



*Buninyong and District  
Community News*

# Village VOICE

**IN THIS EDITION**  
Buninyong Film Festival  
Community Updates  
What's Happening



**YOUR FREE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER**

Photo of Eason's Cottage, Easons Road, Buninyong.

THE  
BUNINYONG  
HOTEL

George's Weekly Specials

Wednesday



\$30  
STEAK NIGHT

Thursday



\$25  
PARMA NIGHT

Friday



\$25  
BURGER & BEER (lunch only)  
HAPPY HOUR 4 - 7PM &  
\$1 CHICKEN WINGS

Sunday



\$12  
GUINNESS PINTS FROM 3PM

Visit: 508 Warrenheip St, Buninyong VIC 3357  
Book: thebuninyonghotel.com.au  
Call: (03) 5341 9000



Open 7 Days  
9:30am - 7:00pm



Tuk's Thai  
Massage Book: 0459 627 326

Relaxation, Foot and Deep Tissue  
Couples Massages and Gift Vouchers

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SUPPORTING OVER 95  
LOCAL CREATIVES

CANDLES | JEWELLERY | PLANTS  
SCARVES | HAMPERS | POTTERY  
KIDS CLOTHING | MUNASH  
CARDS | JAMS & CONDIMENTS  
CURATED SPECIAL GIFTS



and Gallery

WINTER OPENING  
THURSDAY TO SUNDAY  
10AM TO 5PM  
(WEEKENDS 4PM)



BUNINYONG  
FILM FESTIVAL

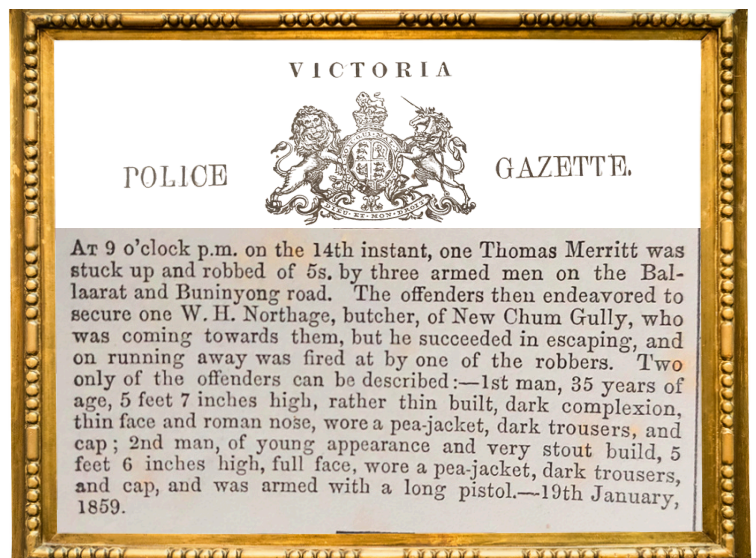
19 & 20 JUNE 2026

www.buninyongfilmfestival.com.au



Historical Snapshot

Submitted by David Senior



# Buninyong COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

## ART LESSONS with TRUDY NICHOLSON

When – Monthly 2nd Tuesday of Month  
Times – 10am to 3pm  
Where – Uniting Church Hall  
Contact – Trudy ph. 0407 613 038

## ATA ACTING CLASSES

When – Tuesday during school term  
Time – from 6pm & 7pm  
Where – Buninyong Town Hall  
Contact – Adam ph. 0419 593 257  
Website – [www.ataactingstudio.com](http://www.ataactingstudio.com)

## BUNINYONG BOOK SHOP BOOK CLUB

When – Monthly 2nd Tuesday of Month  
Time – 1pm  
Where – Buninyong Community House  
Contact – Martine ph. 0418 503 844

## BUNINYONG BRIDGE CLUB

When – Every Tuesday  
Time – 10am to 12pm  
Where – Buninyong Community House  
Contact – Ange ph. 0402 098 267

## BUNINYONG COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP

When – Every Friday – during school term  
Time – 9:30am to 11:30am  
Website – [www.buninyongcommunityplaygroup.square.site](http://www.buninyongcommunityplaygroup.square.site)

## MIDWEEK MEDITATION

When – Every Wednesday  
Time – 6:15pm to 7:15pm  
Where – Buninyong Uniting Church  
Contact – Rev. Paul Sanders ph. 0407 833 515

## BUNINYONG & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

When – 3rd Saturday of Month  
Time – 9:30am to 1pm  
Where – Buninyong Town Hall  
Website – [www.buninyonghistory.wordpress.com/](http://www.buninyonghistory.wordpress.com/)

## BUNINYONG SENIOR CITIZENS

When – Every Tuesday  
Time – 11:30am to 3pm  
Where – Buninyong Community Facility, Forest Street  
Contact – Jan ph. 0409 174 605

## CWA BUNINYONG GENERAL MEETING

When – Monthly 1st Thursday of Month  
Time – 7pm  
Where – Buninyong Community House

## CWA BUNINYONG MONDAY CREATIVES

When – Monthly 2nd Monday of Month  
Time – 10am to 12pm  
Where – Buninyong Town Hall

## CWA BUNINYONG MASTERCLASS MONDAY

When – Monthly 3rd Monday of Month  
Time – 6pm onwards  
Where – Buninyong Town Hall  
CWA Contact – Sonya ph. 0417 168 456  
Facebook – [CWA Buninyong](https://www.facebook.com/CWABuninyong)

## BUNINYONG COMMUNITY CHOIR

When – Fortnightly from 6 February  
Time – 1pm to 2:15pm  
Where – St Peter and St Paul's Church  
Email – [hello@singbuninyong.com.au](mailto:hello@singbuninyong.com.au)

## TRIYOGA BUNINYONG

When – Every Thursday  
Time – 6pm  
Where – Buninyong Uniting Church Hall  
Bookings Essential – [myinsighthealth.com.au/yoga](http://myinsighthealth.com.au/yoga)  
Contact – Katherine Collyer ph. 0419 139 892  
Email – [kath@myinsighthealth.com.au](mailto:kath@myinsighthealth.com.au)

## DE SOZA PARKRUN

When – Every Saturday  
Time – Briefing starts at 7:50am  
Where – De Soza Park  
Contact – [desoza@parkrun.com](mailto:desoza@parkrun.com)

## ELDORADO LINE DANCING

When – Every Friday  
Time – 10am to 2pm  
Where – Buninyong Town Hall  
Contact – Ella – [ellaeldorado@gmail.com](mailto:ellaeldorado@gmail.com)

## HANDMADE AT THE HALL

When – Monthly 4th Monday of the Month  
Time – 6:30pm to 8:30pm  
Where – Garibaldi Hall  
Contact – Carli or Kristy  
Email – [garibaldicommunity@gmail.com](mailto:garibaldicommunity@gmail.com)

## PICKLEBALL BUNINYONG

When – Tuesday & Wednesday Nights  
Time – 6.30pm to 8.30pm  
Where – Buninyong Primary School Gym  
Cost – \$10 or 2hrs for \$15  
What – Play all year around when we have at least 8 players and when the gym is available  
Contact – Wendy ph. 0458 372 906  
Email – [wendyvorstenbosch629@gmail.com](mailto:wendyvorstenbosch629@gmail.com)

## BUNINYONG VILLAGE SOCK MAKERS

When – Monthly 1st Saturday of the Month  
Time – 9am to 5pm  
Where – Buninyong Community House  
Contact – [buninyongcommunityeventsinc@gmail.com](mailto:buninyongcommunityeventsinc@gmail.com)

## OPEN HOUSE MORNING TEA

When – Every Wednesday  
Time – 10am  
Where – Buninyong Uniting Church Hall  
What – Relaxed morning tea and conversation! Bring a friend!

## Turning Heels in Buninyong

The click-clack of vintage machinery filled the room on Saturday 9 May as the Buninyong Village Sock Makers opened their doors to the public for a special Open Day celebrating the art of traditional sock making.

Visitors were fascinated to see the group's collection of 100-year-old circular sock knitting machines in action, with members demonstrating how socks were once made long before modern factories and fast fashion. The beautifully restored machines, many originally made in Canada, USA, Norway and England, still produce sturdy, wearable socks today.

Several of the ladies also had handmade socks available for sale, showcasing a colourful range of woollen creations crafted on the antique machines. Guests enjoyed chatting with the makers, learning about the history of the machines and the skills involved in operating them.

The group meets monthly to share knowledge, crank socks and keep the historic craft alive, proving that old-fashioned skills still have an important place in today's world.

Contributor: Lisa Cressey, Buninyong Village Sock Makers.



Image courtesy of Michael Leunig.

# ANZAC Day 2026



**RSL**  
Sub-Branch  
Buninyong

As the newly elected President of the Buninyong RSL Sub-Branch, it was my great pleasure to witness the strong community spirit of Buninyong on full display this past ANZAC Day, as residents gathered in large numbers to honour the service and sacrifice of Australia's veterans. The commemorations, led by the Buninyong RSL Sub-Branch, were marked by both quiet reflection and a powerful sense of shared respect.

Attendance at the commemorative events held at Buninyong and later at Cambrian Hill reflected a deep and enduring commitment within the community to remember those who have served. Families, students, veterans and volunteers stood side by side, reinforcing the idea that ANZAC Day is not only a moment of remembrance, but also a living tradition carried forward by each generation.

Particularly noteworthy was the involvement of local young people. School groups and youth organisations participated with sincerity and pride, whether through readings, laying wreaths or simply standing in respectful silence. Their presence highlighted the importance of passing on the values of service, courage and mateship that define the ANZAC legacy.

The efforts of volunteers and organisers also deserve recognition. Events of this scale rely heavily on community support, and this year's services were a testament to the dedication of those working behind the scenes. From logistical coordination to hospitality and ceremonial roles, their contributions ensured the day ran smoothly and meaningfully.

Equally important was the support shown by local residents and businesses, whose engagement helps sustain the work of the RSL throughout the year. Such involvement strengthens not only the organisation itself, but also the broader fabric of the Buninyong community.

ANZAC Day in Buninyong continues to be a unifying occasion — one that honours the past while reinforcing present-day connections. The turnout and participation seen this year reflect a community that values remembrance and stands firmly behind those who serve.

Lest We Forget.

*Contributor & Photo Supplied by: Bob Barks, President, Buninyong RSL Sub-branch.*



## Youth FUELED and ready to lead!

Earlier last month, on the 16 April 2026, the first FUEL Summit was held in Ballarat, allowing 200 Year 10 students from across the town to partake in an excellent leadership-building and learning summit.

Headlined by prominent speakers like Bonnie Ryan Rowe, a renowned facilitator from the Youth Leadership Academy Australia (YLAA), and the founder of the same organisation, Will Massara, the students were given a wonderful firsthand look at how they can shape themselves into the leaders of tomorrow.

Mrs Sam Elshaug, Community Bank Buninyong, remarked how important the event was: "We've supported youth leadership initiatives for over 10 years; however, they have often been in Sydney and are therefore limited to the number of people that can experience them. So this year, we decided to bring the same style of leadership experience to Ballarat so 200 young people could partake rather than 25. We're so proud this is a project we've developed and funded ourselves. Normally we fund other projects, but this one has been developed by Community Bank Buninyong for our future local leaders."

Sam further commented that this event could become a yearly tradition for our young leaders.

"Our first event was attended at capacity, with nearly every secondary school in Ballarat participating, so we can only hope we can offer it each year to the current Year 10 students of that year. Naturally, we can only continue to do great work in the community when customers support us. It's profit from our branch that enables us to put funds back into all sorts of community projects, including FUEL. So there's always room for one more!"

For future leaders out there who are interested, keep an eye on the FUEL Youth Summit website and your school coordinators to get your chance to participate in any events in the future.

*Contributor: Kobie Riley, Village Voice Community Reporter.*

# A Year of Success and New Beginnings for the Buninyong Bowling Club

The Buninyong Bowling Club has had a remarkable year, both on and off the green. As we reflect on the past 12 months, the dedication and enthusiasm of our club members have been the driving force behind our continued success. With the imminent opening of the brand-new synthetic green, there is a sense of anticipation and optimism about what the coming year will bring.

The club wishes to thank Ballarat City Council, who designed and funded the installation of the new green for the Buninyong community. The green will provide year-round play and enable our players to practise on a synthetic green before playing competition at other venues. This significant upgrade is expected to attract new members and elevate the profile of our club within the wider region.

Volunteering is the key to our club's success. All positions on the board, the many committees, and the events we hold are organised and staffed by very capable volunteers. The Annual General Meeting was held on 18 May 2026, bringing together members to celebrate the year's achievements and chart the course for the future. The meeting was well attended, reflecting the strong sense of ownership and camaraderie within our vibrant club. Key office bearers were elected for the coming year, setting the stage for continued leadership and innovation. They bring a wealth of experience and passion for club life that will serve us well in the year ahead. Their diverse skills and commitment to the community ensure that our activities and initiatives remain both relevant and engaging. Together, this dedicated team will oversee the rollout of new programs, social events and competitions designed to foster inclusion, fun and a strong sense of belonging for all members.

The full committee structure can be found on our website: [www.buninyongbowlingclub.com.au](http://www.buninyongbowlingclub.com.au).

Our presentation evening was a great night, and the club championship winners and runners-up were presented with their trophies. For more details and photos, visit our website.

We look forward to welcoming you to our club on Friday nights, either as a social or playing member. The members' draw and social time are always popular and will continue over our bowling break. Everyone is welcome from 5pm.

As we look forward to opening the synthetic green and embarking on another busy year, we invite everyone — members old and new — to join us on the green and be part of our ongoing story. Here's to another successful year filled with friendship, achievement and plenty of bowls!

*Contributor & Photo Supplied by: Ross Pilkington, Buninyong Bowling Club.*



## 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

Published on the 1st of: October, December, February, April, June, August.

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

## How to Contribute

Email – [news.bdca@outlook.com](mailto:news.bdca@outlook.com)

Max 400 words per article. Longer submissions **WILL** be edited down.

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 VIC 3357. Please provide a stamped, self-addressed envelope if any material needs to be returned.

The contributor's name **WILL** be published.

## Where to read the Village Voice or see guidelines

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.

## Advertising

For any advertising enquiries, please contact [news.bdca@outlook.com](mailto:news.bdca@outlook.com)

This publication can be viewed using this QR Code.



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

## Game, set, match for a brilliant season

**Buninyong Community Tennis Club wrapped up a terrific 2025/26 summer season, with strong participation, notable junior achievements and plenty of signs that tennis is continuing to build momentum locally.**

The return of Fast Four in February was a standout highlight, which brought players of all ages together for casual Thursday night tennis, food and fun. Numbers grew from 24 players in the first week to 42 the next, showing there is a real appetite for easy, social ways to get on court. It was tennis without the fuss... just a racquet, a hit and a good excuse to play in good weather.

The club also celebrated a strong junior season, with young players continuing to develop their skills and confidence.

Special congratulations went to Eddie Hughes who received the Steve Russell Good Sports Award and Otto Swartz who was recognised with the David Ebbs Memorial Sportsperson Award through the Buninyong & District Tennis Association. Both awards reflect the kind of stand-out attitude that is attributed to both on and off the court.

At a senior level, Buninyong had three teams competing, continuing the club's involvement in social competition and creating more opportunities for adults to stay active and connected through tennis.

Club President Rohan Worland said the season had been a rewarding one, with the club especially encouraged by the mix of new families, junior enthusiasm and adults finding their way back to the sport.

## In the news ... Changes to Yankee Flat Road's speed limits

It is understood that there are soon to be changes to the speed limits along Yankee Flat Road. The section that is currently 80km/h will reduce to 60km/h, and the section that is currently 100km/h will reduce to 80km/h.

This is in response to campaigning by the Koala Alliance to reduce the number of koalas being killed, particularly along the Mt Helen stretch of Yankee Flat Road. The campaign was also co-led by residents who live on the road. They love the wildlife and were concerned about the high number of animal deaths on the road. It was also considered extremely dangerous for residents entering and leaving their driveways because of blind spots and speeding vehicles.

The road is often used as a rat run by motorists travelling to Geelong. Local residents conducted speed radar surveys that showed repeated speeding, high traffic volumes and speeding occurring mostly at dusk, when animals are most at risk.

A significant amount of data was shared with council by the Koala Alliance and residents, along with a council petition signed by 35 residents. Moorabool Shire Council also conducted its own surveys.

Mayor Venditti-Taylor of Moorabool Shire was also instrumental in supporting the proposed change, as he and John Keogh, councillor visited the site and experienced firsthand how dangerous the road was. Moorabool Shire councillors have agreed to the change in the speed limit. The change has been approved by the Department of Transport.

*Contributor: Pauline Roche, Village Voice Community Reporter, with information from Jessica Robertson, President Koala Alliance and local rescuer/carer in Ballarat.*

"It has been really pleasing to see so many kids keen to play and improve, while also seeing adults return to tennis socially. We're certainly seeing people that used to play come back to the sport for a bit of fun. That's exactly what community sport should be about", he said.

The club also thanked the many people who helped make the season possible. "We are incredibly grateful to our generous sponsors, our volunteer committee and the parents who give their time throughout the year. Community clubs only work when people continuously pitch in and we are lucky to have so many wonderful people do that."

As the club looks ahead to 2026/27, there is plenty to be excited about. The focus will remain on getting kids involved who are keen to give tennis a go, while continuing to build the social side of the club for adults who may not have played for years but are ready to pick up a racquet again.

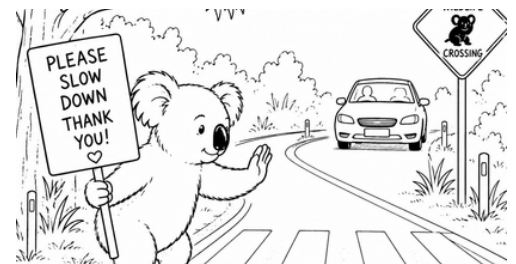
Buninyong Community Tennis Club will host its Come Try and Registration Day on Saturday 12 September. The day is open to children, families and adults who are curious about joining, returning or simply having a hit.

Interested in getting involved? Email [secretary@bunctc.org](mailto:secretary@bunctc.org). You can also follow the club on [Facebook](#) and Instagram @[buninyongtennisclub](#).



Members of the Buninyong Community Tennis Club.

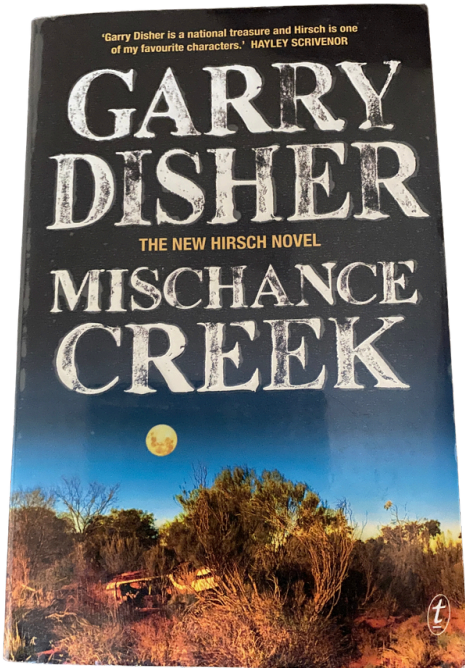
*Contributor: Paul O'Beirne, Buninyong Community Tennis Club.*



# Book Review

## MISCHANCE CREEK

by Garry Disher



**Mischance Creek by Garry Disher is the 5th novel in his Hirsch series, featuring small-town country policeman Paul Hirschhausen. The series is best read in sequence to follow his journey from city police to rural "town copper." These books are set in the Mid North of South Australia and are a crime fiction series that also explores the day-to-day mundanity of an outback policeman: "One step forward and a hundred back kind of life being a country cop."**

### About the author

Garry Disher is a well-known Australian novelist who has written books in numerous genres — general, crime, young adult and children's. He is a three-time winner of the Ned Kelly Award for Best Novel.

### And the story

Constable Paul Hirschhausen is carrying out an annual firearms audit of his precinct and, in so doing, checks in on many of his isolated locals. He is offered endless cups of tea and biscuits. The Mid North has been hard hit by a long drought and townsfolk and farmers are doing it tough.

Within the first few chapters, Disher touches on farmer mental health, dementia, the Voice referendum, violence against teachers and other professionals, big banks and supermarkets, and sovereign citizens. While not explored in depth, these topical issues are included to paint a picture of a fractured, unhappy and unsettled society. All this is against Disher's trademark atmospheric and authentic setting of outback South Australia, its landscape, towns and characters.

Thrown into this storyline are the tales of a double murder cold case, a group of "my Place" citizens harassing and intimidating locals (including Paul himself), the illegal dumping of environmental hazards and waste, shady locals, and the complicated challenges of Hirsch's personal life.

### Reviewer's thoughts

For me, it was a slow-burn novel, with gradually unfolding plot lines. It is enjoyable and relaxing to read and easy to identify with the setting and the well-formed characters. The action ramps up in the dramatic final chapters where most of the threads are tied together. Many of its themes are very current and, even though not dealt with in any detail, definitely give it relevance to 2026.

The book has a strong ending, and I found it floated along pleasantly but without much direction or excitement for many of its 55 chapters.

Despite this, I still admire the scene setting — you can really feel the sun-scorched land, its remoteness and cruelty, with the endless potholed roads of the outback and the smell of dryness, heat and dust — with its dedicated, resilient characters living in an unforgiving terrain. If you haven't previously met Garry Disher, get acquainted. You won't be disappointed.

*Contributor & Photo Supplied by: Bev Elshaug.*

# It's Our Birthday!

**This May, Maggie & Kate celebrated 10 years in Buninyong.**

Over the past decade, Maggie & Kate has grown from a small dream into a place that feels deeply connected to the Buninyong community, and for that I am incredibly grateful.

I would like to sincerely thank the community and our amazing customers for your support over the years. You gave a small local business a chance in the beginning, stood by us through the challenges of COVID-19, and your continued loyalty and kindness mean more than words can say.

A very special thank you also goes to the team members who have been part of Maggie & Kate throughout the years. Their hard work, care and dedication have helped shape the business into what it is today, and I truly could not have done it without them.

Like any small business journey, there have been successes, challenges and plenty of lessons along the way. I am also so grateful to my family, who have been beside me throughout this journey. Without their support, my dream would not have become this reality.

I set out to create a place of warmth and belonging, where people feel at home and part of a community, and I feel very lucky to continue doing what I love in the heart of Buninyong.

*Contributor: Katrine Taylor, Proprietor of Maggie and Kate.*



# GARLIC



As the current garlic season comes to an end, it's the perfect time to make the most of your produce. With a few simple storage tricks, fresh garlic can last for months, helping reduce waste and keeping plenty of flavour on hand for home cooking over winter.

Garlic is a pantry staple that finds its way into just about every meal, but fresh garlic doesn't last forever. Whole bulbs are best kept out of the fridge, as cold temperatures can cause them to sprout more quickly. Peeled cloves, however, can be refrigerated in a sealed container or bag and will keep for around a week, while chopped garlic should be stored in an airtight container and used within a few days.

For longer-term storage, freezing is a simple and effective option. Peeled cloves can be frozen for up to 12 months, while chopped garlic can be portioned into ice cube trays with a little water for easy use in cooking. While frozen garlic may lose a little of its punch compared to fresh cloves, it's still a great way to reduce waste and stretch the season a little further.

Out at the award-winning The Paddock Lal Lal, the most recent garlic season is now wrapped up and preparations for the next season are already underway, with new garlic being planted and plans taking shape for 2026/2027. Alongside the planting, ideas are also beginning to grow, with local businesses invited to collaborate on future events, experiences, and projects.

Owners of the Paddock, Melissa and Sean say they're excited to hear your fresh ideas and see what might be created together for the next season.

Expressions of interest are encouraged before 30 June via <https://forms.gle/Av8KAJymLUcg5Aax6>.

*Contributors: Melissa Mortimer, The Paddock, with Gabby Allen, Village Voice Community Reporter.*



## New Free Vaccines on the National Immunisation Program

Three vaccines have recently been added to Australia's National Immunisation Program (NIP), meaning eligible patients can now access them at no cost.

### Shingles (Herpes Zoster)

Shingles is caused by the reactivation of the chickenpox virus, which can lie dormant in the nervous system for decades before resurfacing. It presents as a painful, blistering rash, usually along one side of the body, and typically resolves within two to four weeks. However, around 12% of cases lead to serious complications, including post-herpetic neuralgia (persistent nerve pain lasting months or years), hearing or vision loss, muscle weakness, and encephalitis. A two-dose vaccine provides protection for at least ten years.

Free on the NIP: Adults 65+; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people 50+; adults 18+ who are immunocompromised.

Privately available: Adults 50+, see your local pharmacy for costs.

### Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

RSV is a common and highly contagious respiratory virus that circulates each winter, causing cold-like symptoms, including runny nose, cough, sore throat, sinus or ear pain, headaches, and fever. This can last around ten days. While most healthy adults recover without difficulty, RSV can be dangerous in young babies and older adults, potentially causing severe pneumonia and worsening asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). The vaccine is a single dose, with current evidence supporting protection for at least two years. No booster is recommended at this stage.

Free on the NIP: Adults 75+; pregnant women (to protect newborns).

Privately available: Adults 60+, see your local pharmacy for costs.

### Pneumococcal Disease

Caused by the bacterium *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, pneumococcal disease ranges from mild ear infections and sinusitis to life-threatening conditions including pneumonia, meningitis, and bloodstream infections. Milder cases can be managed with antibiotics, but severe infections frequently require hospitalisation. Older adults and those with weakened immune systems face the greatest risk.

Free on the NIP: Children at 2, 4, and 12 months; adults 70+; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people 50+; adults 18+ with certain high-risk medical conditions.

### Side Effects

All three vaccines may cause mild, short-lived side effects including injection site pain, fatigue, headache, and muscle aches. These typically resolve within a day or two.

Your GP or pharmacist can confirm your eligibility and discuss which vaccines are right for you. It's also worth checking whether you're up to date with whooping cough and tetanus (recommended every ten years), annual influenza, and COVID-19 boosters.

*Contributor: Shane Ingeme, Pharmacist, Buninyong UFS Pharmacy.*



# Blue Light Victoria

**History:** Blue Light Victoria began with a simple idea — and a dance floor.

In 1976, police members from the eastern Melbourne suburb of Mooroolbark asked a powerful question: What if young people had a safe, fun place to go — without drugs or alcohol — and a chance to see police as people, not just uniforms?

The answer was the very first Blue Light Disco.

Locally, the Ballarat Blue Light Foundation has been operating for several decades through dedicated volunteer police members. For the past 10 years it has been run by Des and Anne Hudson at the home of the Ballarat Blue Light Disco at the RSL Hall in Sebastopol.

In 2025, Sgt Joel Dash — Unit Manager of the Proactive Policing Unit — came on as Secretary of Ballarat Blue Light and recognised there was room for expansion. The first Buninyong disco was held in December 2025 and attracted over 200 primary school children.

Money raised from the discos is used to fund local youth programs, awards and grants. In 2025, the Ballarat Blue Light Foundation made a considerable donation to fund Ballarat's very own "Sgt Sensible" suit.. A mascot type outfit used to promote police community work.

In order for the Buninyong disco to continue well into the future, Buninyong Blue Light Disco needs the support of the community. If your children are primary school age (preferably Grades 4–6), Buninyong Blue Light Disco would love you to support this initiative by following our social media pages, talking to your children and encouraging them to attend. There are 10 door prizes and a major prize drawn at the conclusion of every event raffle.

The next Buninyong Disco is scheduled for Term 2 on Friday 19 June, from 6:30pm – 8:30pm. Come dressed as your favourite cartoon or movie character! Tickets must be pre-purchased through Eventbrite via the webpage.

If you are on Facebook, you can follow – [Buninyong Blue Light Disco](#), or on Instagram [@buninyong\\_bluelight\\_disco](#)

*Contributor: Sergeant Joel Dash.*



## When Bananas Go Rogue

**How Maggie and Kate helped tame an unruly bunch of bananas ...**



Growing up in the '80s, one of life's great mysteries was the famous 11 secret herbs and spices. Trade secrets like that were guarded so closely you'd think they were protecting nuclear codes, not chicken seasoning—making the recipe almost impossible for home cooks across Australia to replicate. Rumour has it the recipe was even split into parts and stored securely, known in full by only a select few.

That's why it's always a bit exciting when a "secret" recipe makes its way into the public domain—it feels slightly rebellious, like you've been let in on something you probably weren't meant to know, like why the IT person always fixes things by just turning them off and on again.

Recently, I decided to put that thrill to good use and try one for myself—Maggie and Kate's much-loved banana bread. I gathered my ingredients—chiefly some aggressively ripe bananas that had reached that awkward stage between "eat me" and "compost me"—plus a mixing bowl and a confidence level that can only be described as optimistic.

With two very experienced (and brutally honest!) food critics in the house—boasting a combined 25 years of taste-testing, snack evaluation, and unsolicited feedback—the stakes were high. The kitchen smelled promising, which is always a good sign, and the loaf even looked the part. When it came time for the official taste test, the verdicts rolled in. One asked, "Did you buy this?"—which I've generously chosen to interpret as high praise rather than a reflection on my usual baking standards. The other awarded it an impressive three thumbs up—no small feat considering he only has two, and is usually quite conservative with praise (unless spaghetti bolognese is involved).

Of course, what followed was entirely predictable: the household entered what can only be described as the "just one more slice" loop. A situation where every reasonable intention to stop eating banana bread is politely ignored in favour of "just a sliver" that somehow requires a full plate.

All in all, a successful experiment—and proof that sometimes, a little "secret" is worth sharing ... especially when it tastes this good. If you missed the recipe, you can find it in the previous edition of the Village Voice online.

[www.buninyong.vic.au/news/village-voice-2024](http://www.buninyong.vic.au/news/village-voice-2024)

Or, for the authentic version, pop into Maggie and Kate's and treat yourself to the original!

*Contributor & Photo Supplied by: Gabby Allen, Village Voice Community Reporter.*

# Smarter Together: Buninyong Leads the Way at Smart Living Expo 2026

**Buninyong came alive with energy, ideas and community spirit as the Smart Living Expo 2026 brought together locals and visitors for a vibrant celebration of sustainable living.**



The weekend began with the Smarter Together Good Vibes Night, held beside the Buninyong Town Hall. With live music from Blues Fusion, locally sourced food by The Shared Table and Espresso Depot, and a relaxed, family-friendly atmosphere, the evening created a warm and welcoming space for neighbours to connect. Guests tested their eco-knowledge during green trivia in partnership with BREAZE, with prizes from Sanctuary Magazine, PIP Magazine and [www.YourHome.gov.au](http://www.YourHome.gov.au). This evening event set a positive and inclusive tone—celebrating Buninyong’s strong sense of community and shared passion for a smarter, more sustainable future.

On Sunday 22 February, Royal Park hosted the main event, welcoming approximately 2,000 visitors and more than 80 stallholders. The free, family-friendly Expo offered a rich program of talks, hands-on activities, interactive displays and practical advice, all centred on smarter ways of living. From energy-efficient homes and waste reduction to gardening, wellbeing and future-focused technologies, there was something for everyone—whether just starting out or already deeply engaged in sustainability.

At its heart, the Expo was about connection. It brought people together to share knowledge, spark ideas and build momentum for change, reinforcing the belief that meaningful progress happens when communities work together.

A highlight of the program was the expert-led talks in the Smarts Tent. Sessions such as Future Building: Smart Homes, Smarter Systems explored how modular construction, prefabrication and emerging technologies are reshaping the building industry—making homes more efficient, affordable and sustainable. Builders, designers, students and community members gained valuable insight into what is already working and what lies ahead.

Internationally recognised placemaker Gilbert Rochecouste, founder of Village Well, also inspired audiences with his perspective on community-led design. Drawing on more than 35

years of experience working with over 2,500 communities worldwide, he highlighted the importance of collaboration, creativity and people-first thinking in building thriving places.

Across the site, families engaged in hands-on workshops including STEM-based “Building Waste” activities, the Sustainable Seekers scavenger hunt and bee hotel building. A popular plant giveaway—supported by the City of Ballarat’s Sustainable Environment Team—saw 300 plants distributed, encouraging attendees to take a piece of sustainability home.

Community partners including the City of Ballarat and Community Bank Buninyong joined a wide range of sustainability-focused businesses to create a dynamic and engaging experience.

Despite rainy conditions, the atmosphere remained upbeat, with organisers and sponsors praising the strong turnout and the enthusiasm of the local community.

Beyond the event itself, the Smart Living Expo 2026 has helped ignite a broader regional movement through the Smarter Together campaign. This initiative celebrates the people, projects and ideas shaping a more sustainable future. It reinforces a simple but powerful message: every action counts. Whether it’s retrofitting a home, planting a garden, supporting local initiatives or sharing knowledge, small steps—taken together—create lasting change.

As the momentum continues to build, Buninyong and the wider Ballarat region are proving that when communities come together with purpose and creativity, a smarter, more sustainable future is not just possible—it’s already happening.

Be part of the Smarter Together movement by submitting your project at [www.smartlivingexpo.com.au/smartertogether](http://www.smartlivingexpo.com.au/smartertogether).

*Contributor & Photo Supplied by: Justin Weyers.*

## **Baths Update from Ross Pilkington**

Recently I spoke with council officers and received an update on the pool enclosure project.

Council has now finalised a landscaping design for the pool enclosure. The design has already been shared with Heritage Victoria, which has expressed its support for the proposal.

The next step involves council officers briefing the Friends of the Gardens, followed by a broader community briefing. Once these are complete, the project will move into the procurement phase, paving the way for works to begin on the pool enclosure and its surrounds.

Encouragingly, there is every indication that the works will be well underway and nearing completion by Christmas 2026.

*Contributor: Ross Pilkington*

# Buninyong Town Hall Open to the Public

**When: Saturday 5 July**

**Time: 10am – 2pm**

**Where: Buninyong Town Hall, Learmonth Street.**

Come and visit our historic Town Hall in the heart of Buninyong — a beautifully restored landmark that stands as a proud reminder of our town's rich heritage. Explore its classic architecture, see old photos and prominent fascinating past.

Enjoy the vibrant local atmosphere that surrounds this treasured community hub along with our artist in situ.

**Botanical Eyes** — Time with Artist in Situ, Leanne Martin

Local resident and Artist in Situ, Leanne Martin, will open the doors to her creative world in this special community event celebrating her body of work, Botanical Eyes.

Known for her ability to capture the quiet intelligence and emotional presence of the natural world, Leanne transforms familiar fauna and flora into striking, contemplative portraits that invite viewers to look — and feel — more deeply.

During the event, Leanne will share insights into her artistic process, from the early sparks of inspiration through to the techniques and materials that give Botanical Eyes its distinctive texture and depth. Visitors will have the opportunity to ask questions, explore the stories behind individual pieces, and gain a richer understanding of how her work emerges from a lifelong relationship with the landscapes and plant life of our region.

Alongside the conversation, visitors will be able to browse a curated selection of Leanne's original works, with pieces available for purchase. Whether you are an art collector, nature lover or simply curious about the creative process, this is a rare opportunity to connect directly with the artist and take home a unique work rooted in our local environment.

The atmosphere promises to be relaxed, welcoming, and deeply connected to place — a celebration of art, community and the quiet beauty that surrounds us every day. All Welcome!

*Contributor: Martine Foerg, Buninyong Town Hall Asset Committee; Photo Supplied by: Lisa Cressey, Village Voice Community Reporter.*

Photo: Leanne Martin, Artist.



## Community hits 1,000 followers – meat trays officially deployed!

The Buninyong Butcher has reached a very welcome milestone of 1,000 social media followers — and is marking the occasion the only sensible way: by giving away meat!

To celebrate, a weekly meat tray giveaway has launched with refreshingly simple rules: spend \$50 in-store and fill in your name and number on the ticket. No jumping through hoops, no complicated “tag 17 friends and recite a poem” requirements — just shopping and hope!

Winners will be drawn every Friday at lunchtime, meaning one lucky customer will head into the weekend with the kind of prize that instantly upgrades dinner plans, backyard barbecues, and neighbourly relationships.

Early reports suggest excitement is already building, with customers allegedly lingering longer at the counter, quietly calculating whether they're “just \$12 away from delicious destiny”.

Barry says the giveaway is a way of saying thank you to the community for their support — but it is also a reminder that shopping locally now has very real, edible consequences!

As for the future? With 1,000 followers already secured, speculation is growing about what happens next. What could 2,000 followers mean? 5,000 might push things into dangerous territory – with one staff member whispering the words: “roast pack.”

For now though, it's all eyes on Fridays — where one person wins a meat tray, and everyone else suddenly remembers they “meant to pop in earlier,”...!

*Contributor: Gabby Allen, Village Voice Community Reporter.  
Photo Supplied by: The Buninyong Butcher.*

# Buninyong Film Festival Returns with a Stellar 2026 Line-Up

The Buninyong Film Festival returns to the historic Buninyong Town Hall on 19 and 20 June 2026, bringing another carefully curated program of acclaimed Australian and international films to the village.

Known for showcasing films regional audiences may not otherwise see outside Melbourne, the festival has become one of regional Victoria's best-known boutique film events, combining arthouse cinema, food and community in a uniquely Buninyong atmosphere.

Opening Friday night is the Australian film *Wolfram*, set on the 1930s colonial frontier. Connected to Warwick Thornton's acclaimed *Sweet Country*, the film follows three Aboriginal children escaping brutality in a remote mining town while searching for safety across central Australia. Featuring Deborah Mailman, the film explores survival, resilience and injustice in a harsh landscape.

Friday's late-night feature is the Iranian drama *It Was Just An Accident*, centred on a former political prisoner who believes he has encountered the man who once tortured him in prison. What follows is a morally complex and emotionally charged search for truth and revenge.

Saturday's program begins with *Sirāt*, a visually stunning road film set within Morocco's underground rave culture. A father and son travel through the desert searching for a missing daughter, following a group of ravers deeper into an unfamiliar and increasingly confronting world.

The festival then shifts gears with *Twiggy*, a documentary exploring the life and career of the iconic 1960s supermodel. Featuring interviews with Dustin Hoffman, Paul McCartney, Joanna Lumley and others, the film explores how Twiggy became one of the most recognisable faces in popular culture.

*Pasa Faho* brings a distinctly Melbourne story to the Festival. Set within Melbourne's African diaspora communities, the film follows a Nigerian-Igbo shoe seller whose life is turned upside down when his young son suddenly comes to live with him. Warm, funny and deeply human, the film explores family, culture and belonging in modern multicultural Melbourne.

One of the Festival's most talked-about films is expected to be the Brazilian political thriller *The Secret Agent*. Set during Brazil's military dictatorship in the 1970s, the film follows a fugitive father attempting to escape with his son during a period of authoritarian rule.

Closing the Festival on Saturday night is *One to One: John & Yoko*, an immersive documentary exploring John Lennon and Yoko Ono's years living in New York during the early 1970s. Featuring restored concert footage and previously unseen material, the film offers a fascinating and intimate portrait of one of music's most iconic couples.



Buninyong's Film Festival extends beyond the screen, with Friday night featuring supper and a complimentary mulled wine cocktail between sessions, while Saturday includes a free historic walk through Buninyong. Festival-goers can also attend the Festival Dinner at The Shared Table before Saturday evening's closing film.

With outstanding films, heritage charm and Buninyong hospitality, another wonderful Festival is expected.

For tickets and full program details visit – [www.buninyongfilmfestival.com.au](http://www.buninyongfilmfestival.com.au)

*Contributor & Photo Supplied by: Lisa Cressey, Buninyong Film Festival.*

## Buninyong Senior Citizens' Celebration!

On Tuesday 12 May, Buninyong Senior Citizens celebrated their 51st birthday at the Buninyong Town Hall, with around 80 people attending. Guests included Cr Ben Taylor, who proposed a toast to Buninyong Seniors, which was responded to by Secretary, John Clark. Representatives from the office of Hon Michaela Settle MP and also the office of Hon Catherine King MP attended the celebration.

We were very happy to welcome guests from the Wendouree, Brown Hill and Sebastopol Senior Citizens Clubs, along with Tammy Sharman from the City of Ballarat, Fiona Tonkin, who treats our club to trivia every second month, and Randall Dreger from Community Bank Buninyong.

Everyone enjoyed entertainment by the Sing Australia Choir and a very special afternoon tea. We are very grateful to the Buninyong Mt Helen Lions Club members who served the afternoon tea and cleaned up for us- a lovely community we have!

*Contributor & Photo Supplied by: Jan Antosiewicz, Buninyong Senior Citizens.*



# The Old Pub Turns One

There was plenty to celebrate leading into the recent Easter long weekend, with our local Buninyong Hotel marking its first anniversary, under the management of the Coghlan family.

It was all hands on deck to keep up with a capacity crowd in the bar, bistro and beer garden until late in the evening.

The hotel was closed in April 2024 for a full scale renovation taking almost 12 months. The hotel reopened at the end of March 2025 breathing life back into this historic Buninyong landmark and reconnecting many a local over a cold beer.

“We have been thrilled with the level of support and community connection that the reopening has injected into our community” said Simon. “Gorgi and I were both very passionate about seeing the pub return to being the beating heart of the community and based on a busy first year, we feel this has been achieved”.

The regular Friday night meat raffle during happy hour has developed a cult following thanks to Gabby & Laurie who hit up the locals and visitors alike, whilst raising funds for local community groups.

Proceeds from the raffle have supported the Buninyong CFA, Buninyong Men’s Shed, Ballarat Soup Bus and the One Humanity Shower Bus. Any local community organisation looking to fundraise is welcome to contact the hotel and become a part of the Friday night fun.

The pub is also a proud sponsor of the Buninyong Football/Netball Club and the Mount Clear Junior football club further contributing to our local community.

*Contributor: Simon Coghlan, The Buninyong Hotel.*



Staff at the Buninyong Hotel.

## Passion, Paper and People: Meet your local printer of the Village Voice

**For Mitch, printing is about much more than ink on paper — it’s about helping people bring ideas to life.**

A father of two girls and now entering his 30s, Mitch has spent more than a decade in the printing industry. After working for seven years operating a printing press, he joined FedPrint four years ago as part of the Commercial Services team at Federation University. What keeps him enjoying the role is the variety each day brings. “It’s a great mix of creativity, problem-solving and relationship building,” he said.

Through FedPrint, Mitch works closely with community groups, sporting clubs, schools and small businesses, helping turn concepts into practical print solutions. Whether it’s a flyer, banner, booklet or poster, he enjoys helping customers choose the right materials and finishes to achieve the best possible result. “A simple flyer, banner, booklet or poster can genuinely help reach people and add to an event,” he said.

Outside work, Mitch keeps busy with family life and sport. Whenever there is time to get away, he enjoys camping trips with his family whilst also staying active through the gym, football and basketball.

Locals may recognise him from the Buninyong Football Netball Club, where he plays football, although his sporting interests extend well beyond the local field. “I’m very much into the NBA and AFL — go Dees!” he said. And in a fun surprise for many, Mitch also has an identical twin brother.

Whether he’s helping promote a local event, support a community club or bring a business idea to life, Mitch takes pride in knowing that good printing can help people connect, communicate and make an impact.

*Contributor & Photo Supplied by: Shell Corcoran, Village Voice Community Reporter.*



# Love Buninyong Website Launch

A beautiful autumn day saw the much-anticipated launch of the **lovebuninyong** website at the Buninyong Community House on Tuesday, 21 April.

Following a Welcome to Country presented by Ellen Scott, Liz Lumsden (Buninyong Information Centre & Community Website) officially launched the new [www.lovebuninyong.com.au](http://www.lovebuninyong.com.au) website to an audience of some 30 people representing a wide variety of local businesses, service organisations and the like.

After 18 years of service to the community, it was felt the new **Love Buninyong** website, featuring a striking orange heart with a white B logo designed by Jacinta Weyers from Picture Thinking, new images — some shot courtesy of a drone — and a host of fresh features, was required. Some sections of the previous website have been retained, while others have been updated, and new sections have been created under the creative control of Wayne Hines from VirtualBean, a local web design company. With funding provided by the Community Bank Buninyong's investment program, the website is a great asset for locals and visitors alike.

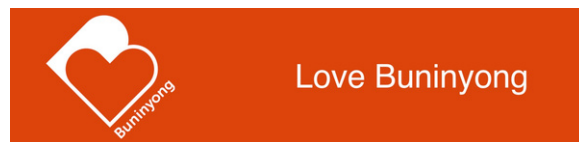
The website, easy to navigate, bright and interactive, has a focus on two primary topics: information for locals, such as a local business directory, services and amenities, while information for tourists includes places to stay, places to eat and local walks.

Liz Lumsden said that, as the website is a live site, she welcomes comments and suggestions from site users: 'What would you like to see included, deleted or changed?' She asked that emails be sent to [bunlibtrust@gmail.com](mailto:bunlibtrust@gmail.com) to let the administrators of the site know what users think. In addition, the site itself provides the opportunity for businesses and service providers to update their information to ensure its currency.

"A big thank you to the Community Bank Buninyong for supporting this project" was offered by Liz Lumsden.

*Contributed by Greg Dow, Village Voice Community Reporter.*

*Photos Supplied by: Lisa Cressey, Village Voice Community Reporter.*



Pictured behind the scenes of the new website project – Wayne Hines, VirtualBean; Liz Lumsden, Buninyong Information Centre; Kelly Bevan, Buninyong Community Bank; Jacinta Weyers, Picture Thinking.



## MythBusting: The King's Birthday in Australia

### Myth 1: It's the King's actual birthday

Fact: Nope! The monarch's real birthday usually stays quietly in the background in November while Australia celebrates on a more convenient day instead. If it were his birthday, he'd be very impressed by Australia's commitment to celebrating him in the middle of winter on a Monday he didn't choose.

### Myth 2: Everyone in Australia celebrates it on the same day

Fact: Mostly yes—unless you live in Western Australia, where they've politely declined and scheduled it for another time that suits them better. Weather depending. Although it is W.A. so do they need to worry about the weather??

### Myth 3: It has always been the King's Birthday

Fact: Not quite. For most people's living memory, it was the Queen's Birthday, and it changed overnight in 2022 without the public holiday changing personality, outfit, or public enthusiasm.

### Myth 4: It's a solemn national tribute to the monarch

Fact: It's more accurately a mid-year break disguised as tradition. The monarchy provides the name; the long weekend provides the fun. For most Australians, it's less "royal tribute" and more "excellent excuse for a camping trip and muddy hiking boots".

### Myth 5: The date is historically fixed and carefully chosen

Fact: It's historically significant in the same way most public holidays are—someone picked a Monday and everyone agreed not to question it too deeply. After all, who doesn't love a long weekend?

*Contributor: Gabby Allen, Village Voice Community Reporter.*

## HAPPY TIMES AT CLUB'S 100 YEAR PARTY

Buninyong Golf recently celebrated its centenary with an exciting range of events and activities that drew hundreds of present and former members back to the club and its brand new clubhouse.

The Club was established in 1926 on a township recreation reserve previously used as a gun club and racecourse.

Former club members came from as far away as Queensland, and even a 99-year-old past member joined in, leaving her nursing home in Ballarat for the first time in five years to attend the Wednesday morning tea.

She said it was "really exciting" to be able to come back to the club, which she had not seen for many years.

### On the course

Large white '100' timber cut-outs, about 1.5 metres high, were placed at the course entry and high above the green on the sixth hole. Smaller tee markers highlighting the anniversary were also in place.

Course conditions were perfect – a credit to greenskeeper Tim and his team of staff and volunteers.

There were special events galore for golfers, including the four-player teams in the Gentsomes (won by some of the club's Queensland visitors along with their hosts for the week). The Texas Ambrose saw more than 170 players compete on the Saturday in perfect conditions, while Thursday saw a large field of players compete in the Stableford event.

### Off the course

But it was off the course where most of the action was happening. An open-house morning, where members, past members, and local residents were invited to look over the new clubhouse, view the memorabilia display, and enjoy morning tea, drew some 120 people.

A Thursday night dinner and a weekend social cocktail event were booked out. At the cocktail party the club out to acknowledged two of the club's long term members, Helen Pascoe and Chris Tatt who were both named as 'Players of the Century'. A massive celebratory cake was still being enjoyed by golfers several days later.

A book tracing the club's history has been updated and republished and is on sale for \$28. Other memorabilia, such as special Red Club '100 Year' shirts and caps, are now visible on the course and around town.

Chef Scott Alsop, operator of the club's coffee shop and bistro, The Terrace, said the celebrations had been "hectic, but really good fun". The Terrace is open to the public for coffee and light meals seven days a week.

President Ron Delaland said the hard work by many at the club to put together the week of activities, competitions, and celebrations was "a massive success."

*Contributor & Photos Supplied by: Nikki Prato,  
Buninyong Golf Manager.*



Chris Tatt and Helen Pascoe who were both named as 'Players of the Century'.



President, Ron Delaland.



Over one hundred players and visitors gathered near the '100 year' signage for a memorable photograph.



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# Men's Shed Matters

## Vale John Strong

I start on a very sad note. Our Men's shed lost a very popular member, John Strong. John will be fondly remembered for his friendly and cheerful personality; he only had good things to say about anyone, and he will be sorely missed. Vale John Strong.

## Busy Times at the Buninyong Men's Shed

On other topics, the Buninyong Men's Shed (BMS) has been very busy of late. Member Jeff Douglass has just finished a lovely large shield placard for the Buninyong Hotel, and owner, Simon Coghlan was very kind to us. Thank you Buninyong Hotel.

We have repaired old engines and a petrol engine generator was refurbished and has found a new home.

A large cross was built for a local church to carry at the 'Way Of The Cross' and for another church we have built a collapsable stable, big enough for a full size Nativity- its on its way!

We have also just purchased a vintage commercial grade grinder that needs some refurbishment.

## Grandfather Clock Project

Our longest lasting project, taking some 6 months at 9 hours per week to build, was a case for a grandfather clock. A Melbourne clock enthusiast asked us to build it from scratch to house a 250 year old mechanism that was made when Captain Cook was on his way to Australia.

The case had to be made out of recycled antique Australian timbers, Cedar, Huon Pine and Blackwood. The finished case was recently delivered to its new owner. He was very pleased.

## Upcoming and Current Projects

Next week we will be restoring some garden benches. They have lovely cast iron ends and will have new slatted Merbu seats. If you are interested, pop in to see us. If you get in early you can choose your own colour and we can even alter the length for you. But choose quickly.

Other projects include renovations to our shed, painting the wood turning area a bright white for better visibility, and fitted upgraded the lighting. We are also trying to quieten the dust extractors.

All these jobs, along with a few personal projects including some smaller tables, bread boards, and a lovely shelf clock/barometer set, in a Mulga wood frame have kept us busy.

To top this off we have a very interesting project going at the moment building a superb large wooden farm gate for a local resident ... but more on that next time ...

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## Ballarat Vintage Brass Band

This brass band is based in Ballarat and was formed in the early 1990s to cater for brass band players who had retired from the workforce (65+ years) and were keen to get together, make music and socialise. It includes both male and female players, and many come from towns outside of Ballarat. We also play concerts for senior citizens' places, Probus clubs, etc. Would anyone like to join us? We need more players. We rehearse at the Ballarat City Band room on Thursdays from 9:30am until 11:30am.

Contacts: Conductor – Jim Dennis ph. 0418 518 101 or Bob Pattie ph. 0419 514 169

Contributors: Noël & John Nicholls, Ballarat Vintage Brass Band.



Photo: Rossco Helman standing alongside the grandfather clock.

## Visitors and New Members Welcome

As usual, we warmly welcome any mature aged gentlemen, interested in joining our group, or just the curious gentleman to come along and see what we're about. The worst that can happen is you get a free cuppa and biscuit.

Anyone out there who needs something fixed? Call past and give us a squizz, it may be something we can do! Our open times are 9am to 12pm, Tuesday and Wednesday, and if the door is open, Thursday. We now have a facebook page to contact us if you are computer savvy.

C'mon, give it a go!

Cheers, Dave

*Contributor & Photo Supplied by: David Senior, Buninyong Men's Shed.*



# Community Spirit Shines at Buninyong Village Market

Buninyong Village Market continues to grow as a vibrant gathering place for locals and visitors alike, bringing together handmade products, local creativity, fresh ideas and community connection in the heart of Buninyong.

Held within the Buninyong Town Hall precinct, the market has quickly become a popular destination for those looking to support small businesses, discover unique products and enjoy a relaxed afternoon out with family and friends. With a focus on quality handmade goods, local artisans, food vendors and community spirit, the market offers something different each time it is held.

The recent May market saw a fantastic mix of stallholders from across the region, with visitors enjoying everything from handmade candles and homewares to baked treats, jewellery, artwork, plants and boutique gifts. The atmosphere throughout the afternoon was warm and welcoming, with many shoppers commenting on how much they enjoyed the friendly village feel that Buninyong offers.

The market also continues to provide an important platform for small businesses and makers to showcase their products, meet customers face-to-face and connect with other local creatives. Supporting local businesses remains an important part of keeping regional communities thriving, and it has been wonderful to see so many people choosing to shop small and support independent stallholders.

Planning is already underway for the remaining 2026 market dates, and organisers are encouraging the community to save the dates in their calendars. Upcoming Buninyong Village Market dates include Saturday 29 August, Saturday 31 October and the annual Christmas market on Saturday 5 December.

Each market continues to evolve, with organisers working behind the scenes to introduce new stallholders, entertainment and community-focused experiences while maintaining the relaxed and welcoming atmosphere locals have come to enjoy.

The Buninyong Village Market team would also like to thank the volunteers, local businesses, stallholders and community members who continue to support the market throughout the year. Events like these would not be possible without the ongoing support of the local community.

For those interested in becoming a stallholder, applications and further information can be found on the Buninyong Village Market social media pages and website at [www.buninyongvillagemarket.com](http://www.buninyongvillagemarket.com). New makers, artisans and local businesses are always encouraged to apply.

Whether you're visiting for a browse, a coffee, a gift or simply a catch-up with friends, the Buninyong Village Market looks forward to welcoming everyone back again soon.

*Contributor: Sarah Suttie, Market Manager, Buninyong Village Market.*

## ENDURING POWERS OF ATTORNEY AND ADVANCED CARE DIRECTIVES

An Enduring Power of Attorney operates during the life of the person (donor) who makes one. It is akin to taking out an insurance policy in the event that the donor becomes incapacitated mentally, physically or both in their lifetime and is unable to function normally.

The power begins when the donor has lost the ability to make rational decisions about their financial affairs or medical purposes or immediately, if preferred.

There are two types:

1. Financial and Personal matters; and
2. Medical.

A donor must be over 18 and should consider carefully who to appoint as the Attorney, as the possibility of the Attorney abusing the trust placed on them is a possibility.

This can be addressed with Legal/Financial Enduring Powers of Attorney by appointing two persons to be Attorneys. With Medical Enduring Powers of Attorney, only one Attorney can be appointed but a Substitute Attorney can be named. Again, the Attorney must be 18 years old when the appointment is made.

The Attorney must at all times act honestly and in the best interests of the donor. The Financial Enduring Power of Attorney can be limited to just financial and legal matters, or it can include personal matters dealing with lifestyle, home care and place to live.

*Contributor: Dean Cinque, Lawyer.*



**EVERY 5TH\* SATURDAY OF THE MONTH 1PM TO 5PM**  
\*Excluding December

**2026 MARKET DATES**  
SATURDAY 29 AUGUST  
SATURDAY 31 OCTOBER  
SATURDAY 5 DECEMBER

**BUNINYONG VILLAGE MARKET**  
BUNINYONG TOWN HALL PRECINCT

**BUNINYONGVILLAGEMARKET.COM**

**BUNINYONG VILLAGE MARKET** **@BUNINYONG\_MARKET\_OFFICIAL**

# Eason's Cottage Historical Importance

Eason's Cottage is one of Buninyong's oldest surviving homes — a small timber cottage in Simpson Street that quietly tells the story of the village's earliest European settlement and the families who helped shape the district.

Built around 1855 by William and Mary Eason, the cottage dates back to the years following the Victorian gold rush. At the time, Buninyong was a thriving settlement and one of the region's most important inland townships. Before Ballarat rapidly expanded with the discovery of gold, Buninyong already had hotels, churches, schools, stores and steady traffic moving through the district.

William and Mary Eason were among many migrants who arrived in Victoria during the mid-19th century seeking opportunity and a new life. Families like the Easons helped establish the farming and village life that supported the nearby goldfields. While miners often dominate stories of the era, it was settlers, tradespeople and farming families who created stable communities and laid the foundations of towns like Buninyong.

The cottage itself was never grand. Built using local materials and simple construction methods, it reflected the practical nature of early colonial homes. Small rooms, timber walls and open fireplaces were part of everyday life for families living in rural Victoria during the 1850s. Homes like Eason's Cottage were built for shelter, warmth and survival rather than comfort or style.

What makes the cottage significant today is its survival. Many early buildings in Buninyong have disappeared through fire, redevelopment or neglect. Eason's Cottage remains as a rare physical reminder of the village's earliest years and offers a glimpse into the lives of ordinary people during a period of rapid change across Victoria.

Over the years, the cottage has become well known to local artists and photographers. Its weathered timber, leaning lines and rustic character have inspired many works capturing a sense of old Buninyong and its layered history.

Today, however, Eason's Cottage sits in a run-down condition. Time and weather have taken their toll, and its fragile state only adds to its historic presence. Even so, it continues to fascinate locals and visitors, standing as a reminder that history is not always restored or preserved in perfect form — sometimes it endures quietly, imperfectly, and with all the marks of time.

*Contributors: Gabby Allen & Pauline Roche, Village Voice Community Reporters. Sourced from public websites. Photos Supplied by: Lisa Cressey, Buninyong Gift House.*

## Lions Club of Buninyong thanks Graeme Jones!

This month, the Lions Club of Buninyong Mt Helen acknowledged Graeme Jones, a member of our club for 50 years. Graeme joined a year after the club was chartered, when, with great enthusiasm, a number of locals were becoming active in the volunteering community. Graeme ("Jonesy") was working in the motor trade and had a young family in Mt Helen with his wife, Joy, at a time when service clubs were strong and attracted many local business people.

The Lions Club became involved with the festival committee at the time and made it one of its major local projects.

Graeme can attest to the many working bees over his 50 years, from battery recycling, wood cutting, and yard clean-ups to countless BBQs and, more recently, helping out at the Op Shop and Bookshop. We meet 11 months of the year, and Graeme reckons he has sat through close to 1,100 meetings during his 50 years of service.

Thank you, Jonesy, for your contribution to your local community.

*Contributor & Photo Supplied by: David Searle, Lions Club of Buninyong Mt Helen.*



Artwork of Eason's Cottage by local artist, Marg McKee – painted at an art class facilitated by Ballarat local artist, Jon Crawley. This painting has been donated to the Buninyong and District Historical Society.



Artwork of Eason's Cottage by local artist, Lisa Cressey.



Artwork of Eason's Cottage by local artist, KW Garratt.



Joy and Graeme Jones enjoying a trip to Sydney.

## The story of the flags on the back streets of Buninyong!



In 1985, I married a man who had three adult children. His birthday was on 18 December, so each year the children would say, 'What can we get Dad for his birthday/Christmas?'

One evening, he and I were standing in the street, looking at the two-storey house he had built for us (on a tiny block of land in Richmond, just a couple of kilometres from the Melbourne CBD), and he said, 'What this house needs is a flagpole.' I told his daughter. A week later, she phoned me and said, 'You can buy the flagpole; we'll buy the flag.'

The first flag in the collection was an Australian flag from the children. When new neighbours moved into the street, they gave me a series of German flags, and many flags from a supplier in Germany whom they considered to be an excellent source. I bought flags from places we visited, and friends gave me flags, so the collection continued.

When I moved to Buninyong, the list of instructions to the builder for the new house included a flagpole, and soon after I moved in, at the end of March 2021, the flagpole was erected. The flag collection now numbers 109 flags.

They are stored, rolled, in a CD cabinet in the living room, in roughly alphabetical order. They are the flags of countries, cities and states/provinces from around the world; flags representing football, gridiron and basketball teams; and odds and sods – a boxing kangaroo, a happy birthday flag, a Halloween flag (a gift from my stepdaughter to her 'wicked stepmother'), and flags created for my 70th and 80th birthdays.

Over the past five years, many people have stopped me in the garden or even rung the doorbell to ask me about the flags. One neighbour near my new house was inspired to erect his own flagpole. I have a wide network of friends around the world, so the flags often refer to a birthday somewhere, or it may be a public holiday, or maybe I'll fly a flag that doesn't get flown very often, like a flag representing Lesotho or Antarctica.

Various people have referred to me as 'the eccentric flag lady'. I take that as a compliment.

*Contributor & Photo Supplied by: Robyn Whitely.*



## Container thefts disadvantage local sporting club

Recently, reports have been made concerning the theft of recycling bins full of cans and drink bottles from local sporting clubs and then being cashed in at the Container Deposit Scheme opposite Foodworks. This ongoing crime has been reported to police, who have received photos of the suspect.

If you have further information about these crimes, please contact the non-urgent police matters contact number below.

### What to do?

Residents who see suspicious activity in town or have video of suspicious activity around their home are encouraged to report it to Crime Stoppers or the police assistance line details below.

If there is an emergency that requires immediate police attendance, call 000.

### If it becomes urgent

If there is immediate danger, a crime in progress, or someone needs urgent help, always call Triple Zero (000). In Victoria, non-urgent police matters are reported through Victoria Police using one of the following official options:

### For non-urgent incidents (no immediate danger)

If the incident has already happened and does not require immediate police attendance, you can:

- Call the Police Assistance Line (PAL) Ph. 131 444 — available 24/7 to report non-urgent crimes and events such as theft, property damage, or lost property [[police.vic.gov.au](http://police.vic.gov.au)]
- Report online to Victoria Police — use the Victoria Police Online Reporting service to submit a report anytime for many non-urgent matters (e.g. stolen property, property damage, lost items)
- Official page: <https://www.police.vic.gov.au/police-assistance-line-and-online-reporting>
- For anonymous information contact Crime Stoppers Victoria — if you want to provide information anonymously, you can contact Crime Stoppers Victoria online or by phone (1800 333 000). This is for providing information rather than lodging a victim report.

*Contributor: Ross Pilkington*

Sources: Ai Copilot, [www.police.vic.gov.au](http://www.police.vic.gov.au)

# Roundabout Good News

On Thursday 30 April, Eureka MP Michaela Settle announced that the State Government's \$73.4 million budget package for road upgrades across Victoria includes funding for the Buninyong roundabout project.

The installation of four new raised "Wombat" pedestrian crossings will provide safer and legal pedestrian access across the busy Learmonth Street (Midland Highway) and Warrenheip Street intersection for our community.

The Buninyong & District Community Association (BDCA) has campaigned for many years to all levels of government to improve safety within our community, particularly along the Midland Highway, which bisects Buninyong and currently provides limited safe pedestrian access despite the high volume of trucks travelling through the town.

The two serious truck accidents in April – May 2022 heightened public concern, which was strongly expressed at a public meeting arranged by the BDCA in July 2022. At that meeting, Eureka MP Michaela Settle committed to pursuing funding to address safety concerns in Buninyong.

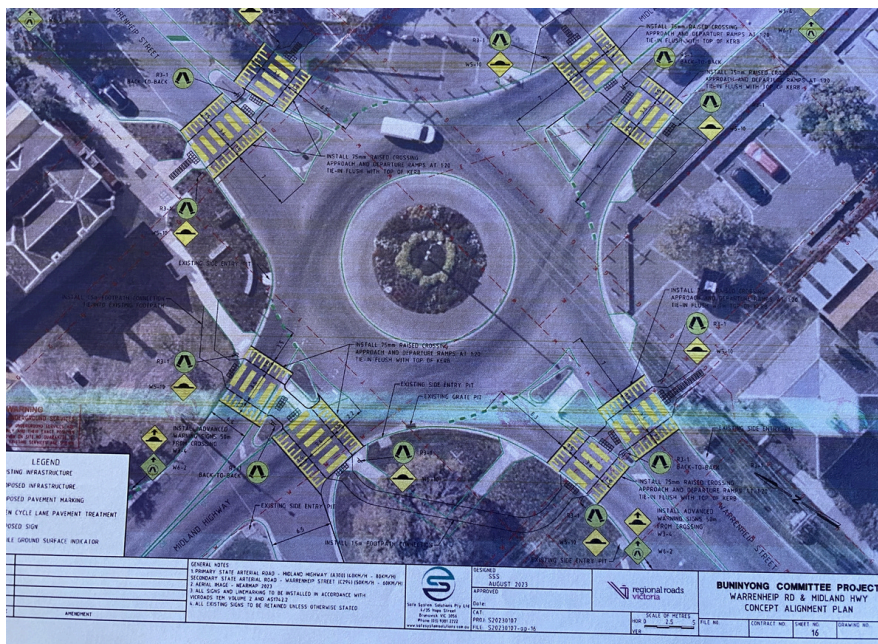
In October 2022, the Buninyong Safety Advisory Committee was formed with government grant funding to investigate possible safety improvements. The Committee recommended three projects to the government that would improve safety within the township:

- Warrenheip Street — bicycle lane designation and a reduced 40 km/h speed limit within the business zone.
- Learmonth Street — installation of intersection right-turn lanes and relocation of the 80 km/h zone further east, outside the township.
- Installation of raised "Wombat" pedestrian crossings to create safe and legal pedestrian access around the intersection.

Projects 1 and 2 were funded and completed last year. However, the roundabout and crossing project was not initially funded due to its size and cost.

## Preliminary Layout Plan of "Wombat" Crossings

The plan image is not of the best quality but does indicate the proposed works. The roundabout project has now received funding and, once the detailed design is finalised, construction is expected to occur during the 2026/27 budget year.



Robert Elshaug with Michaela Settle MP.

The project will provide much safer and legal pedestrian access in this area, while the raised crossings are also expected to slow traffic as vehicles enter the roundabout. However, it is not the complete solution to the ongoing concern surrounding heavy traffic through Buninyong, particularly when trucks experience mechanical difficulties descending the hill. That's another story!

Community feedback regarding these projects has been overwhelmingly positive, with many recognising that these improvements have been achieved through strong local advocacy and a willingness from our local representative and government to listen to community concerns.

Contributor: Robert Elshaug, BDCA Road Safety Convenor.



The Village Voice is proudly presented by the Buninyong District Community Association Inc. Be part of the BDCA and amplify OUR Village Voice!

Join YOUR Community Association at the Buninyong Village Market – Saturday 30 May

Or check out our website!  
[www.buninyongcommunityassociation.com.au](http://www.buninyongcommunityassociation.com.au)

## Friends of Eddy Avenue Reserve Subgroup of Yarrowee Leigh catchment Group

Eddy Avenue Reserve is a small nature reserve extending from Eddy Avenue to Zoe Avenue in Mount Helen. It contains an ephemeral creek and supports a range of native flora and fauna; however, the site has in recent years received limited maintenance. As a result, it now contains a high density of weeds and garden escape species and would benefit from significant restoration and ongoing care.

As part of the Urban Ripple project, the Yarrowee Leigh Catchment Group secured funding to undertake extensive weed control and plant 4,000 indigenous plants over two years. The aim is to improve waterway health and slow water movement through the reserve, supporting longer-term ecological restoration.

Urban Ripple is a \$701,000 Victorian Government Green Links Grant to the Bunanyung Landscape Alliance and Leigh Catchment Group to restore 80.5 hectares along 9.8 kilometres of waterway by planting 39,500 trees and shrubs. The Urban Ripple focuses on improving urban waterway health and enhancing biodiversity in Ballarat. It aims to create a “ripple effect” of positive environmental change by connecting individuals, schools, businesses, and local councils in shared efforts to restore and protect urban creeks and green spaces. Urban Ripple is made up of 13 sites and Kate Martin is the project officer for all 13 sites and can be contacted on [projectofficer@leighcatchmentgroup.org](mailto:projectofficer@leighcatchmentgroup.org)

A group of hardy locals gathered to make a start in 2025, planting a whopping 2,150 trees, shrubs and ground covers over several community planting days. With a target of 1,850 more plants in 2026, we are well on our way to make a big difference!

If anyone is interested in joining planned community planting days, they are 7 June, 19 July and 16 August, 10am to 12 midday.

If you wish to get involved contact details are Lorna ph. 0400 939 326 or email – [lorna.brookman@bigppond.com](mailto:lorna.brookman@bigppond.com)

*Contributor: Alison Brookman, Site Leader, Eddy Avenue Reserve Site for Urban Ripple.*



## New Buninyong Netball Courts and LED Scoreboard Officially Opened

The Buninyong Football Netball Club (FNC) and wider community have celebrated a major milestone for local sport, with two new competition-standard netball courts and a new LED scoreboard installed at the Buninyong Recreation Reserve.

Officially opened on Saturday 18 May during the first home game of the season at the Buninyong FNC, the exciting upgrade replaces the former single court with two Netball Victoria-compliant acrylic courts, complete with modern LED sports lighting to support evening training and competition.

The project also included:

- new fencing around the court precinct
- concrete paths
- stairs and accessible ramp connections
- DDA-compliant car parking
- player shelters
- a new storage shed

Buninyong Ward councillor and Deputy Mayor Ben Taylor joined Michaela Settle MP, Member

of Eureka, and club representatives to officially opened the facilities.

The Buninyong Football Netball Club said the new courts are “a huge win for both the club and the wider community”.

“These new facilities are something our entire community can be proud of. Having two competition-standard courts and improved accessibility creates a fantastic environment for our current players, future generations, volunteers and supporters. It’s an investment not only in netball, but in community connection and local sport.”

The new courts and scoreboard will now provide improved opportunities for training, game days and community events throughout the winter season and beyond.

*Contributor: Kirsty Maxwell, Secretary, Buninyong Football Netball Club.*



Dallas Leehane, Club President, Ben Taylor, Deputy Mayor & Buninyong Ward Councillor, Ballarat City Council, Michaela Settle, MP.



U13 Netballers with Michaela Settle, MP.

# What's Happening in Buninyong

## June & July Events

### **TUESDAY 2 JUNE**

#### **ADHD AND ME**

Time – 10am to 12pm

Where – Buninyong Primary School

Address – 202 Simpson Street, Buninyong

Cost – Free

Registration – [Eventbrite](#)

### **SUNDAY 7 JUNE**

#### **TACOS & MARGARITAS**

Time – from 12:30pm

Where – The Buninyong Hotel

Address – 508 Warrenheip Street, Buninyong

Bookings – [www.thebuninyonghotel.com.au](http://www.thebuninyonghotel.com.au)

### **FRIDAY 19 JUNE + SATURDAY 20 JUNE**

#### **BUNINYONG FILM FESTIVAL**

Time – from 7pm Friday Night, from 9am Saturday

Where – Buninyong Town Hall

Address – 308 Learmonth Street, Buninyong

Bookings – [www.bunfilmfest.com](http://www.bunfilmfest.com)

Contact – Lisa ph. 0408 116 202

### **FRIDAY 12 JUNE**

#### **BUNINYONG BLUE LIGHT DISCO**

Time – 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Where – Buninyong Town Hall

Address – 308 Learmonth Street, Buninyong

Bookings – [Eventbrite](#)

Contact – Des Hudson ph. 0409 865 093

### **SATURDAY 5 JULY**

#### **BUNINYONG TOWN HALL OPEN DAY & ARTIST IN SITU**

Time – 10am to 2pm

Where – Buninyong Town Hall

Address – 308 Learmonth Street, Buninyong

Cost – Free

If you have an event that you'd like to highlight to the community – please email us!  
[news.bdca@outlook.com](mailto:news.bdca@outlook.com)

## Community invited to have their say on local laws review

**The City of Ballarat is inviting residents, businesses and community groups to have their say as consultation opens on the review of the Community Local Law.**

Under the Local Government Act, councils must review local laws every 10 years to ensure they remain relevant, effective and aligned with community expectations. Ballarat's current Community Local Law must be reviewed and replaced by the end of 2027.

City of Ballarat Mayor Cr Tracey Hargreaves said the review was an important opportunity for the community to help shape how local rules operate across Ballarat for the next decade.

"Our Community Local Law influences many aspects of everyday life in Ballarat," Cr Hargreaves said.

"This review is about making sure those rules continue to reflect our community, are easy to understand and support the way Ballarat lives, works and uses shared spaces."

Community Local Laws cover matters including community safety, property maintenance,

animal management, waste and recycling, public places and neighbourhood amenity.

Cr Hargreaves said a key focus of the review was supporting local businesses.

"We know local laws play an important role in how businesses interact with public spaces, and we want to make sure those processes are clear, efficient and support business growth," she said.

The review will consider matters including A-frame signage, outdoor dining, display of goods for sale, skip bin permits and smaller business activities such as personal training.

The City of Ballarat is seeking feedback on experiences with the current Community Local Law, ideas to improve communication and understanding, and ways to streamline permit application processes.

"The feedback we receive during this stage will help guide the development of a draft Community Local Law," Cr Hargreaves said.

"It's about working together to set clear, fair and practical expectations that support safe and welcoming neighbourhoods, while respecting how people live and do business in Ballarat."

Consultation is now open and everyone who lives, works, studies or owns a business in Ballarat is encouraged to participate. To find out more or provide feedback, visit the City of Ballarat MySay page online or contact Customer Service at the Phoenix Building, 25 Armstrong Street, Ballarat Central.

Drop-in information sessions will also be held, with dates and times available on the MySay page.

Consultation closes on Monday 29 June 2026. The project is supported through the Victorian Government's Business Acceleration Fund.

*Contributor: City of Ballarat*

**Our next edition will be out on 1st August 2026 with submissions to be provided by 14th July 2026.**

# Michaela Settle MP

State Member for Eureka



SAFER INTERSECTION FUNDED

## PEDESTRIAN SAFETY UPGRADES FOR BUNINYONG'S BUSY MIDLAND HIGHWAY ROUNDABOUT

This investment will improve safety and movement through a high-traffic intersection, making it safer and easier for the Buninyong community.



[michaela.settle@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:michaela.settle@parliament.vic.gov.au) [5331 7722](tel:53317722) [/MichaelaSettleMP](https://www.facebook.com/MichaelaSettleMP) [michaelasettle.com.au](http://michaelasettle.com.au)

# Catherine KING MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BALLARAT

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