

YOUR FREE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

EDITION 10, APRIL/MAY 2026



IN THIS EDITION
Anzac Day
Community Updates
What's Happening

Buninyong COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

ART LESSONS with TRUDY NICHOLSON

When – Monthly 2nd Tuesday of Month
Time – 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

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

BUNINYONG & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

When – 3rd Saturday of Month
Time – 9:30am to 1pm
Where – Buninyong Town Hall
Website – <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~buninhis/>

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

DE SOZA PARKRUN

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

ELDORADO LINE DANCING

When – Every Friday
Time – 10am to 2pm
Where – Buninyong Town Hall
Contact – Ella – 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

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

BUNINYONG VILLAGE SOCK MAKERS

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



BUNINYONG FILM FESTIVAL

19 & 20 JUNE 2026

www.buninyongfilmfestival.com.au



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



Buninyong's 80th Anzac Day Service

Buninyong and district residents are invited to gather in RSL Park at 10am for the 80th Anzac Day Commemoration conducted by Buninyong RSL.

An Anzac march will follow the service and the morning will conclude with a barbecue, refreshments and an opportunity to connect and reflect.



Photo: RSL member, Arno Goossens, leads the 2025 Anzac Marsh.

RSL President Ron Fleming said that the 2026 event was significant in the history of the sub-branch. He encouraged all veterans, organisation representatives and residents to be part of a tribute honouring the men and women who paid the Supreme Sacrifice during all conflicts and to recognise former and current veterans for their service to the nation.

Mr Fleming said Anzac Day is an opportunity for past members of our RSL and Women's Auxiliary to gather and celebrate the 80th year of service to our veteran community.

Veterans and community members are encouraged to wear medals and lay floral tributes. Medals issued to veterans and community members are to be worn on the left pocket, while all other medals worn by veterans or community members should be placed on the right.

In the Anzac preparation, sub-Branch members have placed 110 National flags in the Buninyong Cemetery and ensured a poppy marks the 240 memorial trees in our three avenues.

At 2pm on the 25 April, a second service will be held at the Cambrian Hill Avenue of Honour Memorial Cairn which will be followed by afternoon tea.

Contributor & Photos supplied by: Ron Fleming, President, RSL Buninyong.



Photo: Some of the 110 National flags placed on ex-service headstones in the Buninyong cemetery.



Photo: Piper Aram Haroutunian and RSL member Arno Goossens lead the 2025 Anzac March up Learmonth Street.



SHARING THE ROAD

HOW CAN YOU HELP YOUR EMERGENCY SERVICES?

- **STAY ALERT**
- **LISTEN FOR SIRENS**
- **SLOW DOWN OR STOP**
- **FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN BY EMERGENCY PERSONNEL**

Every day, 24 hours per day, Emergency vehicles are on the road responding to a public call-out. This could be Ambulance Victoria, the State Emergency Service, Victoria Police or the Fire Service.

If it is considered an extreme situation then an Emergency vehicle will travel at Code 1, that is with all lights flashing, a siren sounding, if required, and possibly a loud horn blasting should it be also required. Otherwise emergency vehicles will travel at Code 3, driving to the specified road rules.

Should you encounter an Emergency vehicle travelling under Code 1 conditions, either coming up behind you or else coming towards you be prepared to take controlled slowing down or pulling over tactics.

Where to position yourself and the car

On dual carriage ways it generally means carefully pulling to the left and possibly stopping to allow the vehicle(s) through. On multi-lane roads it may be necessary to pull over to either the right or left of the road to allow space for the vehicle to pass via the central cleared area. Always be alert if you hear a siren and check which direction the vehicle is approaching from and respond to how other motorists are reacting.

Emergency vehicles often encounter motorists who are totally unaware of a Code 1 vehicle, even a Big Red Fire truck, attempting to pass them. Often motorists panic and are unsure as to what action is required. Near misses in these circumstances are unfortunately common. Should you encounter a Code 1 vehicle travelling toward you and attempting to turn across traffic then, if safe to do so, either slow down, pullover or stop.

Passing an emergency situation on the road

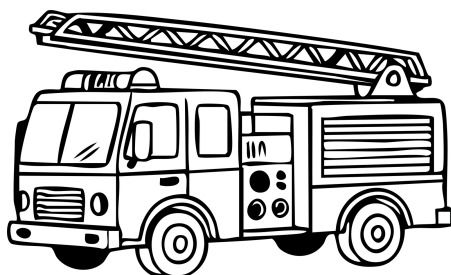
Should you encounter an emergency situation on the road where numerous emergency vehicles may be in attendance, it is crucial that you follow the directions of any Emergency service personnel controlling traffic around an incident. You may be required to stop until directed on or else signalled to travel slowly to pass the incident.

For Emergency personnel directing traffic at an incident, particularly at night, it is often dangerous for them, despite wearing reflective gear, shining torches and having flashing lights on witches hats. Remember, you should restrict your speed to less than 40 kms per hour once directed forward.

Stay alert whilst driving

Stay alert to your surroundings when driving. A siren means an Emergency vehicle is close by. Your thoughtfulness will assist fellow motorists, ensure your own safety and will greatly help Emergency personnel arrive promptly and safely to help members of the public as required.

*Contributor: Ron Gilchrist,
Buninyong-Mt Helen Fire Brigade.*



BANANA BREAD

Recipe submitted by
Katrine Taylor
Maggie & Kate

This is my favourite banana bread, perfect served fresh from the oven or toasted with lashings of butter! It's the ideal comfort food to enjoy as the autumn weather cools down!

I like to use local Messmate honey from Ballarat Backyard Beekeeping. It's well suited for this recipe as it gives a beautifully rich honey flavour!

INGREDIENTS

185g butter
120g brown sugar
120g Ballarat honey
3 eggs
130g buttermilk*
375g self-raising flour
6g bicarbonate soda
10g cinnamon
600g ripe bananas

*Add 1/2 teaspoon vinegar to milk and let sit for 5 minutes as a buttermilk substitute.

METHOD

Pre-heat oven to 160°C.

Cream butter, sugar and honey until pale and fluffy.

Add eggs slowly, beating until well combined, then add buttermilk.

Mix in flour, bicarb soda and cinnamon until smooth.

Fold in mashed bananas.

Pour into a lined loaf tin and bake at 160°C for 75 minutes until well risen and golden brown (test with a skewer to ensure fully cooked).

Finely slice off the ends and cut into 9 slices.

Serve toasted with butter.



What's Happening at the Buninyong Football Netball Club

As the 2026 season approaches, there is a genuine buzz around Buninyong. After months of planning, pre-season training and behind-the-scenes work, our players, coaches and volunteers are ready to launch into what promises to be an exciting and rewarding year for the Buninyong Football Netball Club.

The season will begin with the unveiling of our brand-new double netball courts. This incredible upgrade is a true game changer for our club and the wider community. Having double courts not only improves scheduling and training capacity, but also supports the continued growth of the club. It creates more space, more opportunity and greater flexibility for players, from our youngest juniors through to our senior grades. It is a major investment in the future and one we are extremely proud of.

Adding to the excitement is a new electronic scoreboard and upgraded scoreboard structure. These improvements modernise our facilities and enhance the match-day experience for players and spectators alike. They reflect the strong direction of our club — committed to maintaining high-quality facilities, supporting participation and ensuring Buninyong remains a vibrant and thriving sporting hub for years to come.

On the field and court, preparations have been underway for months. Our senior teams have been training since late last year, putting in the hard work across pre-season to build fitness, strength and connection. There is a strong sense of purpose across all grades, and our coaches are excited to see that work translate into quality football and netball performances.

Importantly, our focus is not just at the top level. From our junior grades right through to our seniors, we are committed to developing players, fostering teamwork and creating an environment where everyone feels proud to wear the red and black.

As the season begins, we warmly invite the entire community to come down, support the club and be part of the atmosphere. Whether you are a lifelong supporter, a past player or new to the area, there is a place for you at Buninyong. It is more than just sport — it is connection, community and shared pride. Here's to a big and exciting 2026 season. Go Bombers!

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

Buninyong RSL Women's Auxiliary

The Buninyong RSL Women's Auxiliary plays a vital role in supporting our local RSL through fundraising, social events, and charity work for veterans in need. Beyond the practical support, the auxiliary provides friendship and helps strengthen the community network that surrounds veterans and their families.

The Buninyong Women's Auxiliary meets every three months for lunch, combining camaraderie with a focus on fundraising and support for veterans. Members also assist with catering for key community events, including Remembrance Day and Anzac Day.

We warmly invite new members to join us! You don't need a direct connection to a veteran — all that's required is an interest in giving back to the community. If you'd like to become part of this welcoming group, please contact Jan Antosiewicz on 0409 174 605.

Come along, meet new friends, and make a real difference in the lives of our veterans and their families.

Contributor: Jan Antosiewicz, President Buninyong RSL Women's Auxillary.

PRODUCED BY

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



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



Management Committee

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

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How to Contribute

Email – 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

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

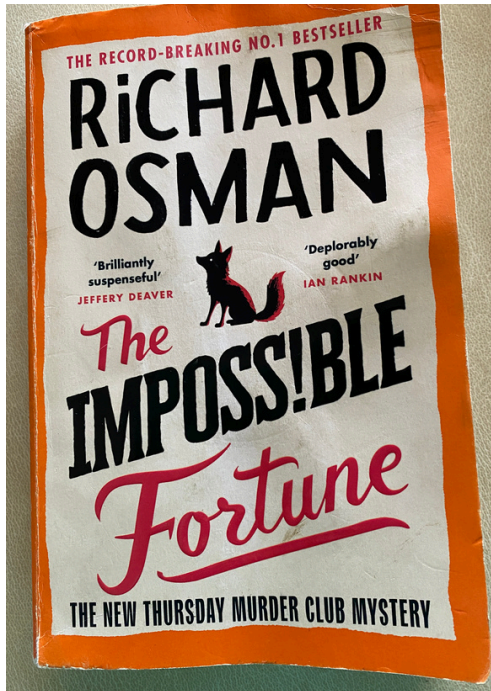
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Book Review

THE IMPOSSIBLE FORTUNE by Richard Osman



Contributor & Photo Supplied by: Bev Elshaug.

Have you heard of Richard Osman and his Thursday Murder Club series of novels? If not, you're in for a treat.

Richard Osman is a British author, producer and television presenter. His Thursday Murder Club series — now five books in total — has sold millions of copies worldwide, and the first book has been adapted into a Netflix movie. These novels are quaint, quirky, entertaining and a delight to read. The Impossible Fortune is the latest addition, published in September 2025, and readers had to wait two years for it.

Reading The Impossible Fortune is like catching up with lifelong friends — spending time together, enjoying each other's company, being entertained, and going on an adventure. There are four main characters in the series who meet at the retirement village Coopers Chase in Kent, England. Joyce, Elizabeth, Ron and Ibrahim — four very different personalities and unlikely allies — form the club in book 1 and are, throughout the series, instrumental in solving several murder mysteries.

In The Impossible Fortune, the quartet have been in a lull for over a year for various reasons

but reunite when Elizabeth is approached for help at Joyce's daughter's wedding by Nick Silver, the best man, who survived an attempt on his life that morning. An investigation ensues in Osman's easily readable, humorous and flowing style, with amusing side steps along the way, such as Ron's family crisis and Ibrahim's counselling sessions with Connie. The story also includes diary observations from Joyce, always bright and amusing, yet at times empathetically perceptive, such as her kindness to Jasper.

The murder mystery is really just an excuse to spend more time with the characters, now in book 5. These endearing septuagenarians portray ageing with purpose, dignity and humour — very reassuring as well as entertaining for the reader. The chapters are short, keeping the book pacy and engaging. The novel touches on many important issues, including grief, family, domestic violence, friendship and ageing, and does so sensitively and thoughtfully. Other standout characters include Bogdan, Connie, Donna, Chris, Joanna, Kendrick and Alan.

I really can't wait for book 6!

Sculpture Exhibition

The Meredith History Interest Group (MHIG) is once again running its Sculpture Exhibition. We are seeking 3D sculptures that represent History Reconstructed or your interpretation of Australian history. The exhibition will be held at the History Centre, 31 Staughton Street, Meredith, on Saturday 16 May and Sunday 17 May, from 9:30am to 3:30pm.

Entries are open to amateur and professional artists of all ages. Sculptures can be of any size and made from any materials. We invite you to use your imagination — there is plenty of 'junk' out there just waiting to be repurposed.

When people hear the word 'sculpture', they often think of stone carved into human form. However, sculpture can take many forms. People have skills in a wide range of areas, so think outside the square. Sculptures can be made from all kinds of materials or combinations, including paper, cardboard, children's toys, cloth, wood, metal, sticks from the bush, and even books. You might even consider floral arrangements or cakes!

Prizes will be awarded for first, second, People's Choice and Under 15s, with presentations on Sunday at 2pm.

At the May 2025 Sculpture Exhibition, there were nearly 100 entries, displayed both indoors and outdoors. With a large yard available, it would be fantastic to see even more large, outdoor sculptures this year.

The winning entry in 2025 was a tractor created from a Singer sewing machine, with training wheels from a child's bike as front wheels, old motor mower wheels at the back, a wok cut in half for mudguards, a bent tablespoon for a seat, and various plumbing fittings for the exhaust.

Second prize went to a piece framed in an old flyscreen, filled with items from childhood, including the head of a rocking horse, wrought iron from a veranda, table legs, doorknobs, timber from a lounge chair arm, and wire from an outdoor meat safe.

Entry forms can be obtained by emailing meredithhistoryinterestgroup@gmail.com, visiting the MHIG website, or calling in to the History Centre. Entries must be submitted by 30 April.

Contributor & Photos Supplied by: Margaret Cooper.



Bowling Club Wins!

Buninyong Bowling Club complete a successful year on and off the rinks.

The 2025–26 bowling season concluded successfully for the Buninyong Bowling Club, with two premierships victories.

The first came on Tuesday 10 March, when the Division 3 Tuesday Pennant team secured the grand final, defeating Ballarat Memorial Sports Bowling Club 71–53 in impressive fashion. The Buninyong team finished second on the ladder at the end of the season and overcame Victoria to reach the grand final. Later, on Saturday 14 March, the Division 2 Saturday Pennant team clinched a thrilling grand final win against Creswick, edging them out 78–75 in a dramatic comeback.

Following these victories, there was considerable celebration, and many memories were created. Congratulations to all the players.

Overall, the season has been a remarkable success, with the club fielding five teams in the Tuesday competition and four in the Saturday competition—a total of 103 players taking to the rinks multiple times each week.

Update on our rinks

In recent years, lawn bowls has gradually transitioned from grass greens to synthetic surfaces. The club is grateful to the City of Ballarat, owner of this community facility, for upgrading the Innes Green to a synthetic surface. This will enable year-round play and practice.

As a result of this upgrade, the popular Corporate Cup adopted a new format this year—a five-week competition played on the Bradley Green, beginning on Thursday 11 March 2026.

The club sincerely appreciates the support of its sponsors and community. During the winter recess, the club will be open for social activities every Friday evening from 5pm.

Contributor & Photos Supplied by: Ross Pilkington, President, Buninyong Bowling Club.



Division 2 Winning Team.



Division 3 Winning Team.

Highlights at the Buninyong Men's Shed



Photo: Rosco Helman and R. Gary Beale happily receive the computers bought from the City of Ballarat grant.

We have had a very busy schedule of late at the Buninyong Men's Shed (BMS). Since Christmas, we have held our annual luncheon, with members bringing along their respective spouses. Shirts were ironed, fingernails scrubbed and, for those with hair, it was neatly combed. Best manners were on display as we paid our respects to our partners for washing and ironing clothes, straightening ties and generally knocking us into a presentable shape. Then lots of fun and rib-tickling, along with the obligatory raffle won this year by Brad Mahoney.

We have also completed quite a few projects. Another trailer has been carefully restored and now has a new home in Tassie. Park benches were refurbished and returned to their places at the Buninyong Cemetery, and a headboard was made for the entrance to the Chinese section. A cement mixer was also restored and now lives

in Melton. Central Highlands Water engaged us to build around 40 new bird boxes. We have also taken on a range of private repair jobs, from jewellery boxes and mailboxes through to outdoor furniture. If you have items needing some love, please drop in and have a chat with Rosco or Ken. We are open from 9 am to 12 noon on Tuesday and Wednesday, and sometimes Thursday.

We now have our own Facebook page. Look us up under 'Buninyong Men's Shed' to find us, along with plenty of photos and updates.

Finally, we have gone a bit high-tech, with internet access and three computers installed through a City of Ballarat grant (thank you, CoB). It has come to our attention that many older people are still unable to do online banking, for a range of reasons — including distrust of computers, fear of scams or simply reluctance to learn new skills. At BMS, we hope to offer basic computer support and a friendly guiding hand to help as many people as possible.

Feel free to call in and say hello, or phone Ken on 0408 141 963.

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

Easter Pantomime

Local actors Tim Harris, Lisa Hill and Hayley Beacham are excited to present a fresh pantomime twist on the well-loved classic fairy tale 'Snow White' at the Buninyong Town Hall on Easter Saturday 4 April 2026.

The Buninyong Town Hall has been booked for a performance of Snow White, but we've lost the actors! Oh No! We will have to enlist the young audience to stand in as dwarves, and put on the show ourselves!

A fresh take on the classic fairy tale, this will be a high energy, interactive show featuring music, dance, and a lot of panic! A fun show for kids of all ages; our audience will take part in a beard making workshop to transform into dwarves, so they can then assist Snow White in escaping her destiny and finding her true purpose.

For Lisa Hill this is her first foray into 'serious' panto. "I don't know how serious it'll be though." She laughed. "Both Tim and Hayley have a lot of experience with panto, so I have been learning a lot. We've worked together on a few Shakespeare shows with The Bard in Buninyong, so it's going to be nice to do something a bit different.

"Buninyong has such a supportive theatre community. It's going to be a blast to share something for the littlies this time. It'll also be great to have an alternative activity over the Easter long weekend. Kids will already be doing Easter and family stuff, but I think it's good to have an opportunity for them to do something that's not focused on chocolate. I'm also looking forward to the beard making workshop myself!"

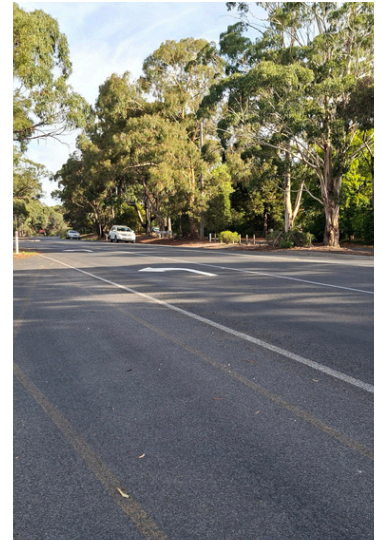
Snow White is being performed at the Buninyong Town Hall on Easter Saturday, 4 April 2026 at 10:30am and 2:30pm. Tickets are \$15 for participants/kids, and \$5 for adults/carers. Ticket price includes a craft activity workshop before the performance. Tickets are available at the door or via try booking at trybooking.com/DKLRX

Contributor: Tim Harris, Bard in Buninyong.



Pictured – Lisa Hill, Hayley Beacham and Tim Harris bring pantomime antics to Buninyong this Easter.

Safer Roads for Mount Helen



Next time you drive on Geelong Road to approach Mount Helen's central intersection near the shops, take a moment to notice how four roads meet within 130 metres, and how pedestrians crossing east-west must run for it, across a close to four-lane road width, with no safe crossing point.

From the comfort of your car you may see no issue. But as the speed limit increases from 60 kph to 70 kph on your departure from Mount Clear or Buninyong, consider the signs that indicate, 'Koalas, next 5 Km.' And realise there are no signs to warn you that school students, pedestrians and koalas may be crossing at this intersection. When you approach, observe that both north and south approaches are blind bends.

Did you realise that Geelong Road, from Sovereign Hill to Mount Clear, is straight? And along its length pedestrians can cross via painted traffic islands. But at the Mount Helen shops there are blind curves and no safe ways to cross, even though there are three bus stops on the Mount Helen intersection. The traffic is intense, on both weekdays and weekends.

People who live on the intersection know its dangers. There's no stop sign on the approach from Gear Avenue and cars frequently drive straight through at the T. The approach there is also blind. At night residents regularly hear the hoons doing donuts, they love the wide road there. One family living adjacent has ten koalas buried in their backyard. All these neighbours know this is a koala corridor: all have Koala Vegetation Overlays on their properties.

A group of locals approached the Department of Transport and Planning with a carefully prepared proposal for improvements. While the response was sympathetic, they were told there was no easy solution, and a review concluded that the current speed limit "is appropriate for this environment." In light of this, residents are now simply calling for a reduction in speed—a change that would come at minimal cost but could make a meaningful difference to the safety of children, pedestrians and koalas at this intersection.

If you are concerned please email the City of Ballarat with your thoughts. The email is info@ballarat.vic.gov.au. Subject line "Help improve Mount Helen's main intersection."

Contributor & Photos Supplied by: Linda Zibell.

The Forgotten Story – Buninyong’s connection with the world’s first female crime writer, Mary Fortune

As a follow-up to a previous article and on the Buninyong Booktown theme, readers may be interested in the rich heritage of authors, publishers, artists, and historians connected to our town. Some were Buninyong-born and bred; others were simply passing through, yet left their memories in print for posterity.

Educationist Emmeline Pye of Webbs Hill Road was born in Buninyong but gained national recognition as a kindergarten advocate. She founded one of Melbourne’s early learning centres and published School Readers in 1915.

Another notable figure is printer and author Frank Davison, born on Mount Buninyong. His son, Frank Dalby Davison, is well known for Man-Shy and Dusty. Novelist Arthur Russell Goode, grandson of Buninyong Advertiser proprietor Samuel Goode, is another literary connection.

For perhaps the most remarkable writer in our history, we can go back to 1856 to uncover a true literary treasure. Mary Fortune was the author of the longest-running 19th-century crime fiction series published in a periodical. Less widely known is that her writing career began on Buninyong’s Green Hills diggings. Irish-born Mary followed her gold-mining father to Canada before travelling to Australia with her infant son, arriving in Melbourne in 1855. Reunited with her father at Mount Alexander—where he had abandoned prospecting to run a sly-grog shanty—Mary was determined to reinvent herself. Moving across the Victorian goldfields, including Ballarat and Buninyong,

she began writing stories and poems inspired by life on the diggings.

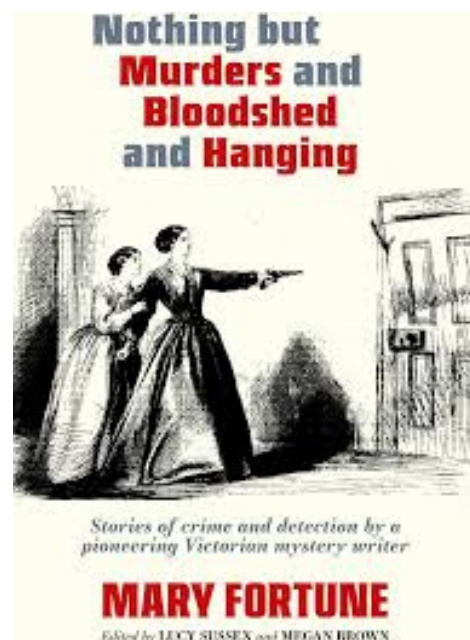
After a period selling sly grog alongside her father, Mary became a pioneering journalist and author. The Detective’s Album was the first collection of detective stories published in Australia, and the first by a woman anywhere in the world. Her work appeared in magazines and newspapers for more than forty years, yet her identity remained largely unknown. Writing under pseudonyms, she often adopted a male voice to explore subjects considered ‘unladylike’.

Samuel Goode recognised her talent and published her early work. Her second son was born on the Green Hills diggings. She later reflected on this period in The Adventures of Mary Fortune (1970), edited by Lucy Sussex.

When Mary died in 1911, her identity was nearly lost. *Outrageous Fortunes* (2025), by Megan Brown and Lucy Sussex, recovers her extraordinary career and reveals an equally compelling story in her son, George, whose life of theft and bank robbery starkly contrasted her own.

It would be fitting to see an honour board in Buninyong celebrating the notable figures who passed through—and perhaps stayed in—our town, in the style of Craig’s Hotel. Artists and writers with connections to Buninyong can readily be found in print. Worth considering, eh?

Contributor & Photos Supplied by: Tony Webb, Local Historian.



Easter

is the high point of the year for Christians, a time when we remember and celebrate what God has done for us. Around 2,000 years ago, on the other side of the world, God acted in history in a way that changed everything. The Bible tells us that God sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to die a painful death on a cross. In doing so, He took the punishment that we all deserve for rejecting the God who made us and loves us, so that we could be forgiven and restored to a relationship with Him. This is what we remember on Good Friday.

Then, on Easter Sunday—just two days later—we celebrate the most remarkable event in history: Jesus did not remain dead. He defeated death and rose to life again, fully restored, to live forever. And He offers that same hope to all who believe and trust in Him—life with Him forever when our time on earth comes to an end. The significance of all this is summed up in one of the most well-known verses in the Bible, John 3:16: “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

God loves you! He has shown that love in the most wonderful way—by sending His one and only Son, Jesus, to die for you, so that you can be forgiven and have eternal life with Him. Why not come along to a church service this Easter to find out more, or get in touch with a local church? We would love to welcome you and chat with you.

Contributor: Rev. Mark Schnerring, Buninyong Anglican Church.



Buninyong Village Market: Celebrating Community, Creativity and Local Connection

The Buninyong Village Market continues to grow as one of the region's most welcoming community gatherings, bringing together locals, visitors, artisans and small businesses in the heart of the Buninyong Town Hall precinct. With its relaxed village atmosphere and focus on local makers, the market has quickly become a place where creativity, connection and community spirit thrive.

The market is held every fifth Saturday of the month from 1pm to 5 pm, offering a unique opportunity for people to slow down, explore locally made products and spend time with friends and family. From handcrafted goods and artisan food to creative makers and small local businesses, each stallholder contributes to the vibrant and diverse character of the market.

In 2026, the market will take place on Saturday 30 May, Saturday 29 August, Saturday 31 October and Saturday 5 December, creating four special afternoons throughout the year for the community to gather and celebrate everything that makes Buninyong special.

What makes the Buninyong Village Market particularly special is the sense of community that surrounds it. Many of our stallholders are local artisans and small businesses who pour their creativity, time and passion into what they produce. By supporting the market, visitors are directly supporting the local creative economy and helping small makers continue doing what they love.

Beyond shopping, the market is also about connection. It's a place where neighbours meet, families spend time together, and visitors experience the charm of Buninyong village life. With local food and a welcoming atmosphere, the market offers something for everyone.

We would also like to acknowledge the volunteers, stallholders and community members who continue to support the market. Events like this simply wouldn't be possible without people willing to contribute their time, ideas and energy to help create something special for the wider community.

As the market continues to grow, we remain committed to celebrating local talent and creating an inclusive space that reflects the creativity and warmth of Buninyong. Whether you are discovering a new artisan product, enjoying an afternoon out with friends or simply soaking up the atmosphere, the Buninyong Village Market is a wonderful reminder of what community events can bring to a town.

We warmly invite everyone to join us at the next market and experience it for yourself.

For updates, stallholder information and future announcements, visit buninyongvillagemarket.com or follow the Buninyong Village Market on social media.

Contributor: Sarah Suttie, Buninyong Village Market Manager.

WHY YOU SHOULD HAVE A WILL

In legal circles, there is a saying "leave a Will or leave a mess". Regrettably, many people do not have a Will when they die and what they leave behind is an administrative and legal mess for their family.

The whole point of making a Will is to state with certainty, what happens to your worldly possessions after death. As often stated, there are only two certainties in life i.e. death and taxes.

A Will is a document best prepared by a lawyer, but there are Will Kits available as an alternative or a handwritten one is better than nothing. In simple terms, the Will to be valid and binding by a person over the age of 18 must:

- Be in writing;
- Preferably nominate an Executor;
- Name the Beneficiaries and what each is to receive;
- Signed by the person making the Will and dated; and
- Signed with two witnesses present, who also both sign the Will having witnessed.
- The Will maker needs to sign first.

A Will has no legal effect until the person who made it dies. This means that it can be amended, revoked or simply torn up and a new one prepared at any time before the person dies.

A related topic concerns the making of Enduring Powers of Attorney, both Financial and Medical and will be covered in the next edition of the Village Voice.

Contributor: Dean Cinque, Lawyer.

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

2026 MARKET DATES
SATURDAY 30 MAY
SATURDAY 29 AUGUST
SATURDAY 31 OCTOBER
SATURDAY 5 DECEMBER

BUNINYONG VILLAGE MARKET
BUNINYONG TOWN HALL PRECINCT

BUNINYONGVILLAGEMARKET.COM

BUNINYONG VILLAGE MARKET @BUNINYONG_MARKET_OFFICIAL

DARK SKIES



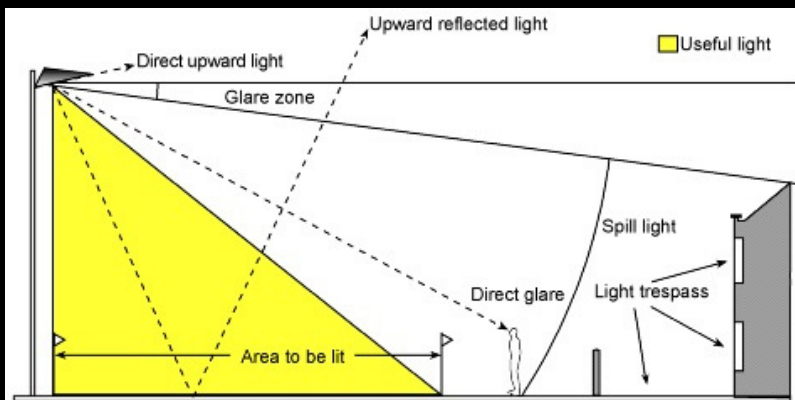
INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY WEEK (IDSW)

For billions of years, life has evolved with Earth's predictable rhythm of light and dark controlled by the length of the day. In fact, it's encoded in the DNA of all plants and animals. Humans have radically disrupted this cycle by lighting up the night. It used to be that when the sun went down, celestial sources like the moon, stars, planets and the Milky Way lit the sky. Life learned to operate under the glow of these objects. For humans and all wildlife including trees and plants, the cycles associated with the natural night sky signals when to eat, sleep, hunt, migrate and even when to reproduce.

What can you do to reduce light pollution?

Be a good neighbour!

ASSESS YOUR HOUSE or BUSINESS HOW MUCH LIGHT IS UNNECESSARY? REDUCE YOUR ELECTRICITY BILL



Light pollution is often caused by the way light is emitted from lighting equipment. Choosing proper equipment and carefully mounting and aiming it can make a significant difference.

Grey-headed Flying-Fox
Photo Credit: J Bailey



Bogong Moth: Main food for the Mountain Pigmy Possum, the only hibernating marsupial in Australia
Photo Credit: J Bailey

Five Lighting Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting



- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|--|--|
| Responsible outdoor lighting is | 1 Useful | Use light only if it is needed
All light should have a clear purpose. Consider how the use of light will impact the area, including wildlife and their habitats. | |
| | 2 Targeted | Direct light so it falls only where it is needed
Use shielding and careful aiming to target the direction of the light beam so that it points downward and does not spill beyond where it is needed. | |
| | 3 Low Level | Light should be no brighter than necessary
Use the lowest light level required. Be mindful of surface conditions, as some surfaces may reflect more light into the night sky than intended. | |
| | 4 Controlled | Use light only when it is needed
Use controls such as timers or motion detectors to ensure that light is available when it is needed, dimmed when possible, and turned off when not needed. | |
| | 5 Warm-colored | Use warmer color lights where possible
Limit the amount of shorter wavelength (blue-violet) light to the least amount needed. | |

IDSW: What Insects are active at night?

Come along and find out what is awake in the night at the Buninyong Primary School garden. This is a free event. Children under 18 years must be accompanied by an adult. This can be a teacher with a small group of students or a parent with their children. Only torches with a red light can be used, this reduces the amount of light around the UV light. Red cellophane will be available to put on your torches if needed.

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL – Saturday 18 April 6:15pm to 7:45pm. Bookings open 30 March 2026.



Contributor & Photos Supplied by: Judith Bailey

BUNINYONG FINE ART FAIRE 2026

A curated market for discerning art lovers

PRESENTED BY
BUNINYONG
ARTPRENEURS

A handpicked showcase for art enthusiasts, the Buninyong Fine Art Faire features outstanding works by accomplished regional artists. Set in the charming, historic village of Buninyong, it offers a rare opportunity to discover, connect with, and collect original, inspiring pieces directly from the creators.

ORIGINAL
ART

ARTIST
LEAD

DEVONSHIRE
TEA

MEET THE
ARTIST

FREE ENTRY!

SATURDAY
23 MAY
2026

10am-3pm
BUNINYONG
TOWN HALL

309 LEARMONTH
STREET, BUNINYONG

FIND MORE INFORMATION AT OUR WEBSITE
WWW.BUNINYONGARTPRENEURS.COM.AU



The Old Library

Did you know that the building in Warrenheip Street was originally the Mechanics Institute and Free Library? It was established by Robert Allan circa 1859, with a small residence and shop on the northern side which is now the Buninyong Gift House.

The unique feature of the timber building is the elaborate façade detailed to resemble stonework. It served as a public library for nearly 50 years. It gradually slipped into a long period of disuse and decay but was saved from destruction in the 1970's – 1980's when a group of concerned residents rallied to restore the structure and give it a new role. It was listed on the Victorian Heritage Register in 1981. After four years of restoration it reopened in 1991, initially as a venue for community groups and to store family history and cemetery records. It is now also the Buninyong Information Centre.

WANTED!!!

The Old Buninyong Library needs YOU!! Ideally, the Library and Information Centre would be open seven days a week, offering locals and visitors a wide range of interesting material – tourist brochures, maps, books, local history, historical objects and photos, family history resources, low cost internet, burial records of the Buninyong Cemetery, personal assistance and local information. However, due to the limited number of loyal volunteers, the Centre is currently only open Wednesday – Sunday 11am to 2pm. Feel free to come in and have a chat.

CAN YOU HELP?

Any time or day would be appreciated and allow us to provide the service we would like. Please call in, look around, speak to our friendly volunteers and help us if you can.

Contributor & Photo Supplied by: Bev Elshaug, Volunteer, The Old Buninyong Library.



Love Buninyong

Be the first to see Buninyong's new community website

What: Website Launch — lovebuninyong.com.au
When: 2pm-3pm, Tuesday 21 April
Where: Buninyong Community House
407A Warrenheip Street

Love Buninyong's contemporary design showcases our beautiful town with all-updated information from the previous Buninyong Community website plus many new features.

The Buninyong Joint Library Trust thanks the Community Bank Buninyong for generously sponsoring the Love Buninyong upgrade to this vital community asset.

RSVP for Love Buninyong launch:
bunlibtrust@gmail.com

Contributor & Photo Supplied by: Liz Lumsdon, Buninyong Information Centre.



Overhead footage of Buninyong by Andrew Wilson, Photo Design.

The 1970s: Looking back 50 years in Buninyong

In the 1970s, Buninyong was still very much a rural township, shades of 'Ye Ancient Village' of the nineteenth century. At the time, Ted Sutherland, who lived in Learmonth St on the corner of Lal Lal St, was noticed around town for mowing the grass with his draft horses.

The Shire of Buninyong then covered an area of 78,500 hectares, including Egerton, Millbrook, half of Bungaree, Elaine, Enfield, Napoleons, Mount Clear and Magpie. There were 15 Councillors, and a total staff of around 40 professional and outdoor staff. The Shire was very close to the residents, who were known personally to Councillors and staff, and residents felt that their aspirations were championed by Council. The 1966 Census gave the population of the township of Buninyong as 811. By 1980 it was around 1,000 people.

A Buninyong Improvement Committee, successor to the Buninyong Progress Association, was active in lobbying the Council to improve facilities around the township, such as the Gardens and Mount Buninyong. The Buninyong and Mount Helen Lions Club was formed in 1975 to support these projects.

Buninyong was starting to move, with the new tertiary education facility at Mount Helen, opened in 1968, driving development. Real Estate agents began to advertise housing subdivisions at Mount Helen and around Buninyong, which would lead to the necessity of the Shire Council beginning to seriously address planning issues.

Derick and Shirley Leather arrived in Buninyong in December 1972, as migrants from Yorkshire in England. Derick rapidly became engaged in community activities, beginning with the School, which his children attended. Shortly after Derick and Shirley purchased Netherby on Warrenheip Street. Derick became a familiar figure around the township, observing what needed to be done, and getting involved in both planning and doing. He became School Council President in 1973, and was elected to Council in 1977, and served until the Shire was abolished in 1994. He became the undisputed 'Godfather' of Buninyong, spearheading most of the important community developments of this era.

Debate about landscaping became a concern. The aging pine trees lining Learmonth Street

had reached the end of their life, and needed to be cut down. On the advice of Environmental Scientist Martin Westbrooke, indigenous species replaced them.

Back in the 70s, what is now De Soza Park was a weed and vermin infested swamp hosting old car bodies. It was known as the old circus ground. Derick Leather was a driving force behind the project to beautify the old Tannery Dam site, and in the 1980s De Soza Park would be developed to add an attractive natural heart to the village.

In 1973 a 'Back to Buninyong' celebrated the centenary of the Buninyong State School, which had just 100 pupils at the time. This reunion led to the Buninyong Gold King Festival, with the first festival held in February 1976.

Community concern turned to the matter of sporting and recreational facilities for the growing township. In 1974 the new swimming pool opened, and a group of thoughtful citizens met to think about siting recreational facilities in one convenient location. The Buninyong Senior Citizens was formed in 1975, meeting weekly, until recently, at the Town Hall.

On 26 July 1977, following a meeting of the Buninyong Primary School Council, the first issue of Buninyong and Mount Helen Community News was produced. Since then it has been an incredibly important vehicle for recording local activities and developments. The Buninyong and District Historical Society has collections of a number of important organisations from this period – the Buninyong Improvement Association, the Guides, church groups, as well as many photos. We are always anxious to extend our photographic collection, so if readers have photos taken in the 1970s that shed light on Buninyong, we would be delighted to add digital copies to our collections. Please come in to the Town Hall History Centre on the third Saturday of the month to talk to our members and share with us your information or photos.

Contributor & Photo Supplied by: Anne Beggs-Sunter, Buninyong & District Historical Society.



Buninyong- circa 1980 taken from Town Hall tower.

The Farm (Mt Mercer)

Farewell to the gentle undulating plains
walked before the white man came.
Farewell to the meandering creek, a life saver in
drought.
Farewell to the aftermath of fires, but to see the
native trees sprout.
Farewell to drought bringing despair.
All is just dust and bare.
Farewell to floods causing destruction.
Later for the land to be restructured.
Farewell to walking tracks, the silence and big sky.
Sometimes with the flutter of a bird going by.
Farewell to heaped rows of volcanic rocks to clear the
land.
Habitat for rabbits, and a haven for lambs.
Farewell to living with rats, mice and snakes.
Trying to avoid them in their wake.
Farewell to the view of the great landmark, Mt
Buninyong, guiding settlers to a new life. Sometimes
experiencing hardship and strife.
Farewell to the busy times of harvesting and
shearing. The results that settlers will be reaping.
Farewell to the volcanoes, Mt Mercer and Mt
Lawaluk. To witness their ever-changing views, what
luck.
Farewell to the tall wind turbines, a sign of changing
times.
In the breeze listening to their rattling and chimes.
Farewell finally to the beautiful Victorian volcanic
plains.
To welcome the ancient inland village of Buninyong.
To now walk it's undulating plains.

Contributor: Druscilla Parker, 16 March 2026.

Old Swimming Baths Update

Restoration works on the historic walls of the former swimming baths in the Buninyong Botanic Gardens has recently begun.

Located in the picturesque Buninyong Botanic Gardens, the former swimming baths are listed on the Victorian Heritage Register and represent an important part of Buninyong's recreational and social history.

Originally constructed as a bluestone water reservoir in 1860, the site was used as a swimming pool from 1872 until its closure in the 1930s due to high E. coli levels.

The concrete wall was erected in the early 1920s by returned servicemen under the direction of Shire Engineer C.P. Wilson, an early advocate of reinforced concrete.

In the early 1990s, the baths were transformed into a walled garden to acknowledge the historical significance of the enclosure.

This current heritage conservation project will stabilise and preserve the former baths by adding new foundations to support the long-term integrity of the concrete walls. The walls currently show varying degrees of lean, and works will include replacing several wall panels, repairing and sealing cracks, and laying gravel to improve drainage away from the footings.

All vegetation within the former baths has now been cleared, with contractors Ivy Constructions to begin on-site. The garden will be reinstated once works are complete.

During the works, once vegetation was removed, closer inspection revealed a need to slightly modify the restoration approach. This required additional approvals from Heritage Victoria, which have now been secured.

The project was originally scheduled for completion in early 2026. The full restoration project is expected to be completed by the end of June 2026, weather permitting.

City of Ballarat Mayor, Cr Tracey Hargreaves said it was vital to undertake the restoration works to protect this significant historic asset.

"Dating back more than 160 years, the Buninyong Baths hold extraordinary heritage value within the much-loved Buninyong Botanic Gardens," she said. "These works aim to safeguard the former baths' significant heritage while preserving their historic character."

Contributor & Photo Supplied by: City of Ballarat.

The Buninyong Seniors have moved their meetings from the Town Hall to the Buninyong Community Facility on Forest Street. Meetings are held every Tuesday from 11.30am to 3pm, and new members are always very welcome. The group is often out enjoying social activities, so if you'd like to join in, please give Jan a call to check what's planned.

The Seniors are also hosting an Easter fundraiser, with all proceeds going to BlazeAid. If you would like to buy tickets or support this great cause, please contact Jan.

You can reach Jan on ph. 0409 174 605. Come along, make new friends, and be part of the fun!

Contributor: Jan Antosiewicz, President, Buninyong Seniors.



Buninyong Golf Club Championships

The Buninyong Golf Club has recently held its Club Championships for both men and women. The men's competition was played over four weeks, with A and B grades playing four Stroke rounds, and C and D grades playing four Stableford rounds. The women played three rounds of Stroke, with players able to choose between Tuesday or Saturday golf.

In the men's events, two juniors claimed championship titles in A and C grades, while the other grades were won by experienced club stalwarts. The winners were:

- A Grade: Rex Hodge
- B Grade: Clethe Paige
- C Grade: Tom Sheridan
- D Grade: Michael Prato

The Junior Champions were Rex Hodge and Tom Sheridan.

In the women's events, the winners were:

- A Grade: Helen Pascoe
 - B Grade: Julie Ronan
 - C Grade: June Gow
- The Junior Girls Champion is Lia Beilfuss.

Contributor & Photo Supplied by: Nikki Prato

Club Champions: Rex Hodge and Helen Pascoe



Three Years Behind the Counter: Barry's Buninyong Butcher Story

Step into Buninyong Butcher and it doesn't take long to notice the care behind the counter — a neat display, quality cuts and usually time for a friendly chat. For owner Barry, the journey into butchery began long before the shop reopened in the village.

Barry first stepped into a butcher shop at just 13, working as a clean-up boy. A year later, he began an apprenticeship with Dench Brothers, then a large operation with 23 shops and its own abattoir. It was a busy environment, but it gave him a strong grounding in the skills and discipline required to run a butcher shop.

School was never really his thing and, with butchering already in the family, the opportunity felt like the right fit. From those early days, Barry developed a strong work ethic and practical knowledge that has stayed with him throughout his career.

Years later, after running businesses in Ballarat, Barry sold up and was enjoying a short break when the Buninyong butcher shop became available for lease. The premises had been closed for about 18 months, but the chance to bring a local butcher back to the town was too good to pass up.

"It all happened pretty quickly just after Christmas 2022," Barry says.

A butcher's day starts early. Before customers arrive there is plenty to prepare — mincing, making sausages, breaking down lamb, cutting steaks and preparing crumbed products, much of it done out the back before the display is ready.

Running a small shop also takes a team. Ty, a second-year apprentice, is often the friendly face at the counter. Adrian has worked with Barry for years and



knows the business inside out. Behind the scenes, Barry's wife Lorraine manages the bookkeeping, social media and the many errands that keep things running smoothly.

Outside work, Barry enjoys walking around Mount Helen or Buninyong, spending time with his grandchildren, riding his motorcycle and heading to the beach. At home, his favourite meal is a traditional roast lamb, while a porterhouse steak on the barbecue is his go-to for a quick dinner.

What Barry enjoys most about Buninyong is the community.

"The locals are always up for a chat and keep me informed about what's going on around town," he says.

Now, after three years, the award-winning business has built a reputation for quality and strong local support. Despite early challenges, Barry remains focused on maintaining the standards that Buninyong Butcher has earned.

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

Hey there Village!

We want to hear from you! We'd love to hear your voice in shaping what comes next. Our newsletter is here to serve you—your interests, your needs, your curiosities! We've put together a short survey to gather your thoughts—what you enjoy reading, what you find most useful, and what you'd like to see more of in future editions.

Your perspective matters, whether you read every issue cover to cover or dip in occasionally. Whether it's the topics we cover, the length and format, or the kinds of resources and stories we share, your input helps us make the newsletter more useful, relevant, and enjoyable for the whole community.

The survey is quick, anonymous, and genuinely impactful. Thank you for being part of the Village Voice community and for helping us make it even better. We can't wait to hear what you think.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JGYR76M>

The Team at Village Voice thank you for sharing your opinion. The Village Voice newsletter is created for our community, and your feedback plays a huge role in shaping what it becomes.



Meet a Local!

Name: Loki

(named after the Viking God of Mischief)

Age: 6 years old

Breed: Maine Coon

Bio: Loki rules his domain (formerly known as a calm household) with fluffy authority and approximately 10 kilos of emotional support ... sitting on top of Mum Lisa, each morning. Now six years old, he was acquired during the pandemic—when others took up hobbies, Lisa accidentally brought home a Norse god with fur, opinions, and a strict bedtime policy. In his early days, Loki was a highly skilled escape artist, making regular appearances around the neighbourhood like a celebrity doing unscheduled meet-and-greets. These days he's either indoors or in his cat run.



Loki says: "My name is Loki, God of Mischief, and I run a very tight ship. Mum does not, so I have stepped in. I weigh 10 kilos, which Mum likes to mention frequently—usually when I'm sitting on her chest whilst I'm smooching her face when she's trying to fall asleep. Or when she's asleep. Or when she's trying to wake up. Honestly, her schedule is confusing, so I just cover all bases. I enforce a precise bedtime. If anyone is still watching TV or working at their computer past the correct hour, I initiate chaos mode. This includes scratching at things in the vicinity, pulling down the birdcage covering, displacing items of importance in Mum's office, midnight zoomies, pushing things off benches and general mischief—until someone gets up and puts me to bed. I have a mighty roar (in my head) but people keep saying I squeak like a mouse—I wish I knew how to use google to prove them wrong. I am affectionate, disciplined, and slightly dangerous. I also like to give the occasional swipe—just a little reminder of who's in charge. During the pandemic I introduced myself to everyone in the neighbourhood. They didn't realise that a cat of my stature can jump a 6 foot fence without blinking!"

Contributor & Photo Supplied by: Loki Cressey, Village Voice Community Reporter.



**Buninyong
GIFT HOUSE**

Mother's Day Sorted!

**SUPPORTING OVER 95
LOCAL CREATIVES**

**LOCALLY GROWN FLOWERS
CANDLES | JEWELLERY | PLANTS
SCARVES | HAMPERS | POTTERY
& CURATED SPECIAL GIFTS**

**OPEN - WEDNESDAY TO SUNDAY
10AM TO 5PM (WEEKENDS 4PM)**



Your Local Dentist Turns Four!

In the blink of an eye, Your Local Dentist has been supporting the local Buninyong community for four fabulous years.

During this time, Dr. Jaci, owner and principal dentist, has welcomed Dr. Tim Stewart and our hygienist, Emma Thurlbeck to the team to help with the continually expanding practice.

Tim has been a dentist for 11 years, during which time he has practiced all over Australia. He settled in Ballarat six years ago with his young family. You might have seen Tim out and about, as he rekindles his love of playing cricket, when he straps on the pads for Buninyong Cricket Club.

Emma is also a Ballarat local, from out in the sticks, owning a beautiful plot of land with her husband and two daughters. Starting with us late last year, Emma not only will ensure your gums are happy and healthy, she also knows a thing or two about gardening. Make sure to ask her all your gardening and dental related questions!

Jaci has been a dentist for 25 years. You'll often see her in her active wear on the weekends tending to the clinic's gardens and vegetable patches after having finished her CrossFit classes, with her husband and labradoodle in tow.

The Your Local Dentist team welcomes all to the practice, as we are now taking new patients. We would love everyone to come and enjoy the calming, caring and friendly environment that the staff have the privilege of working in daily.

You can find Your Local Dentist at 1106 Warrenheip St. (opposite Royal Park) with off street parking for convenience. The practice is open, Tuesday to Thursday 8:30am to 5:30pm and Friday 8:30am to 3pm.

Please call us on 5356 1008 and we can start with a hello and chat!

You can also check out our online booking availability at:
<https://yourlocaldentist.net.au/book/>

Contributor & Photo Supplied by: Trisha Livingston, Dr Jaci Bolton and the Team.



Lions Youth of the Year 2026

Buninyong/Mt Helen Lions Club held their annual Youth of the Year event on 9 February 2026 at the Buninyong Bowls Club. Five students from Loreto, Damascus and Mt Clear College competed this year. The students complete an extensive application form, undertake an interview, and then they are required at the event to participate in two forms of public speaking. First there are two impromptu questions, then a prepared speech on a topic of their own choice.

This year the standard of speeches, both impromptu and prepared, was outstanding. Thought-provoking speeches were given on the topics of flight, helium, nostalgia, magic moments and breaking barriers.

The judges found their task of finding a winner extremely challenging as the standards were so high. The eventual winner of the public speaking was Elana Ballinger from Loreto and she also won the overall Youth of the Year. She now progresses to district level of the competition to be held in Maryborough.

The Lions Club wishes to acknowledge that the Youth of the Year award is well supported by the Buninyong Community Bank.

Contributor & Photo Supplied by: Greg Pugh, Buninyong/Mt Helen Lions Club.



Photo: Elena Ballinger, Eliza Dodd, Isabeau Turner, Preston Bunce, Jasmine Geddes.



Scotsburn Community Hall

If you're not familiar with the Scotsburn Community Hall, here's a quick rundown of its history, past uses and current role.

Located at the foot of Mount Buninyong and built in 1891, the hall was named after the Scott family, who settled in the area in 1839. It was constructed on land donated by the Eason family and stands in what is now known as Bicentennial Park.

The main hall can accommodate up to 80 people and is fully air-conditioned, while a smaller secondary room is suitable for gatherings of up to 15 people.

The venue also has access to a barbecue area and, with its foyer and cloakroom, is well suited to concerts and community events. It is particularly popular for weddings and private functions.

Since its early days, the hall has been used by many local groups, most notably the local primary school. In recent years, it has also hosted concerts, private meetings and events for a wider range of users, including band groups and visitors from outside the area.

The City of Ballarat is currently undertaking maintenance works to improve drainage and carry out upgrades at the hall.

The Scotsburn Community Hall has long been part of the Buninyong community and surrounding district. These improvements aim to enhance the space and make it even more appealing for future use.

For enquiries about hiring the hall, please contact Graham Shearer using the details below.

Email: scotsburnhall@gmail.com

Phone: 0427 413 675

Contributor & Photo Supplied by: Graham Shearer with Kobie Riley, Village Voice Community Reporter.

What's Happening in Buninyong

April & May EVENTS



THURSDAY 2 APRIL

THE BUNINYONG HOTEL 1st BIRTHDAY

Happy Hour – 5pm to close

\$10 – 1st Birthday Cocktails – 5pm to close

Dinner Bookings –

www.thebuninyonghotel.com.au

SATURDAY 4 APRIL



BARD IN BUNINYONG

EASTER PANTOMIME – SNOW WHITE

Time – 2 shows – 10:30am & 2.30pm

Where – Buninyong Town Hall

Contact – www.trybooking.com/DKLRX

THURSDAY 8 APRIL to

WEDNESDAY 14 APRIL

SHINE LEARNING APRIL SCHOOL HOLIDAY

INTENSIVE PROGRAM

5 DAYS TARGETED TUTORING

Where – Buninyong location

Enquiries – info@shinelearning.com

Contact – Miranda ph. 0409 954 283

BUNINYONG EASTER CHURCH SERVICES & EVENTS

Maundy Thursday – 2 April

7:30pm – Tenebrae Service – Buninyong Baptist Church

Good Friday – 3 April

8:30am – Way of the Cross Walk

9:30am – Service at Buninyong Uniting Church

10am – Service at Buninyong Anglican Church

Easter Sunday – 5 April

9:30am – Service at Buninyong Uniting Church

10am – Service at Buninyong Anglican Church

11am – Service at Buninyong Baptist Church

Local Churches & Contacts

Anglican Church (Cnr Warrenheip & Scott St) – Rev. Mark Schnerring ph. 0401 022 107 | buninyonganglican.org.au

Baptist Church (Meets at Uniting Church, Learmonth St) – Pastor Craig Semple ph. 0438 438 175 | email - byongbaps@gmail.com

Catholic Church (St Peter & Paul's, 701 Fisken St) – Parish Office ph. 5332 6611 – Contact Parish Office for service times.

Uniting Church (Learmonth St) – Rev. Andrew Shearer ph. 0429 261 954

Everyone is welcome to join in the Easter celebrations!

SATURDAY 25 APRIL

80th ANNIVERSARY ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATION

Time – 10am

Where – RSL Memorial Park

Address – Cnr Learmonth & Warrenheip
Street, Buninyong



WEDNESDAY 29 APRIL

BUNINYONG PRIMARY SCHOOL 2027 INFORMATION EVENING

Time – 5:30pm to 6:15pm

Where – Buninyong Primary School

Contact – Registrations Ph. 5341 3560

Website – www.buninyongps.vic.edu.au

SUNDAY 10 MAY

MOTHER'S DAY



FRIDAY 15 MAY to SUNDAY 17 MAY

THE GREAT ESCAPE – A WEEKEND OF SINGING & CONNECTION

Time – Starts 7pm Friday, Ends 4:30pm Sunday

Where – St Peter and St Paul's Catholic Church

Bookings – Humanitix

SATURDAY 23 MAY

BUNINYONG ART FAIRE

Time – 10am to 4pm

Where – Buninyong Town Hall

Website – www.buninyongartpreneurs.com.au



SATURDAY 30 MAY

BUNINYONG VILLAGE MARKET

Time – 1pm to 5pm

Where – Buninyong Town Hall

Website – www.buninyongvillagemarket.com

**If you have an event
that you'd like to
highlight to the
community –
please email us!
news.bdca@outlook.com**

Way of the Cross Walk

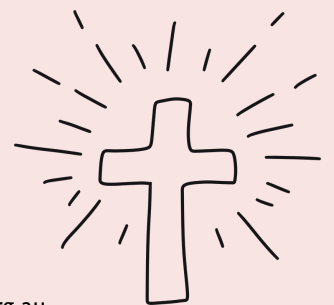
A centuries-old Good Friday tradition, this reflective walk retraces Jesus' journey to the cross. Participants stop at several locations to read from the Bible, carrying a large cross as a symbol of Jesus' sacrifice.

Meeting Point: 8:30am outside Buninyong Town Hall

Route: Around town, stopping six times

Duration: ~30 minutes (1 km)

Open to all – churchgoers and non-churchgoers alike



Catherine KING MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BALLARAT

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(03) 5338 8123

Catherine.King.MP@aph.gov.au

Standing up for our community!



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

Michaela Settle MP

State Member for Eureka



MAKING ADHD CARE EASIER FOR FAMILIES

IMPROVING ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE ADHD SUPPORT

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