre and resonant within our community. Learn more about Play Music on the Porch Day here:

<https://playmusicontheporchday.com>

*Contributor: Darren Holland, Buninyong Community Events Inc.*

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## Lost Rare Trees

In the 1990s a rare tree was found on Mount Buninyong. It is called Acacia Nano-dealbata (Dwarf Silver Wattle). Acacia Nano-dealbata is not only rare but an important plant. It can be used to restore native woodland, particularly on volcanic soils. It is also often grown as an ornamental and is cultivated commercially for its flowers and its essential oil.

Seeds were taken from the tree by Upper Williamson's Creek Landcare and propagated by Ballarat Wild Plants.

Twenty resulting seedlings were then

subsequently planted by the community in the vicinity where the last tree had been found.

Tree guards to protect the new seedlings were supplied by the City of Ballarat but unfortunately some were removed and the plants destroyed. However, twelve remained and were flourishing.

Sadly, in November 2020, a fire occurred on the Mount in the location where the trees were growing. All were lost except one. Landcare has replanted more of this species around the area and plan to harvest seeds to re-

establish the tree on Mount Buninyong.

*Contributor: Roly Nam*



Above: Last remaining Dwarf Silver Wattle tree on Mount Buninyong



# Tiny Towns Help Christmas Come Alive

Thanks to a \$28,000 State Government Tiny Towns Grant, Christmas celebrations in Buninyong will be even bigger than ever this year!



Buninyong Community Events Inc., the Buninyong Men's Shed and the Town Hall Committee are among local groups who will be spreading Christmas cheer. Returning will be the favourites: red bows; window stickers and tree wraps. The ever-popular elf hunt will be enhanced this year by Australian animal figures to be found. These will be made by Picture Thinking.

New events will include Santa and his Elves being available for photos in the Buninyong Town Hall.

The Town Hall will be illuminated by a lighting display and feature Buninyong's own "Christmas Windows" in the form of themed diorama displays for all to enjoy.

The recently reformed CWA Buninyong will be providing refreshments and Christmas treats in the Town Hall during the Festival.

The popular Buninyong Village Market, Lion's Christmas Carols and the Buninyong Shopping Night will once again cater to local entertainment and Christmas shopping needs.

Celebrations will start from the 23 November with the Buninyong Village Christmas Market and will be rolled out up until Christmas.

*Contributor: Darren Holland for Buninyong Community Events Inc.*

A decorative banner for the Buninyong Village Christmas Market. The background is dark blue with festive illustrations of holly leaves, berries, and Christmas ornaments. The text is in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

**BUNINYONG VILLAGE  
CHRISTMAS  
MARKET**

**BUNINYONG TOWN HALL  
SATURDAY 23 NOVEMBER  
2PM TO 7PM**



Hosted by the Buninyong & District Community Association

# MEET THE CANDIDATES

An opportunity to meet our candidates standing for the 2024 City of Ballarat Council Elections. Short presentations will be followed by time to chat with candidates.



Ben Taylor



Robert Pattie-Williams



Mark Jones

## BUNINYONG WARD

**Buninyong Town Hall**

307 Learmonth Street

Buninyong

**THURSDAY**

**3 OCTOBER 2024**

**7.30PM**

COUNCIL CHAMBER



# BUNINYONG

LITTLE ATHLETICS

SEASON 2024 - 25

# WE ARE WELCOMING



Love to jump,  
run, and throw?  
Try athletics today!



REGISTER TODAY



**BUNINYONG**  
LITTLE ATHLETICS



Find us on  
Facebook!

For more information email [buninyong@lavic.com.au](mailto:buninyong@lavic.com.au)  
or head to  
<https://lavic.com.au/centres/buninyong/>

# SparkTank Community Event

12 November 2024

Community Bank Buninyong's SparkTank is an exciting all-of-community event where community groups pitch for their share of \$50,000 of community investment funding. It promises to be a night of entertainment, encouragement and cheering on volunteer organisations.

Tuesday 12 November 2024  
Buninyong Town Hall, 7pm

FREE ticketed event (limited tickets).  
For more information or to pre-order tickets visit

[sparktank.org.au](http://sparktank.org.au)



**SPARKTANK**  
Ideas Build  
Community