

EDITION 13, OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2026



Buninyong and District
Community News

Village VOICE



IN THIS EDITION

The Old Bluestone Cafe
Spring has sprung!
Community Updates

YOUR FREE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Photo of fledgling magpies (photo credit – Jennifer Greenhalgh, Ballarat Wildlife Rehabilitation & Conservation)

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



More to the Village Voice than you might think

Did you know that this magazine is supported by the Buninyong and District Community Association (BDCA)?

The BDCA is a group of volunteer local residents and others who have an interest in preserving community heritage and character, and the promotion of Buninyong. The BDCA is committed to fostering a strong sense of community and enhancing the quality of life for all who live in this beautiful village.

AGM to be held 22 October

The BDCA will be holding its Annual General Meeting at the Buninyong Community House at 7pm, Thursday 22 October. Association members and the general community are invited to attend. The AGM will be followed by light refreshments. If you are interested in attending the AGM please contact the Secretary, email – secretary.bdca@outlook.com

BDCA Membership is Free!

Community members are invited to become an active participant in shaping the future of Buninyong. Whether through volunteering, attending community meetings, or sharing your ideas, there are numerous ways to get involved and contribute to the growth and well-being of our community. All residents of Buninyong and district can become members through submitting a membership application form: <https://www.buninyongcommunityassociation.com.au/become-a-member>

Contributor: Darren Holland, President, Buninyong & District Community Association.



Nurturing Wonder through play
Ballarat Steiner Playgroup



tel 03 5341 8188 244 Moss Avenue Mount Helen



Tuk's Thai
Massage

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



Book: 0459 627 326

Relaxation, Foot and Deep Tissue
Couples Massages and Gift Vouchers

513 Warrenheip St, Buninyong

Buninyong COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

ART LESSONS with TRUDY NICHOLSON

When – Fortnightly 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the Month

Times – 12pm 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 – 2nd Tuesday of the 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

MIDWEEK MEDITATION

When – Every Wednesday

Time – 6:15pm to 7:15pm

Where – Buninyong Uniting Church

Contact – Rev. Paul Sanders ph. 0407 833 515

BUNINYONG SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

When – Last Friday of Month

Time – 10:30am

Where – Different cafe chosen monthly posted on Facebook (usually The Terrace Cafe or Espresso Depot)

No RSVP – Just turn up! All welcome!

BUNINYONG & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

When – 3rd Saturday of Month

Time – 9:30am to 1pm

Where – Buninyong Town Hall

Cost – Free entry and members on hand to help visitors.

Website –

www.buninyonghistory.wordpress.com/

BUNINYONG SENIOR CITIZENS

When – Every Tuesday

Time – 11:30am to 3pm

Where – Buninyong Town Hall

Contact – Jan ph. 0409 174 605, John ph. 0434 674 334

CWA BUNINYONG GENERAL MEETING

When – 1st Thursday of Month

Time – 7pm

Where – Buninyong Community House

CWA BUNINYONG MONDAY CREATIVES

When – 2nd Monday of Month

Time – 10am to 12pm

Where – Buninyong Town Hall

CWA BUNINYONG MASTERCLASS MONDAY

When – 3rd Monday of Month

Time – 6pm onwards

Where – Buninyong Town Hall

CWA Contact – Sonya ph. 0417 168 456

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 – 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

Contact – Wendy ph. 0458 372 906

Email – wendyvorstenbosch629@gmail.com

BUNINYONG VILLAGE SOCK MAKERS

When – 1st Saturday of the Month

Time – 10am to 5pm

Where – Buninyong Community House

Contact –

buninyongcommunityeventsinc@gmail.com

BREKKY CLUB

When – 3rd Saturday of the Month

Time – 8:30am to 10:30am

Where – Buninyong Uniting Church Hall

Cost – By donation

Contact & RSVP – Cathy/Lyn

Email – ballaratsouthuca@gmail.com

TRIYOGA BUNINYONG

When – Every Thursday

Time – 6pm

Where – Buninyong Uniting Church Hall

Bookings Essential –

www.myinsighthealth.com.au/yoga

Contact – Katherine Collyer ph. 0419 139 892

Email – kath@myinsighthealth.com.au

October/November Events

THURSDAY 1 OCTOBER & FRIDAY 2 OCTOBER

OVERLOOK PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES by Eve Ensler

Time – 8pm to 9:30pm

Where – Buninyong Town Hall

Address – 308 Learmonth Street, Buninyong

Cost – \$30/\$35

Tickets – [Trybooking](#)

SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Time – 9:30am

Where – Buninyong Uniting Church

Address – 302 Scott Street, Buninyong

Cost – \$10

What – Bring your furry, feathered or scale friends (please keep dogs on a lead and other pets in carriers)

FRIDAY 9 OCTOBER

BUNINYONG ART PRIZE & EXHIBITION OPENING NIGHT

Time – 7pm to 9pm

Where – Buninyong Town Hall

Address – 308 Learmonth Street, Buninyong

Cost – \$10 (includes drink on arrive & canapes)

More information –

www.buninyongartpreneurs.com.au

SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER & SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER

BUNINYONG ART PRIZE & EXHIBITION

ARTWORK ON SHOW & FOR SALE

Time – 10am to 4pm

Where – Buninyong Town Hall Precinct

Address – 308 Learmonth Street, Buninyong

Cost – Free

More information –

www.buninyongartpreneurs.com.au

SATURDAY 31 OCTOBER

BUNINYONG VILLAGE MARKET

Time – 1pm to 5pm

Where – Buninyong Town Hall Precinct

Address – 308 Learmonth Street, Buninyong

Cost – Free

More information –

www.buninyongvillagemarket.com

SATURDAY 31 OCTOBER

BUNINYONG FIRE STATION OPEN DAY

Time – 12pm to 3:30pm

Where – Buninyong Fire Station

Address – 611a Learmonth St, Buninyong

Cost – Free

If you have a local event that you'd like to highlight to the community - please email us!
news.bdca@outlook.com

FRIDAY 6 NOVEMBER

CREATIVE BALLARAT CATCH UP

Time – 6pm to 8pm

Where – Buninyong Town Hall

Address – 308 Learmonth Street, Buninyong

Cost – Free

RSVP & More information –

www.creativeballarat.com.au/resources

SATURDAY 7 NOVEMBER to FRIDAY 13 NOVEMBER

BUNINYONG GOLF CLUB TOURNAMENT

Where – Buninyong Golf Club

Address – 613 Learmonth Street Buninyong

Contact – Andrew ph. 0409 403 276

Helen ph. 0409 406 335

Cost – 7 Lessons \$140

SUNDAY 9 NOVEMBER

WOMENS GOLF CLINIC

Time – 5:30pm to 6:30pm (weekly for 7 weeks)

Where – Buninyong Golf Club

Address – 613 Learmonth Street Buninyong

More information – www.buninyong.golf

Buninyong Community Pool Group Final Chapter

The Buninyong Community Pool Group, resurrected in 2015, has officially wrapped up in 2026, after more than a decade of helping improve the grounds of the Buninyong Pool.

With generous support from Community Bank Buninyong, a group of enthusiastic locals undertook extensive landscaping to rejuvenate the area along the front of the pool as well as within the pool grounds. New garden beds were established, along with the planting of many trees, native grasses and shrubs. A watering system was also installed to help maintain the landscaping.

The group's first summer was a particularly hot one, and dedicated volunteers took turns watering the newly planted trees to ensure they became established. Their efforts can still be seen today, with the trees thriving along the pool's front fence.

With the work completed and the City of Ballarat maintaining the facility, the Pool Group has recently disbanded.

The group has generously donated the remaining \$792.05 in its bank account to the Buninyong & District Community Association (BDCA), ensuring the funds continue to benefit the local community.

The BDCA is planning to put the donation towards a proposed refurbishment of RSL Park, working with the RSL and other community groups on improvements to this important community space.

It's a fitting final chapter for the Pool Group, with funds raised for one Buninyong community project now helping to give another a new lease on life.

Contributor: Simon Coghlan, Buninyong Community Pool Group & Lisa Cressey, Buninyong & District Community Association

Buninyong Police alert to current scams

Australians reported losing \$837.7 million to investment scams in 2025, more than any other kind of scam.

We are seeing more of these that use a real cryptocurrency exchange, an account opened in your own name, and money you transfer yourself. What makes it harder to detect is that there's no fake bank, no suspicious login page, and no request for your passwords.

How it works

You're contacted by someone offering investment advice. It might come through social media, a messaging app, or an unexpected phone call. Conversation moves quickly to WhatsApp or a similar platform.

They help you open an account with a genuine crypto exchange. That part is real, and it's what makes everything after it credible. You're then shown an investment platform displaying your returns and asked to buy cryptocurrency and send it to a wallet address they've given you.

Amounts start small while the scammer builds trust, and grow as your confidence does. When you try to withdraw, there's a fee, a tax, or a compliance step to clear first.

The exchange is real. The account is yours. The investment platform and the adviser are not, and the cryptocurrency has gone to a wallet you don't control.

Signals worth stopping for:

- Someone is guiding you through the transaction by phone, message, screen share, or remote access.
- You've been promised guaranteed returns, or high returns at low risk.
- You're being asked to move quickly.
- You're being told what to say if your bank asks about the transfer.
- You're being asked for more money to release money you've already invested.
- A recovery service has contacted you about cryptocurrency you lost earlier, sometimes claiming to be from a government agency or the police.

Before you invest

Stop! Don't transact while someone is directing you. Give yourself time to research the investment on your own.

Check

Verify the adviser and the business through the professional registers held by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC), the Financial Advisers Register, and the Moneysmart Investor Alert List. Use contact details you've found yourself, not ones supplied by the person promoting the investment. Ask yourself whether you can explain how the investment makes money and where the returns come from.

Protect

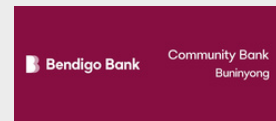
Never share your banking passwords, security codes, or wallet recovery phrase with anyone. Only send cryptocurrency to a wallet you created and control.

Contributor: Brian McGuinness, Leading Senior Constable, Buninyong Branch.



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

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

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.

Vale Roger

A Lasting Contribution to Buninyong

With the passing of Roger Permezel, Buninyong has lost one of its great community characters and contributors – a man remembered for his energy, humour, curiosity, big ideas and genuine determination to make the community he loved an even better place.

Roger had a long and colourful career in the hospitality industry, beginning in hotels in the 1970s and working in senior sales, marketing and management roles around Australia before moving into hospitality consulting. He was an ideas man and a natural mentor, always generous with his experience and advice.

Roger and his wife Sue Ann married in 1990 and eventually made Buninyong their home – a village Roger embraced wholeheartedly. He may not have been born here, but he certainly became a Buninyong local in every sense that mattered.

He became an active member of the Buninyong & District Community Association and, in 2010, began what would become a particularly important relationship with the Buninyong Botanic Gardens. Roger joined the Friends of Buninyong Botanic Gardens committee in 2012, became vice president in 2015 and president in 2016, a position he held for almost a decade.

Under his leadership, the Friends supported the Buninyong Open Gardens, cycling events, the Bard in Buninyong performances in the gardens and many other activities. Roger also represented Buninyong nationally through the Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens.

But Roger wasn't someone who simply put his name on a committee. He got involved.

Roger was passionate about protecting Buninyong's heritage and village character and was prepared to persist – sometimes very persistently – with the City of Ballarat when he believed the community needed to be heard. The Botanic Gardens Masterplan and protection of the historic Gong wall were particularly important to him.

His fingerprints can also be found on discussions and projects involving the Town Hall precinct, Warrenheip Street streetscape, the Butter Factory and other improvements around the village.



At Roger's recent Celebration of Life, Graham Kent OAM described him as persistent, energetic, rigorous and mission-driven – someone with a formidable ability to get things done. Elizabeth Gilfillan AM remembered an incisive and wise thinker who brought people together, brought fun to every occasion and was, above all, happy.

That happiness was a thread running through so many of the stories shared on the day. I was fortunate to be among the large gathering celebrating Roger's life, and it was exactly that – a celebration. As Sue Ann wanted, it wasn't a sad occasion, but a joyous one, filled with funny stories, laughter and great affection for a man who had clearly touched many lives.

Roger contributed countless hours to Buninyong, bringing a healthy dose of tenacity, plenty of humour, a sparkle in his eye and, more often than not, a quip ready to go.

He cared deeply about this village – its heritage, its people and its future. Buninyong is richer for Roger's contribution, and we extend our warmest thoughts to Sue Ann, his family and the many friends who will miss him enormously. As will I.

Contributor: Lisa Cressey, Buninyong Community Events Inc.

Photo supplied by: Sue Ann Permezel

SUPPORTING OVER 125 LOCAL CREATIVES

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



and Gallery

SPRING OPENING HOURS
WEDNESDAY TO SUNDAY
10AM TO 5PM
(WEEKENDS 4PM)

The Old Bluestone Café

The Old Bluestone Café, in Learmonth Street, Buninyong, was sold in late August 2026, with new owners now assumed to have taken over the premises. This building was originally constructed in the 1850s and dating back to 1856, when it was built by the grocer and wine and spirit merchant, Peter Hedrick, who operated the business until his death in 1896. Hedrick was a leader of the community, twice mayor of Buninyong, and a councilor for over 30 years. After his death, the business was sold to Ernest Tonkin, who was also a mayor of Buninyong, a community leader and continued to operate the grocer business until his death in 1925. Since then the shop has had a number of uses, mostly associated with hospitality and food. (Source: Buninyong Historical Society).

The new owners, who are not publicly known, are believed to be in the process of seeking to use the building as a retail store, with some speculation that it is to be used to sell tobacco. This is despite Buninyong already having two licenced tobacco outlets at the BP Newsagency and Foodworks. The new owners have installed shutters across the front windows, as shown, adding to the questions as to the future purpose of the building.

A number of concerned members of the community have already raised questions with Tobacco Licensing Victoria about the need for additional tobacco outlet in a small town of less than 4,000 people. Tobacco Licensing Victoria is unable to divulge if a licence application is in process; however, to sell tobacco in Victoria, you need to apply for a tobacco licence. It is noted that e-cigarettes and vapes are not covered by the tobacco licensing scheme but are governed by Commonwealth law.
<https://www.tga.gov.au/>

Questions have also been raised with Ballarat City Council about the installation of shutters on what is a heritage building and is being investigated by Council. Without confirmation of the purpose of The Old Bluestone Café the community of Buninyong can only watch this space.

It is noted concerns about Tobacco Licensing can be sent to –
Email: contacttobacco@justice.vic.gov.au
Phone: 1300 194 739 (9am–5 pm, weekdays)

It is understood from Cr Ben Taylor, that there is no present planning permit for The Old Bluestone Café lodged with the City of Ballarat.

If a permit is required from the City of Ballarat for changes to buildings in Buninyong, it is understood the council may require that neighbours are directly notified and a sign must be displayed. Sometimes, broader notice is required by Council, such as advertising in local newspapers. Usually, a 14 day timeframe is provided for feedback. This allows the City of Ballarat to understand any issues from the public about an application. Members of the public can submit an objection to be considered by Council, in conjunction with consultation with the applicant for the permit. Any plans can be viewed on the City's website, at one of the Council's self-serve kiosks or the planning counter at the Phoenix. Any feedback to council must detail how you will be affected, reasons which may include impacts upon a heritage building. Source: <https://www.ballarat.vic.gov.au/planning-permit-overview>

If the new owners of the The Old Bluestone Café or anyone else wish to reach out to the Village Voice and discuss their future plans we welcome feedback via news.bdca@outlook.com

Contributor: Pauline Roche, Village Voice Community Reporter.

Photos supplied by: Lisa Cressey & Peter Roche, Village Voice Community Reporters.



Council Updates

Buninyong roads to benefit from Ballarat roads Blitz

Following the wettest Ballarat winter in more than four decades, the City of Ballarat is ready to deliver its significant annual road maintenance program.

More than 60 road improvement projects have been scheduled and are ready to begin, as soon as weather conditions permit, reinforcing the City of Ballarat's commitment to maintaining a safe and reliable road network.

The program of works brings together scheduled maintenance, re-sealing, resurfacing and major patching projects so crews can respond quickly once warmer, drier conditions make long-lasting repairs possible. There are three roads in Buninyong that will be addressed: Buninyong-Mount Mercer Road, Mount Buninyong Road and Yendon No 1 Road.

City of Ballarat Deputy Mayor, Cr Ben Taylor said the community deserved safe roads and Council was committed to investing in and maintaining the local road network.

"We have heard loud and clear from our community that road conditions are important to them, and this significant maintenance program is a direct response to that feedback," he said, "Every resident deserves to travel on roads that are safe, reliable and fit for purpose. After an exceptionally wet winter, we know there are areas across the municipality that require attention and we are ready to get to work as soon as conditions allow."

City of Ballarat Director Infrastructure and Environment, Bridget Wetherall said although there was significant rainfall over many months, Ballarat's roads had mostly been able to sustain the heavy rainfall.

"We have invested significantly over recent years in our roads program, and we can now start to see the benefit of that," she said.

"Our team have been incredibly busy keeping the roads as safe as possible throughout winter, filling more than 370 potholes during June, July and August. "Now the winter months are behind us, we look forward to undertaking some more significant and long-lasting repairs."

For more information, visit www.ballarat.vic.gov.au/news



Seen a pothole? Snap Send Solve it

While City of Ballarat crews are continually monitoring the local road network for defects, it is impossible to identify every issue across more than 1,200 kilometres of sealed roads.

That is why the community reporting plays such an important role in helping the City of Ballarat identify and prioritise repairs.

Buninyong residents are encouraged to report potholes, damaged road surfaces and other road-related issues whenever they are identified. The easiest, quickest and most effective way to do this is through the Snap Send Solve App available at <https://www.snapsendsolve.com> which allows reports to be lodged directly with the appropriate authority so issues can be assessed and responded to as soon as possible. The app which is best used on your phone allows you to describe the issue and pinpoint its exact location and if you wish to add a photo.

Once lodged, requests for repair can quickly enter the City of Ballarat system for repair, or be referred to another authority such as the Victorian Government/Vic Roads, if the road falls under State jurisdiction.

Alternatively, residents can submit a request through the City of Ballarat website, email info@ballarat.vic.gov.au or contact Customer Service on ph. 5320 5500.

Every report helps the City of Ballarat build a clearer picture of road conditions across the municipality and respond where maintenance is needed most.

For more information, visit www.snapsendsolve.com

Contributor & Photos supplied by: Amanda Bavin, City of Ballarat.



Seen a pothole? Snap Send Solve it.

Following the wettest winter since 1981, some of Ballarat's roads have been compromised. Some roads are managed by the City of Ballarat and some are managed by the State Government. But you don't need to worry about who manages what road - just Snap Send Solve it and we'll do the rest! Let's get our roads back in shape for spring and summer!

CITY OF BALLARAT

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

Download to Snap!



From 1885 to Today: The History of Tennis in Buninyong

With the local tennis season starting, it is timely to look back at the history of tennis in Buninyong. Recently the Buninyong and District Historical Society received this lovely photo of the Buninyong Lawn Tennis Club in 1905.

The club was established by the young Dr Charles Hardy in 1885, not long after lawn tennis was introduced to Australia. It had evolved from the ancient game of real tennis, played in Europe on a court surrounded by high walls. This ancient game is still played in Ballarat at the Ballarat Real Tennis Club near Sovereign Hill.

Dr Hardy sought permission from the Borough Council to establish a tennis court 'west of the bowling green' in the Buninyong Botanic Gardens. Sporting facilities were ostensibly against the principles and purposes of Botanic Gardens, but as the Council had already approved the bowling club in 1872, it readily agreed and provided some funds, and the club soon became very active, reputedly with one of the best asphalt courts in the colony.

In the twentieth century interest in tennis boomed, with clubs attached to all the local churches, and every rural community having its own courts built at recreation reserves.

Organised tennis competition began in the Buninyong area in 1933 with Scotsburn, Garibaldi, Grenville and Buninyong Methodists forming the Garibaldi and District Tennis Association.

In 1945, the Buninyong and District Tennis Association was formed and organised junior and senior tennis on Saturdays and a midweek ladies competition.

The legacy of that interest is the exceptional Buninyong Tennis Centre, officially opened on 4 March 2012.

From the Historical Society's Collection

This photo from 1905, with the intriguing collection of headgear, was recently scanned for our photo collection, which is now holding over 3,500 photos. We have also acquired a new high-quality scanner, thanks to a grant from the Community Bank Buninyong. This allows us to copy slides, transparencies and even very old glass negatives.

We would love to show you some of our collection on the third Saturday of the month when we are open from 9:30am to 1pm.

Historical Society AGM

We will hold our 44th AGM on Thursday 15 October 2026, and Linda Zibell will be our guest speaker. Visitors are very welcome to attend.

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

Buninyong Botanic Gardens Baths concept plans revealed

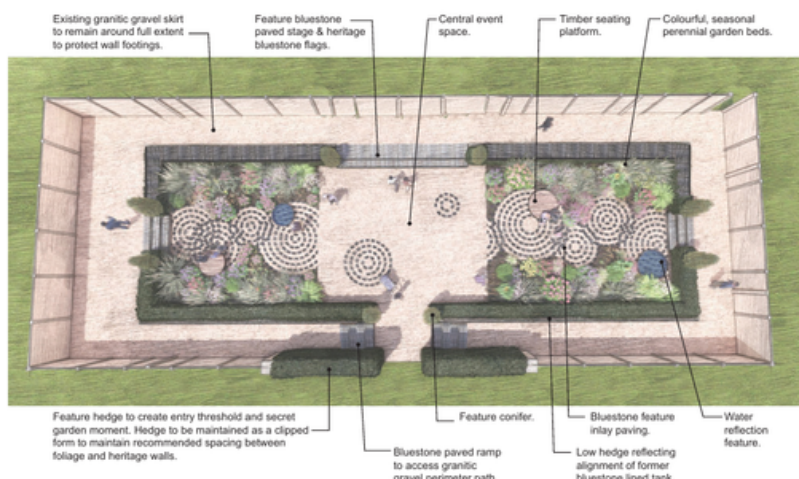
The restoration of the historic walls surrounding the former swimming baths in the Buninyong Botanic Gardens is now complete. This is an important milestone in revitalising this much-loved heritage site and allows the project to move into its next stage.

With the conservation works complete, the City of Ballarat are finalising concept plans for a new garden within the former baths precinct. This long-awaited project has generated strong community interest and there was a considerable turnout of engaged community members at the consultation sessions in August. The City of Ballarat is meeting with key community stakeholders to help inform and refine the plans. Following these sessions, the concept designs were also shared with the wider community for feedback.

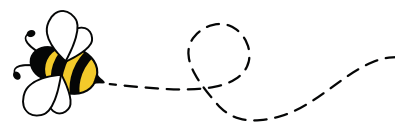
Preliminary concept plans were developed last year. However, the detailed landscape design could only occur after the wall restoration was complete. The City of Ballarat continues to work closely with Heritage Victoria throughout the design process. Any proposed works will require Heritage Victoria approval.

Subject to approvals and community feedback, landscaping is expected to begin in summer 2026/27.

For more information, visit <https://mysay.ballarat.vic.gov.au/buninyong-walled-garden>



A Journey into Beekeeping



Bees are the most amazing insects. Contrary to what is seen in The Bee Movie, all Worker bees are female and make up 99.5% (or more) of a hive's population. The males, chunky Drones with larger black eyes, are there for mating with Queen bees and that's about it. They are fed by the Workers and are usually thrown out before winter as they would eat large amounts of the stores, honey and pollen.

The Queen bee has a long abdomen so she can lay deep down into the waxy cells. In this cold part of Victoria, she stops laying eggs in the latter part of April and begins again in September. During this time, all the bees huddle together in a smaller space to preserve their energy, fanning less to keep the hive warm and therefore eating less. In September the Queen will start laying Drones, then clicks a switch and lays Worker bee eggs. A young Queen will lay 2000 eggs a day. Astounding, isn't it?

Bees are inside the hive for about 21 days, carrying out jobs including cleaning the hive, feeding other bees, removing the dead, blocking up draughts, maintaining hive temperature and dehydrating nectar to become honey. They then spend up to 21 days outside the hive guarding the entrance, foraging and bringing back pollen and nectar. They locate resources and communicate their whereabouts by a 'waggle dance'. This dance gives the angle from the sun and the distance to the flower. It's really hard to believe they can dance on a vertical frame and translate that to flight on a horizontal plane.

Jude's reflections

What began for me as an interest after retirement has become something much more. It's become a PASSION. Beekeeping was something that a friend did years ago and it fascinated me. I've gone from a beginner with two hives to expanding the apiary last year to 17 hives. I've moved out of my place in Ballarat to a few acres to accommodate my growing apiary.

Over the years I've collected many swarms, managed courses for beginner beekeepers and recently hosted Queen Rearing courses. Now, from spring to autumn, my week is full of activities where I learn more about pests and diseases and how to contribute to our club, Ballarat Regional Beekeepers (BRB).

Varroa mite impacts

I've heard so many people say 'Oh yes, we have bees. They're up the back and look after themselves'. In the current environment, that will soon be the end of those bees because we will soon have Varroa mite here, which will decimate our hives if we don't manage them. Feral colonies in trees and other places as well as those 'up the back looking after themselves' will die too. It's only through good beekeeper management that the hives will survive.

One of the most important areas we'll be tackling is how to deal with the dreaded Varroa mite. Australia was the last continent free of the mite until about three years ago. It was initially hoped the mite could be eradicated, but it spread too quickly, and management rather than eradication became the approach. Varroa infestation spread quickly through NSW into Qld and has made its way into South Australia and Victoria.

People ask how fast does Varroa travels. A beekeeper will answer 'it travels as fast as a truck', meaning a truckload of beehives can help spread varroa very quickly, particularly when hives are moved for different nectar flows – as they do when taking them to Creswick for sugar gums, Haddon for messmate and elsewhere for redgums. Varroa is on the edges of Ballarat now and has been found in Clunes, Smeaton, Haddon and Ballan. This spring we expect beekeepers in our area will find the mite in their hives.

'What's the big deal with the Varroa mite?'

Varroa is an external parasitic mite that feeds on honey bees, weakening and potentially killing bees and entire hives. The mites can also transmit viruses, leaving weakened hives susceptible to other pests and diseases. Loss of hive numbers has a direct impact on farming and pollination.

Beekeepers will need to test for Varroa. Small samples of around 300 bees will be 'alcohol washed' regularly to determine mite levels and appropriate treatments. As those in NSW have found out if beekeepers wait to see mites on their bees it will be too late!

Support for beekeepers

Our club will be supporting members and the public with Varroa management, through education sessions, providing advice in our monthly newsletter as well as working together in geographic areas to address appropriate treatments.

People can no longer have bees in the back yard or up the back paddock 'just doing their own thing'. Well-managed hives provide essential pollinators so consider doing a beekeeping course or asking a beekeeper to manage hives on/near your property. Bees will fly up to 5km for pollen and nectar so it's good to know what's happening in your community.

In the last 12 months Ballarat Regional Beekeepers, of which I am a member, developed a club apiary behind Spot on Pots in Delacombe. This provides education for new beekeepers and an opportunity for experienced beekeepers to share their techniques and socialise. Beekeepers love to chat about bees!

BRB runs two basic courses in Haddon. One helps people to work out whether beekeeping is the hobby for them. It's called '2 Bee or not 2 Bee!' 😊 The other, 'Introduction to Beekeeping' is for people who have decided to begin beekeeping or need a refresher.

If you would like help or someone to talk to, please email ballaratregionalbeekeepers@gmail.com or go to our website – www.brb.org.au to find out more.

Contributor: Jude Porteous, Ballarat Regional Beekeepers.

Buninyong Art Prize & Exhibition Returns This October

The Buninyong Art Prize & Exhibition returns from 9 - 11 October, transforming the Buninyong Town Hall into a gallery filled with original artwork from artists across our region and beyond.

Now a much-loved fixture on Buninyong's annual calendar, the Art Prize was first held in 2019 and has continued to grow and evolve. Organised by the Buninyong ARTpreneurs, a subcommittee of Buninyong Community Events Inc., the exhibition provides an opportunity for both established and emerging artists to show their work – and for visitors to discover and purchase original art.

This year the exhibition includes a Botanical category for the first time, joining the range of works entered across the other prize categories and adding something new to explore.

The Community Bank Buninyong continues its generous support through the Community Bank Acquisition Prize. The winning artwork is acquired by the Community Bank and will be displayed at the Buninyong branch, becoming part of its collection and providing an ongoing showcase for the winning artist.

One of the pleasures of the Art Prize each year is seeing the Buninyong Town Hall completely transformed. For three days, the hall becomes a temporary gallery, with exhibition panels showcasing artworks in a huge variety of subjects and styles. There is always something unexpected to discover – and often a piece that you find yourself returning to for a second look.

And you certainly don't need to know anything about art to enjoy the exhibition. Come in, have a wander and choose your own favourite. Everyone who visits can cast a vote in the People's Choice Award, giving the public the chance to have their say and recognise the artwork that captures their attention.

All artworks are available for sale, with the exception of the Community Bank Acquisition Prize winner, which is acquired by the bank. So if something catches your eye, there is a wonderful opportunity to take home an original work while directly supporting the artist who created it.

Behind the scenes, the Buninyong ARTpreneurs team – Trudy Nicholson, Karen Garratt, Marg McKee, Jane Reyne, Noreen Kellett and Lisa Cressey – will once again be busy transforming the town hall and welcoming artists and visitors throughout the weekend.

The Buninyong Art Prize is ultimately about celebrating creativity and bringing people together through art.

So, whether you are a regular visitor or have never been before, make some time to drop into the Buninyong Town Hall from 9 - 11 October.

Come for a browse, bring a friend, cast your People's Choice vote – and perhaps go home with a new piece of art for your wall.

Contributor & Photos Supplied by: Lisa Cressey, Buninyong ARTpreneurs.



Photo – Organisers Trudy Nicholson, Lisa Cressey, Karen Garratt and Marg McKee

BUNINYONG

ART

PRIZE & EXHIBITION - 2026

OPENING NIGHT

FRIDAY 9 OCTOBER

FROM 7PM

\$10 ENTRY

(INCLUDES DRINK/CANAPES)

Book Review

The Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon

The Frozen River sounds like an apt book to read during a cold Buninyong winter! Ariel Lawhon was an author unknown to me but recommended by friends and justifiably so in my opinion. She is a New York Times bestseller of historical fiction, her first novel was published in 2014 and her latest in 2026 (*The Pirate Queen*). Each novel is a standalone story and her books have been translated into numerous languages. *The Frozen River* was published in 2023.

About the book

The Frozen River is inspired by real people and actual events. Martha Ballard, the main character, was a real 18th-century midwife and healer who lived in Hallowell, Maine, where the story is set. Martha delivered over 1,000 babies and never lost a mother in childbirth. Between 1785 and 1812, she kept a detailed daily diary recording her medical cases, the weather, town news, the struggles of her community and local controversies.

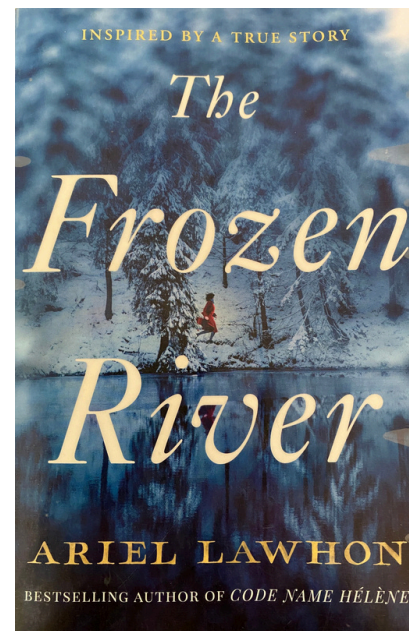
It is the story of the Ballard family, intertwined with the mysterious death of Joshua Burgess and the rape of Reverend Foster's wife, Rebecca. It covers the six months of a severe winter when the Kennebec River that flows through the town and dictates much of the life and labours of the village and its people froze. There are also several flashbacks when actions from these times impacted on the present.

Martha and her husband Ephraim had a family of nine children, three dying from diphtheria in 1769, just weeks apart. They are well-regarded in their town, and despite the arrival of a graduate of the Harvard Medical School, Martha is still the preferred deliverer of babies for most, especially after Dr Page (who had never actually delivered a baby personally) delivered two dead babies. The novel also details the methods and practices of childbirth and doctoring common at that time, the use of herbs and potions and the existence of Indian and negro healers. There is also the crime of Joshua Burgess's murder and the rape trial of Judge North to add to the drama and suspense of the book.

The snow, the cold, the blizzards and the frozen river are so successfully depicted that I felt part of this arctic landscape as I read. The characters are beautifully drawn and the tension at the various court hearings is palpable. Martha is a character to admire: her principles, her strength, her compassion and her determination to stand up for all women. She fought for ultimate justice for those aggrieved by the judicial system of the time and by society itself.

Spoiler alert. The fate of Judge North I found rather excessive and a little unbelievable, but I still felt no sympathy for him. I also found the Author's Note at the end fascinating and informative – but leave it until the book is finished.

Ariel Lawhon is a natural and accomplished storyteller who has you instantly enthralled in the lives of her characters and I am very keen to read more of her works.



Contributor & Photo supplied by: Bev Elshaug.

Our next edition
will be out on
1st December
2026 with
submissions to
be provided by
14th November
2026.

BUNINYONG VILLAGE MARKET

EVERY 5TH SATURDAY OF THE MONTH 1PM TO 5PM

2026 MARKET DATES
SATURDAY 31 OCTOBER
SATURDAY 5 DECEMBER

BUNINYONGVILLAGEMARKET.COM

BUNINYONG COMMUNITY EVENTS

BUNINYONG VILLAGE MARKET
@BUNINYONG_MARKET_OFFICIAL

Bird flu and birds of prey

The first case of H5N1 bird flu was recorded in Western Australia in June of this year. Since then, the spread has been quick in coastal areas with large numbers of greater crested terns in Victoria and South Australia succumbing to the virus. At the time of writing, mid-September 2026, Australia has officially recorded 583 cases across a range of species. The real number is likely to be far higher.

Here at Leigh Valley Hawk and Owl Sanctuary, we maintain a collection of nine birds of prey, a number of which are used in our educational displays at Kryal Castle and for collaborative research. We are taking precautions to protect our valuable and much-loved birds from this disease. So far, it has been slow to spread inland, but it inevitably will.

With help from the Buninyong Vets, we have investigated the availability of vaccines for our birds. As these have already been rolled out for little penguins and certain species held by Zoos Victoria, it seemed worth enquiring as to the possibility of vaccinating our birds. As it turns out, many levels of permission need to be obtained and the vaccine is only supplied in bulk, which must all be used at once and not stored. Two doses are required for each bird. Authorisations needed include a permit from the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicine Authority (APVMA), animal ethics committee approval, and others. A trial needs to be carried out for species not previously vaccinated. In short, the vaccine effectively appears out of reach for small private businesses such as ours and any backyard poultry fancier or bird keeper.

As much as we may worry for our own birds, the risk posed to wild ones is of deeper concern. Any flocking species is at great risk, as are wild birds of prey particularly peregrine falcons. Three have already been identified as victims of H5N1. There will be many more. Two brown falcons and a black kite with bird flu have also been recorded. Reassuringly, bush birds may be largely unaffected.

The arrival of the disease here in Australia was not unexpected but is a great source of sorrow to those of us who love birds, and to anyone who values the natural world. It is worth remembering that this disease, although natural in origin, was able to spread and evolve quickly when it entered domestic poultry flocks overseas, where large bird numbers are housed in close proximity. In this fertile environment, H5N1 rapidly amplified and increased in virulence before spreading into wild bird populations as a superbug.

For more information on how you can protect your own birds, and protect wild ones please visit <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/campaigns/birdflu> Finally, if you know anyone who loves birds, be kind! Social media is currently flooded with snide comments, conspiracy theories and 'jokes' about bird flu. More of these may not be appreciated!

Contributor: Martin Scuffins, Leigh Valley Hawk and Owl Sanctuary.

Photo taken by: David Whelan, Wildpix.



Asterix, Peregrine Falcon.

Don't be a 'bird napper'

Spring is the time for warmer and longer days, blooming wattle, blossom, new growth on trees and fledging young birds.

Fledging is when a young bird grows their flight feathers, begins to stretch and flap their wings, and hops or jumps out of the nest; they're no longer nest bound. Until its wing muscles grow strong enough for flight, they are often found hopping on the ground and flapping its wings rising just centimetres at a time; like human babies learning to crawl and walk, chicks need to develop the strength and dexterity to fly.

For those of us who aren't aware of how birds learn to fly, we may view a young, grounded bird as distressing, assuming it is hurt, fallen from its nest or abandoned, when in fact, the majority of the time, it is a crucial developmental stage. There are a few indicators that can be observed from a distance, suggesting that human intervention may be required; they are stage, capability and injury.

A fledging bird will appear similar to an adult, except it will be smaller in size; its feathers will be shorter and may appear slightly scruffy as its remaining downy soft feathers are shed. If chicks with very few feathers and underdeveloped features are found on the ground, they are not at a fledging stage and need to be placed back in the nest. It is a myth that once touched by a human a chick will be rejected by its parents.

If the young bird is covered with feathers and can walk around freely, it's capable and therefore important to keep domestic pets away to give them enough time and space to learn to fly and to develop the skills required to avoid predators. Fledging birds may be seen in the same place for a day or two and will hide in bushes or somewhere out of sight. Sick or injured birds are less likely to find a good hiding spot, and therefore advice may be required from a wildlife rescuer.

Mother and father birds stay close by to feed and protect their young on the ground until they learn to fly, communicating with unique calls that only they will recognise. During the fledging stage, the young bird's parents will teach them vital skills, including how to forage for food, shelter from the elements and listen and watch for predators. The first 24 – 48 hours of fledging are the most critical for survival and depending on the species of the bird, fledging will last 1 – 10 weeks, with smaller birds developing feathers and strength faster than larger breeds.

If a bird has been bitten or attacked by a cat or another domestic animal, it needs immediate veterinary assistance. Surviving young will be recognised by their parents for 2 - 5 weeks after hatching or fledging, depending on the species and therefore it's important that it is returned to its original fledging location.

Fledging is a beautiful stage of development to watch from a distance and the best course of human intervention is protection of the young from domestic predators and calling an experienced wildlife rescuer for advice if required.

Contributor: Tania Oldaker & Melissa Morey, President, Ballarat Wildlife Rehabilitation & Conservation (www.bwrac.org.au)

Photo supplied by: Georgia MacGuire.

The Village Voice team would like to thank BWRAC for the approval of use of their photo of magpie fledglings for the front cover.



Buninyong Mount Helen Fire Brigade

The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) has officially declared an active El Niño, with recent models indicating it is on track to become the strongest event in the modern era. El Niño generally brings hotter and drier weather conditions to Victoria with the possibility of an early start to the fire danger period.

Now is the time to prepare your property and review your bushfire survival plan.

A well-prepared property significantly increases a home's chance of surviving a bushfire.

- remove dead leaves, branches and loose bark from trees
- remove dead twigs, leaves and needles from shrubs and other smaller plants
- prune excess foliage (especially dead or dry foliage) from trees, shrubs and other woody plants
- remove the lower branches of trees. This reduces the chances that a surface fire will burn up into the canopy – remove branches up to 1.5 metres above the ground, although specific heights will depend on the age of the tree and its species
- keep all lawn and grasses short to reduce fuel load and minimise the chances of surface fire
- trim trees and other vegetation near powerlines
- remove bark, heavy mulch, wood piles and any other flammable materials close to your home and sheds
- cut back branches that are growing near buildings and rake up leaves, bark and twigs.
- clear gutters, decks and roof valleys
- move garden waste and rubbish away from your home, buildings and fence line
- ensure emergency vehicles can easily access your property in an emergency
- we need an area of 4m wide x 4m high to safely get a fire truck through your gate and up your driveway
- we also need an area to safely turn the truck around.

For detailed suggestions use the QR code below to download CFA's booklet on Preparing Your Property.

Contributor: John McLeod, Buninyong Mount Helen Fire Brigade.

Carols in the Park returns for its 31st year

This year marks the 31st running of the Carols in the Park. Originally a concept developed by the combined churches of the district and the Lions Club of Buninyong Mt Helen, the Lions club commenced preparations for the 2026 event as soon as the 2025 event wrapped up.

On 5 December, the bump-in crew will be in De Soza Park at 8am in anticipation of up to 2000 people filling the park for the evening show. In the lead-up we have volunteers setting up the decorations, cutting cakes, rehearsing, recruiting performers and, of course, putting up the tree and the Nativity scene. It's a community event and it just goes to show how supportive our town is when it comes to an event like this. Volunteering can do wonderful things for those involved – meeting new friends is just one of them.

In these pictures you can see some of the Lions members and volunteers from previous years, erecting the Nativity scene and making preparations for the stage and Christmas tree.

Event Details: Event starts at 5pm with a sausage sizzle and Carols commence at 7pm on the 5 December 2026.

Contributor & Photos supplied by: David Searl, Lions Club of Buninyong-Mt Helen.

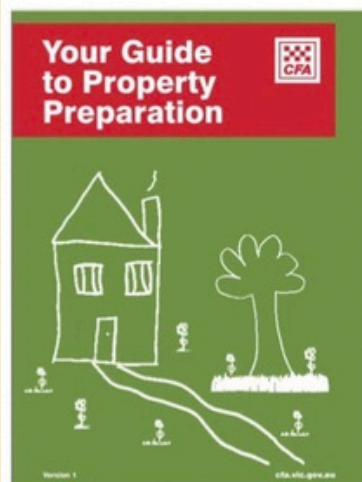


Buninyong Fire Station Open Day 31 October 2026 12pm to 3:30pm

This is a great opportunity to look over the station, talk to brigade members and check out some of the important equipment purchased with your generous donations.

There will be activities for the kids, demonstrations, a BBQ and hands-on inspection of the trucks.

We will also have a Get Fire Ready Stand with advice, resources and experienced firefighters to meet and discuss any issues you have about preparing and planning for the bushfire season.



Preparing Your Property





A batch of new bird boxes.



Safety steps for unsteady people.



New member John with his trial reindeer.



Colin's rocking chair.



Jeff's repaired window frame.

'Husband Day Care Centre'

What a busy few weeks we've had! Lots of our members were struck down with the current version of 'flu, which meant the healthier ones definitely had to step up! And step up they did! So this message is really one of thanks to everyone who assisted.

Landcare requested a batch of bird boxes- they must have liked them because a heap more have just arrived for repair! These boxes are a great way of helping our local wildlife and Landcare is up front filling the gap. Good on yer', Landcare! A big thanks to all who pitched in doing bird boxes – it was a big ask. So, in no particular order, thanks go to Andy, Andy, Ross, Russell, Bob, 2 Bob, Bill, Leister, Graham, Nick, Jack, Graeme, John, Craig, Noel, Colin, Feher and Ruben.

Jeff made new glazing bars for an ancient window frame from one of our most historic houses, while Gerrard Z has been doing quite a lot of painting of park benches. Colin restored a lovely old rocking chair and Keith made a batch of safety steps for those who are unsteady on their feet. All of our people have managed to fix up lots of the smaller and less sexy jobs that Buninyong seems to produce. We also have a small but dedicated team with special skills who keep our merry band of miscreants ticking over. So, thanks Chris, Gary, Ross, Andrew, Ken, Bob and Russell.

During the month we restored two old light fittings out of the vintage 'Red Rattler' train carriages. They are now ready for their new owner, a restaurant in Ballarat. We also restored five damaged bentwood café chairs, and nearing the finish is a particularly good-quality cement mixer which is almost ready for sale.

We gratefully received a stack of useful timber during the month from a large business. These donations help immensely.

We are currently trialling a wooden Christmas tree for a group who want to dress up the children's section of the Buninyong Cemetery for the festive season. What a great idea!

A new member, John, is trialling a new reindeer. He commented, "So! This is one of those sheds where you come to be abused!" 😊 Not quite, but we don't take ourselves too seriously. If you have a husband or partner who keeps getting under your feet, send him down to us! The BMS 'Husband Day Care Centre'. Think of the peace and quiet you'll get for under \$60 a year! Best times are 9am to noon, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Final message – we still have a small quantity of the garden beds for sale, \$15 each. Get yours while you can!

Contributor & Photos supplied by: David Senior, Buninyong Mens Shed.

Buninyong Library Service

Buninyong's regular Thursday afternoon scheduled Library visit at the Community house ended on Thursday 24th September 2026 and is being replaced with a Library Locker.

Residents in Buninyong will have round-the-clock access to thousands of library items closer to home with the introduction of a new Library Locker in Buninyong. The initiative supports the City of Ballarat's commitment to making library services more accessible and aligns with the Libraries and Learning Strategy 2022-2027, which aims to connect more residents with library resources through flexible and inclusive service delivery.

Supported by more than \$95,000 from the Victorian Government's Living Libraries Infrastructure Program and an additional contribution of more than \$47,000 from the City of Ballarat, the project provides modern library infrastructure designed to meet the evolving needs of the community.

Located outside Foodworks, the Library Locker provides a convenient and accessible way for residents to borrow and return library items 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Residents can reserve a wide range of items from the Central Highlands Libraries catalogue through the service, including children's books, fiction, non-fiction titles and physical media such as DVDs, and place an order for collection at the Buninyong locker.

A Ballarat Libraries membership is free, giving residents access to the entire Central Highlands library collection. Once residents join Ballarat Libraries and collect their library card, they can browse the library catalogue, reserve items and select their preferred locker location for collection.

City of Ballarat staff will make scheduled visits to the lockers weekly, to ensure items are regularly available for collection. Once an item has been delivered to a locker, residents receive a notification to collect the item. Borrowed items can later be returned to any Library Locker location or any Ballarat Libraries branch.

Contributor: Caylee, City of Ballarat.



From Lemon Tree to Laundry Cupboard – Put Those Lemons to Work!

Spring has arrived, the days are getting longer and it's time to throw open the windows and tackle some of those cleaning jobs that have been waiting patiently through winter! With so many Buninyong gardens home to lemon trees, many of us have more lemons than we know what to do with. Why not put some of those lemons to good use? Here are a few simple homemade cleaning recipes using everyday ingredients, including citrus peel. They're easy to make, inexpensive and handy to have in the laundry cupboard.

Citrus-infused vinegar

You'll need:
1 litre plain white vinegar
Citrus peel

Place the citrus peel into the vinegar and allow to infuse. The longer it infuses, the more citrusy it becomes.

See these recipes for use of your citrus infused vinegar.



Pro tip: Start infusing a new bottle whenever you open a bottle of finished citrus-infused vinegar. That way, you'll always have at least one bottle in the laundry cupboard ready to go.

Washing powder

You'll need:
1kg Lectric washing soda
1kg bicarb soda
500g sodium percarbonate

Only 1 tablespoon per wash is needed to clean your clothes.

Pro tip: Add citrus-infused vinegar to the fabric softener outlet for an ultra-clean finish.

Super-Duper Spray as a multi purpose household cleaner

This multi-purpose spray is quick and easy to make.

You'll need:
1 part citrus-infused vinegar
1 part water
Squirt of concentrated dish liquid

Mix together in a spray bottle to use whilst cleaning.



Dishwasher cleaner

For a simple dishwasher clean:

1. Sprinkle bicarb soda over the inside of the dishwasher
2. Place a bowl of citrus-infused vinegar on the bottom drawer, where you would normally put a plate.
3. Run the dishwasher on the hottest cycle.

These simple recipes are a great way to make use of citrus peel and a few everyday ingredients that you may already have in the laundry or kitchen. They're easy to prepare, inexpensive and handy to have ready for those spring-cleaning jobs! So, before giving away those extra lemons, why not save some of the peel and make your own cleaning supplies? Or when you see that big basket of lemons on the nature strip take up the kind offer of one of your neighbours.

Always check the manufacturer's instructions for your appliances and cleaning products before using homemade cleaning solutions.

Contributor: Megan, C/- Shell Corcoran, Village Voice Community Reporter.

DID YOU KNOW...

Neil's Walk – an 800m section of the Wallaby Track/Great Dividing Trail, runs from the Mount Helen bridge, at the entrance to Buninyong and follows the creek to the Winter Street bridge in DeSoza Park and was named after Neil McCracken (1941-2019). Neil was passionate about Buninyong, especially the connected walking trails. He volunteered his time and energy to causes such as the BDCA, the Meeting Tree and the restoration of the Old Library. He produced a small book, Buninyong Heritage Walks. The Walk, running parallel to Warrenheip street is named to commemorate Neil's immense contribution to the community.

A Buninyong and District Community Association meeting on 22 August 2019 approved Neil's Walk as a community project, but the Covid-19 epidemic put a hold on the plans for more than a year. However, in 2021, action got underway again with the assistance of the Ballarat City Council, the Buninyong Community Bank, the BDCA and the Great Dividing Trail Committee.

NEIL'S WALK NEEDS YOU!

Neil's Walk is used daily by runners, bike riders, walkers, kids, families, locals and visitors but it needs care and maintenance. A very small band of enthusiastic volunteers help weed, plant, clear and manage the track and its surrounds. They are always keen to recruit any extra hands to assist, so please keep your eyes out for notices of regular working bees, advertised on a laminated sign on trees beside the walk or via the BDCA Facebook page. There is no need to register, just turn up on the day. Everyone is welcome. Neil's Walk is a wonderful Buninyong asset. Please help us keep it in the manner Neil would have wanted.

Contributors & Photos supplied by: Robert and Bev Elshaug.



Understanding Type 2 Diabetes

Diabetes is a condition in which there is too much glucose (sugar) in the blood. Glucose is the body's main source of energy, and a hormone called insulin helps move glucose from the bloodstream into our cells, where it can be used for energy.

In people with type 2 diabetes, the pancreas may not produce enough insulin, or the body may not respond to insulin effectively. As a result, glucose builds up in the bloodstream. In the short term, high blood glucose can cause symptoms such as tiredness, increased thirst, and the need to urinate more often. Over time, consistently high glucose levels can damage blood vessels and nerves, increasing the risk of complications affecting the kidneys, heart, eyes and feet.

There is a strong genetic component to type 2 diabetes but lifestyle factors also play an important role, including: weight; diet; physical activity and smoking. Type 2 diabetes most commonly develops gradually in adults over 45, although it is increasingly being diagnosed in younger people. Before developing type 2 diabetes, many people go through a stage called pre-diabetes, where blood glucose levels are higher than normal but not yet high enough to be diagnosed as diabetes.

Pre-diabetes usually causes no obvious symptoms, so it can go undetected. The good news is that pre-diabetes can often be reversed or its progression delayed. For many people, changes to diet, physical activity, and weight, where appropriate, can help bring their glucose levels back towards the normal range and prevent or significantly delay the development of type 2 diabetes.

There is no cure for type 2 diabetes, but it can often be managed effectively. Healthy eating and regular physical activity are important foundations of treatment. Over time, many people also need medicines to help control their glucose levels, and some may eventually require insulin injections. GLP-1 receptor agonists are a newer class of medicines that may be used for some people whose glucose levels are not adequately controlled by tablets alone.

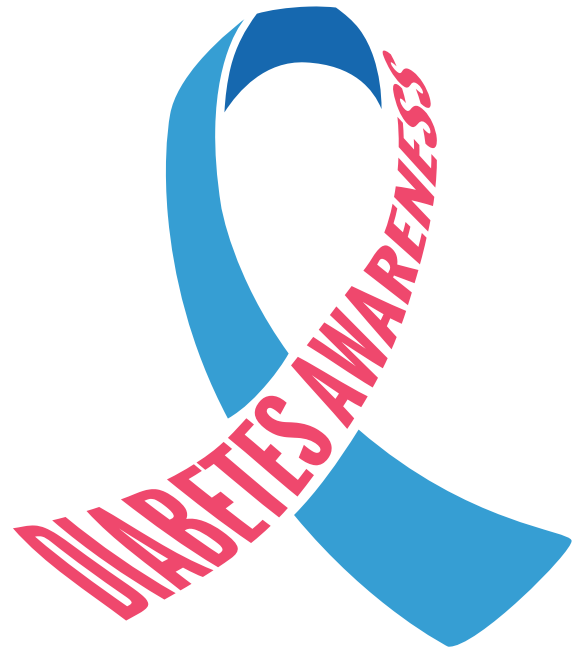
Some pharmacies offer blood glucose checks, which are useful in identifying unexpectedly high or low glucose levels that may warrant a follow-up. This test is for screening only and cannot diagnose diabetes. A GP or nurse practitioner can arrange appropriate laboratory tests to confirm a diagnosis. After diagnosis, depending on individual needs, care is usually shared across a team including a diabetes educator, dietitian, optometrist and podiatrist.

If you would like more information about diabetes or are concerned about your risk, please speak with your pharmacist, GP or a diabetes educator.

You can book a free diabetes risk assessment at your local UFS pharmacy. This convenient service can help identify your risk of developing type 2 diabetes, even before symptoms appear, and provides guidance on steps you can take to reduce your risk. Book an appointment online: <https://ufs.com.au/diabetesrisk>

Reference: <https://www.diabetesaustralia.com.au/about-diabetes>

Contributor & Photo supplied by: Shane Ingeme, Pharmacist, Buninyong UFS Pharmacy.



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

NOTICE OF AGM
THURSDAY 22 OCTOBER at
7pm
Buninyong Community House

**Join YOUR Community
Association!**

Check out our website!
www.buninyongcommunityassociation.com.au

Freemasons Support Uniting Ballarat's Project Zero

Further to our article in the previous edition of the Village Voice, Sturt Buninyong Lodge No. 23 and Freemasons Foundation have contributed a further \$7,500 to Uniting Ballarat's Street-2-Home programs.

The latest support resulted in the purchase of 24 clothing packs for women and men containing underwear, socks, a shirt, windcheater, track pants, jacket and carry pack. These care packs provide for a change of clothes following showering or being caught in heavy rain. The grant also provided 12 Ruffy swags that have increased security, provide more comfortable sleeping conditions and readily fold into its own built-in backpack.

In the Ballarat CBD, there were 66 rough sleepers and over time Uniting's Project Zero has found accommodation for 22. The agency continues to provide ongoing support to the remaining people.

Uniting provides material aid and aims to make life more comfortable for those who have no option but to sleep rough.

Sturt Buninyong Lodge (SBU) have supported Uniting Ballarat for more than 40 years and in conjunction with Freemasons Foundation provided over \$30,000 in support to their programs during the past 10 years.

The latest presentation was made by Freemasons Foundation Director John Patterson and SBU Secretary Ron Fleming.



Photo: Ron Fleming, John Patterson, Uniting staff Ada Watson Team Leader with Linsie Davies, Faith O'Malley and Stacey Park. (image supplied by Uniting Ballarat)



Further news

Sturt Buninyong Lodge also recently recognised, during the July meeting, three Freemasons, with a total of 160 years of membership with the Buninyong and later Sturt Buninyong Masonic Lodges.

Contributor & Photos Supplied by: Ron Fleming, Sturt Buninyong Lodge Secretary.

Buninyong Primary School Concert – A Journey Through Worlds!

Buninyong Primary School recently celebrated one of the highlights of our school calendar - our 2026 whole-school concert at Founders Hall, Federation University.

Across three wonderful performances, our students took to the stage with enthusiasm, confidence and plenty of energy. Every year level had the opportunity to shine, with colourful costumes, music, dancing and lots of memorable moments. This year's concert theme was 'Journey Through Worlds' and centred on character strengths, with each performance contributing another piece to the puzzle and celebrating the qualities that help us learn, grow and connect with others.

A whole-school production of this size is a tremendous team effort. We are incredibly proud of our students for the commitment and courage they showed and grateful to our staff and volunteers for the many hours of planning, rehearsing and preparation that took place behind the scenes.

We also extend a huge thank you to our families and wider Buninyong community for supporting the event so enthusiastically. Performing to such warm and appreciative audiences made the experience even more special for our students.

Most importantly the concert was a wonderful celebration of creativity, teamwork and our school community and a fantastic opportunity for our students to create memories that we hope will stay with them for many years to come.

Contributor & Photos supplied by: Nicole Phillips, Assistant Principal, Buninyong Primary School.

Photo credit: Paul Shire.



Buninyong Cemetery: Preserving a living history

The story of the Buninyong Cemetery continues from the last edition to include beyond it's Goldfields beginnings. In this second part, I explore the cemetery's Chinese heritage, recent restoration projects and the ongoing work that ensures this historic site remains an important part of our community.

Chinese deaths

In the 1860s, a very small area had been designated for the burial of Chinese people, large numbers of whom had come to the goldfields from southern China during the 1850s and 1860s. The first Chinese burial, Ah Wing, 'found dead', was in 1874.

Most of the Chinese on the Buninyong goldfields had walked the 450 km or so from Robe in South Australia, having disembarked there to avoid paying the severe 'arrival' tax imposed on them by the Victorian Government.

Until 2023, the Chinese area was an untended, sloping grassed area with only three memorial gravestones clumped together under a gum tree. In that year, the Cemetery Trust restored the Chinese area (pictured) and erected detailed interpretive signage.

Other recent projects

In 2020, the Cemetery Trust was asked to consider providing a place in the cemetery where relatives of people buried, or whose ashes were spread elsewhere might be remembered.

The construction of the Dell of Memories followed along the previously overgrown creek that flows through the cemetery.

The Dell is now a series of rock pools, garden beds, trees and large boulders on which small brass plaques may be placed to commemorate those whose remains are to be found in places as disparate as the Blue Mountains, Bass Strait, the Murray River, England or on a farm at Yeungroon.

Another major recent project has been the installation of small signs adjacent to 52 graves considered to be 'notable' or having some local significance. Each has about 100 words of text. An example is shown above.

A free 12-page, full-colour booklet - A Visitor's Guide to the Buninyong Cemetery ... and its Notable Graves — is available in the two cemetery rotundas and from the Buninyong Information Centre in Warrenheip Street. In it, a map shows details and the locations of the 'notable' graves, including that of Thomas Hiscock.

Yet another recent project was the 2023 planting of an avenue of 50 advanced ornamental pear trees along the central road through the Lawn section. This has been named the McCarty-Whykes Avenue to recognise the long service given to the Cemetery Trust by John (Jock) McCarty and Dawn Whykes (Hazlett) both of pioneering district families.

Present Day

Today, the Buninyong Cemetery is an ordered, grassy, well-tended, well-signed parkland area, with its creek, small waterhole and rock pools, dotted with a mixture of very old and recent tree and rose plantings.

The Cemetery's biggest challenge today is the tension between its rapidly growing popularity (in the past 12 months there were some 80 burials, compared with an average of about 30–40 in the past decade) and available space.



Recently, a major political win was achieved when a large part of the roadways surrounding the cemetery, unused for 170 years, were declared as 'Closed Roads' and will soon be available for cemetery use. More than two acres of land will be involved.

So there will still be another couple of decades when the Buninyong Cemetery will continue to play its major role in community life - and death!

Contributor: Dr Barry Fitzgerald OAM. Chairman, Buninyong Cemetery Trust.



Local Talent, Australian Record: Grace Crowe Takes on the World

At 17, Grace Crowe spent a week in August doing what most of us only ever watch on a screen. She pulled on the green and gold at Hayward Field in Eugene, Oregon and raced for Australia at the World Athletics U20 Championships. "Not many 17-year olds get to fly overseas and compete for their own country, so that will definitely be an experience I'll take with me for life," Grace said.

It started before she even landed. "Even just going over on the plane with a bunch of athletes, all sharing the one goal of getting on that podium," she said.

On 8 August, Grace ran the third leg of the women's 4 x 100m relay alongside Thewbelle Philp, Zara Hagan and Emilia Reed. The team won their heat in 43.44 seconds, the fastest qualifying time of the round, breaking the Australian under-20 record and setting an Oceania area U20 record on the way. Grace's third leg was timed at 10.61 seconds, the quickest third-leg run by anyone in the heats.

The next afternoon the four of them lined up again in the final. Jamaica took it in 42.89, ahead of Switzerland and Belgium. Australia finished fourth, a fingertip away from a world championship medal. "Even though we didn't get on the podium, we still got an Australian and Oceania record in the 4x100m under-20 relay, so definitely very proud of that," Grace said.

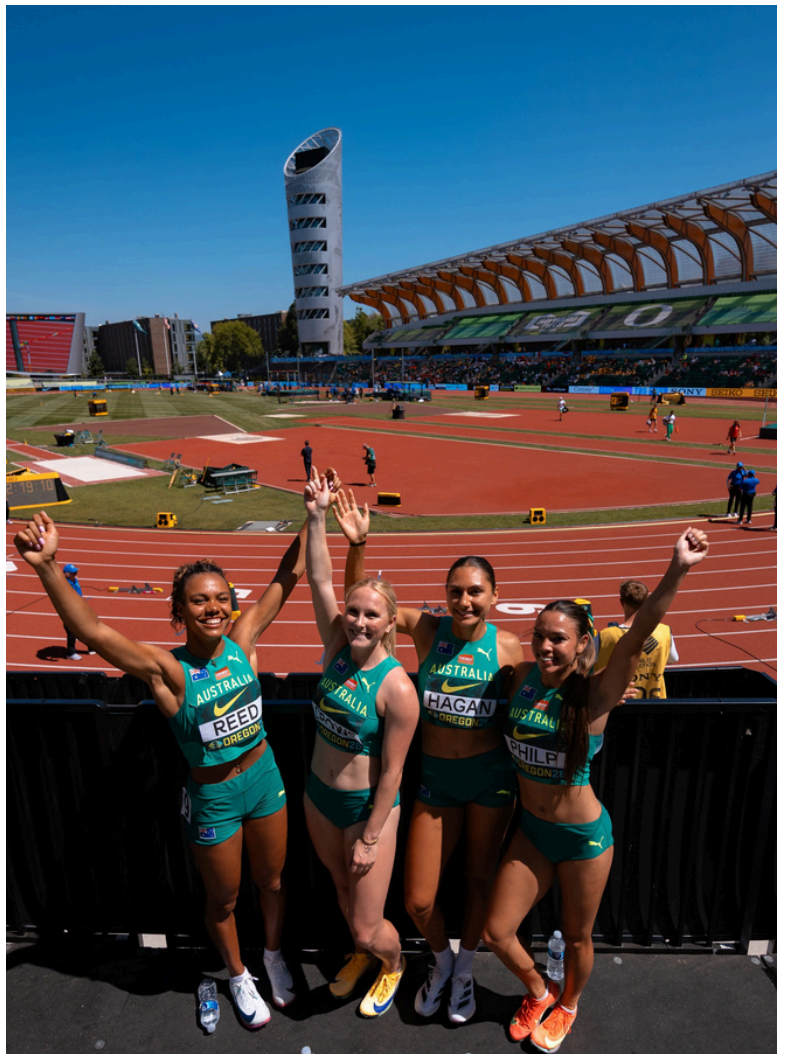
Ask her about the part she didn't see coming, though, and it has nothing to do with the track. "There's so many different cultures and countries, all in the one space. We had to share a dining hall, accommodation and the whole track experience with every other country, so that was pretty cool. I've made lifelong friends now in that team, and it's just crazy to think they're all over Australia now."

Getting a young athlete from Buninyong to a start line in Oregon takes more than a fast pair of legs. It takes flights, entries, accommodation, coaching, early mornings and a lot of people quietly backing her. Community Investment support from Community Bank Buninyong, made possible by customers who choose to bank with us, helped get Grace over there to do her thing.

That is the model working exactly as it should. Local people bank locally, the profits come back here, and they turn into things like a 17-year-old from our community running the fastest third leg in the field at a world championship. This is Grace's 2026 Oregon story. The Community Bank were proud to play a small part in it.

We're doing good things together. To find out how visit – www.communitygrowshere.com.au, call our branch locally in Buninyong on ph. 5341 8066 or email – buninyongmailbox@bendigoadelaide.com.au

Contributor & Photos supplied by: Sam Elshaug, Community Bank Buninyong.





Our Growing Community

Over winter Buninyong Sustainability has been busy preparing our community garden beds for a new year of growing, sharing and connecting.

Our community gardens are a wonderful place to grow fresh produce, share gardening knowledge and skills, swap seeds and ideas and enjoy the simple pleasure of being part of something together. Whether you're an experienced gardener or just starting out, there's always something to learn and someone to share it with.

We have a range of garden spaces available, including low-level and raised beds, as well as food cubes. Beds are available to members on a yearly basis for just \$48 - that's only \$4 a month.

There is some water available on site, with two small tanks capturing rainwater from the shelter roof. We also provide some pea straw to help nourish and protect the rich soil in the beds, which has been lovingly cared for by our gardening community over many years.

Growing a greener community space

Our work towards the garden's masterplan has continued too, with new native garden beds and large parkland trees planted over winter. We're committed to nurturing this special location as a welcoming, productive and beautiful green space for the whole community to enjoy.

Come and grow with us

Our community garden is about much more than growing food. It's a place

to meet neighbours, make connections, share knowledge, lend a hand, exchange seeds and celebrate the seasons together.

We're always looking for more people to become members and get involved. You might like to take on a garden bed, help out around the gardens, join one of our working bees or simply drop in when we're gathering for some conversation, camaraderie, seeds and goodwill.

Whether you have a green thumb, a little spare time or simply an interest in being part of your local community, we'd love to have you involved.

Come and grow with us - there's always room for another gardener!

Get in touch:

Email – buninyongsustainability@gmail.com

Website – www.buninyongsustainability.org.au

Facebook – www.facebook.com/buninyongsustainability/

Contributor: Shell Corcoran, Buninyong Sustainability.



Tennis Open Day a Hit with the Community

The courts were full and the little hot shots were lined up to get their turn to hit a ball at the Tennis Open Day in September. Hosted by Buninyong Community Tennis Club in conjunction with the Buninyong & District Tennis Association, the Open Day was a wonderful afternoon of tennis, community and getting involved in local sport.

The hospitality was laid on in true community style, with a free BBQ, loan racquets and balls for anyone keen to have a go and plenty of enthusiastic volunteers on hand to answer questions, welcome newcomers and help with the registration process.

Every court was full, and just as impressive was the overwhelmingly supportive tennis community, with players readily sharing encouragement, tips and a hand for those picking up a racquet for the first time or returning to the court after a few years away.

Buninyong Community Tennis Club President Paul O'Beirne said, "It was fantastic to see more than 200 people of all ages getting involved and enjoying the opportunity to have a go. That's what the day was all about."

Open Day brought players and families from across the greater region and it was the perfect opportunity for local clubs to welcome new players ahead of the upcoming season, which starts mid-October.

And to top it all off, the weather delivered some blue skies and no rain making for a promising start to the summer tennis season.

Contributor & Photos supplied by: Paul O'Beirne, Buninyong Tennis Club President.



Michaela Settle MP

State Member for Eureka



The condition of our roads is not good enough

**SO, WE ARE SPENDING \$352 MILLION
MORE FOR ROAD REPAIRS, DOUBLING THE
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Fixing more potholes , sooner.

Most of the potholes will be removed over the second half of this year and into January, when it's driest.



Catherine King MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BALLARAT



Contact
Catherine

\$13.5M for better local roads

The Albanese Government is providing **\$13.5 million** through the Roads to Recovery program to help Ballarat City Council upgrade, maintain and improve local roads.

This funding for the 2024-2025 to 2028-2029 financial years will support safer travel and better road conditions.

Standing up for our community!

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



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