

Berringa Community News

Autumn 2026

News and views from the residents of Bellbridge, Bethanga, Granya & Talgarno
Circulation: 550



Local group led by Peter Klein, Platypus Jam, provided music for the crowd at the Australia celebration at the Hume Boat Club, Bellbridge

Berringa Peninsula Australia Day 2026

Citizen of the Year: Peter Star



Councillor Denise Anderson presents award to Peter Star

Peter has long been a respected and active member of our community. As Vice President of the Victorian Farmers Federation, he not only represents the state, but also serves as our local advocate. Over the past year, he has been heavily involved in addressing the challenges arising from the new State Government Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund. Peter has been committed and forthright in explaining the significant impact these changes will have on farming communities, and he is expected to play a key role again next year as farmers face substantial cost increases.

Peter has been a CFA member for approximately 45 years, serving as a former Captain of Talgarno CFA and currently as a Deputy Group Officer. His commitment to volunteer service is well known and deeply appreciated.

A member of the Bethanga Golf Club for more than 40 years, Peter also serves on the Springdale Recreation Reserve committee. His community spirit is evident, whether helping with local organisations or selling raffle tickets at the Bethanga Hotel on a Friday night.

Widely regarded as approachable, thoughtful, and a true gentleman, Peter Star is an outstanding community contributor in every sense.

COMMUNITY REPORTS

This section is for individuals in the community to share their stories, ideas, photos, poems and reports about local happenings, etc. Email items to info@berringacommunitynews.com.au or post/drop in to 341 Wisers Creek Road, Talgarno.

Community Group/Event of the Year : Hume Boat Club



Jarrod Hay, Commodore of the Hume Boat Club accepts the award.

The Hume Boat Club first opened in October 1954, an incredible 71 years ago. From the beginning, fast racing boats have been a proud feature of the club, attracting generations of families from Bellbridge and beyond. Over the decades, the club has fostered many champion skiers and wakeboarders, continuing a strong tradition of skill, sportsmanship, and community spirit.

The Hume Boat Club has been at the heart of local life in Bellbridge for both members and the wider community. They regularly host a wide range of events, including New Year's Eve celebrations, Lazy Sundays, barbecues, trivia nights, and even the occasional dress-up night. The club has also provided its venue for Peninsula Seasonal Markets, Tallangatta Health exercise classes, and local community group meetings such as the BPCN. Each year, the club plays a key role in hosting the Christmas Carols and Australia Day celebrations in partnership with the Rotary Club and Towong Shire- events that bring the entire peninsula together.

The Hume Boat Club is more than a venue; it is a community hub. The grounds are always immaculate, a reflection of the care and pride of the committee and members who love this place deeply. Thank you to the Hume Boat Club

committee and members past and present for their ongoing dedication, generosity, and community spirit..

Certificate of Achievement: Colin Maginnity

Colin is a long-term resident of Bellbridge and a member of the Rotary Club of Bellbridge Lake Hume for more than 20 years. His contribution to the community cannot be questioned. He was a founding member of the group that originally established the now hugely popular Bellbridge walking track and single-handedly maintained it for more than 15 years. With his wife Anne, he raised his family in Bellbridge and was involved with the establishment of the then Community Centre, now Preschool. He has been a member of most local committees at various times and has always made a fuss-free contribution as a quiet achiever. His contribution to Rotary has been recognised with the awarding of a Paul Harris Fellow.

Certificate of Achievement: Madeleine Northey

Maddy Northey has been a member of the fire brigade in Bethanga for many years and has always been willing to do whatever jobs that are needed to be completed. She has been a trainer and mentor for the Bethanga and Talgarno Junior Brigade since it began

Young Citizen of the Year: Lachlan Medwell

Lachlan Medwell has been wakeboarding since the age of four and began competing at the age of twelve. His dedication to the sport has seen him compete at the 2024 World Championships in Queensland and achieve success as a three-time Moomba Masters competitor.

Demonstrating remarkable initiative, Lachlan has largely funded his sporting pursuits by collecting bottles and cans around Bellbridge, showing both commitment and community spirit. He has also begun teaching and mentoring younger riders, generously passing on his skills and experience. Lachlan completed an accredited wakeboard judging course, giving him responsibility for judging competitions at the national level. From an early age, he has shown a strong work ethic, starting his first job at KFC at 14, later working at Auski, all while pursuing his sporting goals. Lachlan continues to be a positive role model, known for his dedication, initiative, and willingness to give back to the wakeboarding community.



Snack Shack Opened and closed..

Towong Shire Council Mayor, Cr Peter Tolsher officially opened the new Snack Shack container café and Walking Trail in Bellbridge at a well **attended event on 7 December 2025.**

Mayor Tolsher said the new Snack Shack and Walking Trail are wonderful new additions to the Bellbridge landscape that will have wide ranging benefits for locals and Towong Shire.

“The Snack Shack and new 4.2km Walking Trail will provide new ways for the Bellbridge community to come together to connect, relax, and exercise whilst taking in the world class views of Lake Hume,” Cr Tolsher said.

On 9 February 2026 Towong Shire Council advised that the lease for the Bellbridge Container Café, currently known as the Bellbridge Snack Shack, has ceased.

Council would like to sincerely thank the café’s first operator, Dylan, for their efforts and commitment in establishing and delivering the café’s operations to date.

Council understands the disappointment felt by the community, particularly following the patience shown while awaiting the café’s opening toward the end of last year. We acknowledge the importance of this facility to Bellbridge and the surrounding area.

Mayor Peter Tolsher said Council remains committed to seeing the café reopened.

“We recognise how important the Bellbridge Container Café is to the local community and visitors, and we share the community’s disappointment that it is not currently operating,” Mayor Tolsher said.

Council released an Expression of Interest (EOI) for a new operator for the café.. The EOI closed on 27 February Council looks forward to working with the community to see the Bellbridge Container Café operating again as soon as possible.



Street Library now Open at the Container Café, Bellbridge

Towong Shire Council has installed a free community book exchange on the Bellbridge Container Café deck!

We've repurposed a disused commercial fridge into a new self-serve library for the community.

Signage on the shelf explains how it works – take a book, leave a book, or pass one on. No fees and no due dates!



Good news For the time being the **Bethanga Store** is now open on Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday from 9 am until 2 pm

Help give us a Peninsula Market in 2026



The Peninsula Seasonal Markets have been running for around five years and have been a fabulous way to showcase and promote our local produce and crafts.

In more recent years, we've found ourselves needing to invite stallholders from further afield. To ensure stallholders continue to enjoy strong sales, we've scaled the market back to once a year, usually at Christmas time.

Our small committee of four, including myself and three busy working parents, is now looking for a new committee to continue keeping this wonderful community market going.

Unfortunately, the committee for the Peninsula Seasonal Markets and I have had a few challenges getting a meeting together before Christmas. Thank you so much to those who expressed interest in joining the committee.

All positions are vacant; Chair/secretary, Treasurer, Social media/marketing and Stall holder co-ordinator.

The next meeting will be on March 19th at 6 pm at the Bethanga Hotel.

Please come along,

Denise Anderson

FOR HIRE

Bobcat
Posthole Borer
Trencher
Tip Truck
6x1 bucket

Soil road base supplied, grass slashing
and fuel reduction , firebreaks

0429 686 323

The Last Lake Hume Cycle Challenge

Over 25 years ago there was an annual triathlon (swim, cycle, run) competition held in Bellbridge on Lake Hume. This morphed into a cycling event and over the years, riders took off from different venues, eg Noreuil Park, Wodonga Racecourse and Ebdon Reserve. Each time there has been a venue change, it has been as a result of increased restrictions, and therefore costs, about using public roads and the growing requirements of providing signage, marshals, plans and manpower.

This year the cycle challenge was held on Sunday the 8th of February and attracted just short of 300 riders from as far away as the Mornington and Bellarine peninsulas and Sydney. It is not unusual for international riders to



participate and this year riders could choose to cycle 114km, 78km, 64km, 24km or 14km. The latter being a family ride where children participated for free.



The Rotary Club of Bellbridge Lake Hume has been joined by the Rotary Club of Albury North for the last 4 years in hosting this event and as with every cycle challenge for the last 14 years, the revenue raised has gone to the Albury Wodonga Regional Cancer Centre. With this years amount included, the money raised and donated to the Cancer Centre has gone past the \$300,000 mark.

Bethanga Gymkhana Rides again!

It's a crisp, cool Easter Saturday morning, under a shaft of dim light out at the back shed, a ten-year-old girl is standing on an upturned milk crate, deftly plaiting her pony's mane, folding those plaits into the neatest rosettes she can muster.



Later, when Mum and Dad have hooked up their rusty old float, and the whole family has made their way to the quiet little town of Bethanga, she'll unload Misty, tie her up to the float with a bag of tasty lucerne, and carefully braid her tail. She'll paint Misty's little hooves black and shiny, gloss up her soft nose with some Vaseline, and dust off her coat

with a soft cloth.

When the judge in the middle of the ring calls out for "Class 17 – Local Rider, Ten and Under", she'll nervously climb up into the saddle, back straight, thumbs up, heels down, and step proudly into the ring. Somewhere in the crowd who have gathered on the gentle slope next to the show ring, are her Mum, Dad and little brother, cheering her on.

Our little rider has been called in by the judge. Time for the 'workout'. Trot here, walk there, canter back, halt squarely. How will she ever remember all that she wonders? But before she knows it, Misty has done her job (no pigroots this time) and stands squarely in front of the smiling judge.

It's a Blue Ribbon! She can hear Mum and Dad cheering and whistling behind her. She leans down to the judge, who ties the ribbon over her shoulder and hands her the prize she has dreamed of since last Easter Saturday. Trotting over to Mum and Dad at the edge of the show ring, beaming from ear to ear, she gives Misty a giant hug around the neck, her confidence overflowing!



The Bethanga Gymkhana and Family Fun Day, held every Easter Saturday at the Bethanga Recreational Reserve, is filled to the brim with happy scenes like this every year. Come and experience for yourself the utter joy that is watching a small child succeed after all their hard work.

You might also enjoy watching the tug-o-war, the sack races, the dog high jump and the showjumping. Or you might find yourself relaxed and happy in the shade, munching on a steak sandwich, listening to the busking competition. If you're up for a belly laugh, be sure not to miss the easter bunny chase. It never disappoints!

So, if you want to enjoy some good old-fashioned family fun this Easter Saturday, bring the kids along to the Bethanga Gymkhana. Horse events begin at 9.00 am, and the kids' fun games start at 10.00 am, and children's entry is free.

We guarantee the whole family will walk away with full bellies, great memories and giant smiles!

BETHANGA GYMKHANA



SPORTS AND FAMILY FUN DAY

SATURDAY APRIL 4TH 2026

- HOT FOOD • BBQ • BAR • COFFEE
- HOME MADE CAKES & SLICES
- FREE KIDS GAMES • HORSE EVENTS
- IRON MAN & WOMAN • PIE EATING COMP
- DOG JUMPING COMPETITION
- LOCAL SCHOOLS ART DISPLAY
- LUCKY GATE PRIZES
- SILENT AUCTION

ADULTS \$7.00
CHILDREN FREE

• Restrooms facilities available



**Bethanga Recreation Reserve,
Hollow Street, Bethanga, VIC 3691**

Our Services

Tallangatta Health Service provides not only a hospital, aged care, and medical centre, but provides other services for and throughout the community. Our MCHC (My Community Home Care) department provides in home support. We have District Nurses who see clients throughout our catchment. Our Allied Health team provides exercise classes in our onsite gym, and also to other areas. A full summary of the services we provide can be found on our website: www.tallangattahealthservice.com.au

If you would like to know more about accessing our services, please phone us on 02 6071 5200.

Free Exercise groups are currently being held in Bellbridge, and are open to everyone. For further information, please phone the Allied Health Team on 02 6071 5210.

<p>Osteoarthritis Exercise Group Location: Bellbridge Boat Club Cost: Free When: Wednesdays at 2:00 pm Who: All ages welcome – no referral required Enquiries: Allied Health on 02 6071 5210</p>	<p>Bellbridge Walking Group Meeting Point: Bellbridge Boat Club Cost: Free When: Tuesdays at 8:30 am Who: All ages welcome – no referral required Enquiries: Allied Health on 02 6071 5210</p>
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Medical Centre

The Tallangatta Health Service Medical Centre has had a facelift, and now has new paint, floor coverings, and a fresh new look. Some other small improvements have also been made which will help to streamline our services.

Our Medical Centre has 5 doctors, a Nurse Practitioner, and a Practice Nurse. For appointments, please phone us on 02 6071 5270 or find us on Hot Doc. Tallangatta Medical Centre bulk bills all patients with a current Medicare card on all eligible services and item numbers. Practice fees may apply for dressings, procedures, Workcover and insurance claims.

After the Fires – looking after your mental health

The recent Mt Lawson / Walwa bushfire has had a significant impact on our community. Whether or not we were directly involved, emergencies can bring on strong emotions, unsettled feelings, or even physical reactions, and can be different for everyone.

If you seek mental health and wellbeing support after the fires, and you are not sure where to start, you can contact **Partners in Wellbeing on 1300 375 330** or **Medicare Mental Health Phone Service on 1800 595 212**. These free services can help you navigate the system and connect with the right support.

Tallangatta Health Service also provides free confidential mental health support at the Medical Centre through Gateway Health. No referral is needed, and telehealth appointments can be provided. Call Gateway on 1800 657 573 to learn more or make an appointment. Alternatively, you may inquire at the Medical Centre, phone 02 6071 5270.



ANZAC Day Service

SATURDAY 25 APRIL 2026

Bethanga Soldiers Memorial Hall Gates

8:30 AM followed by morning tea in the Hall.

A plate to share would be appreciated.

Congratulations Bob Singline

Bob was very surprised but honoured, by his inclusion in the 'Best 12 Cricketers in 50 Years: 1975-2025', selected by the Cobram Cricket Club and presented at a 50 year reunion recently. He was delighted to have two pupils he taught at Cobram Consolidated Primary School included in the team. The three shared many happy memories, including playing cricket together during lunch-time and recess breaks!

Bob captained the 1975 -76 premiership team to an exciting win after a long period of finals 'drought'. Bob won the Murray Valley Cricket Association 'Cricketer of the Year' award that season and had best bowling figures of 8 for 9.



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News from Talgarno Recreation Reserve Committee of Management (CoM)

A Quiet Quarter with Big Community Ideas

The past quarter at the Talgarno Recreation Reserve has been a relatively quiet one, but it has still included some important milestones and plenty of encouraging signs for the future.

The highlight of the period was a wonderful Christmas BBQ, organised by the Talgarno Social Club. It was great to see locals come together to enjoy good food, conversation and community spirit and even a visit from Santa!

In addition to community use, the Hall has continued to host a number of private functions and was opened to community members during the heat wave for those who needed to cool down under the aircon, reinforcing its role as a valued and versatile local space. Works on the public toilets are also progressing, which will be a welcome improvement for regular users, event attendees and visitors to the Reserve.

While activity on the ground has been steady rather than busy, a major focus this quarter has been listening to the community through the Talgarno Hall & Recreation Reserve Community Survey.

What the Survey Told Us

We received just over 30 responses, with a very high completion rate. Feedback came from a mix of regular users and those who visit more occasionally, providing a balanced snapshot of how the Reserve is used and how people would like to see it evolve.

How people use the Reserve

Many respondents visit weekly or more, while others come along for specific activities or events. The most common reasons for visiting were community events, tennis, BBQs and social gatherings, and general recreation around the Hall and surrounding area.

What the community wants more of

A clear message from the survey was the desire for more activity and programming. The strongest themes included:

- More community events
- Fitness and exercise classes
- Arts, craft and cultural activities
- Youth and children's activities
- Sports, games and tournaments
- Trivia and social nights

These responses highlight a strong appetite for connection, participation and shared experiences.

Facilities: what's working and what could improve

The most-used facilities were identified as the Hall, BBQ areas, playground and tennis courts. Suggestions for improvement focused on:

- Additional shade or upgrades to the playground

- Enhancements to the Hall
- Improved parking and signage
- Tidying or redesigning the shared space between the Hall, tennis courts and fire station

Please note: the CFA shed and eastern reserve area were intentionally excluded from the survey, as the CFA holds a licence over that area and it would not be appropriate for the Committee of Management to seek feedback on brigade facilities.

Western Parcel of Land – Strong Community Support

Feedback regarding the land to the north and west of the existing Reserve showed strong support for exploring future community or recreational uses. While a small number preferred no change, most respondents were either supportive of development or open to it, provided it benefits the community.

Suggested uses included passive recreation, walking trails, open space, youth activities and family-friendly areas. Even those unsure expressed openness to ideas rather than opposition. Overall, the message was clear: the community is generally positive about development that aligns with local needs and preserves the character of the Reserve.

Families at the Heart of Planning

Family-friendly facilities were rated as very important by the vast majority of respondents, with most selecting the highest importance levels. Additional ideas shared included children's programs such as playgroups, outdoor fitness equipment, clearer communication about activities, and continued community engagement as planning progresses.

Many respondents also took the time to acknowledge and appreciate the work already being done at the Reserve.

Looking Ahead

The survey confirms that the Talgarno Recreation Reserve is highly valued and that there is strong interest in seeing it continue to grow as a vibrant, inclusive community hub. The Committee of Management thanks everyone who contributed feedback and looks forward to using these insights to guide future planning, improvements and events.

We'll keep the community informed as ideas develop—and we encourage everyone to stay involved as we shape the next chapter of the Reserve together.

Brendan Pearson and Mari Jones

On behalf of the Talgarno Rec Reserve

Bushfires won't keep us down



Attending these local events is a great way to support communities impacted by the recent bushfires



1
MARCH

Corryong Annual Golf Tournament
Australian Sports Class Paragliding Championships, Corryong (all week)



7
MARCH

Tallangatta Show
Butcher's Hook Craft Shop
Pop-Up Farm Gate Market (Mitta Mitta)
Towong Cup
Mighty Mitta Muster (Day 1)

8
MARCH

Mighty Mitta Muster (Day 2)
Upper Murray Farmers Market (Corryong)



15
MARCH

Corryong Performing Arts and Creatives Festival



21
MARCH

Mitta Mountain Car Rally

28
MARCH

Walwa Community Market

For details on each event visit www.theundiscovered.com.au

Welcome to ———
The Undiscovered



Prospects for the Season Ahead

Thank you to Greg Hayes who has agreed to regularly contribute weather related articles for Berringa Community News readers.

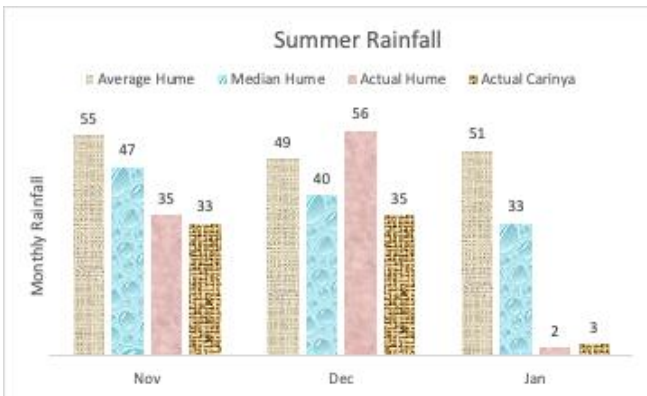


Rainfall Round-up

Here's a summary. Last year we had only 501 mm – driest since 2006. BOM forecasts high chance of unusually dry autumn & early winter, other forecasters say maybe more average.

POSITION VACANT: Looking for a new contributor who can deliver more useful and cheerful forecasts – no skills required, thick skin preferred.

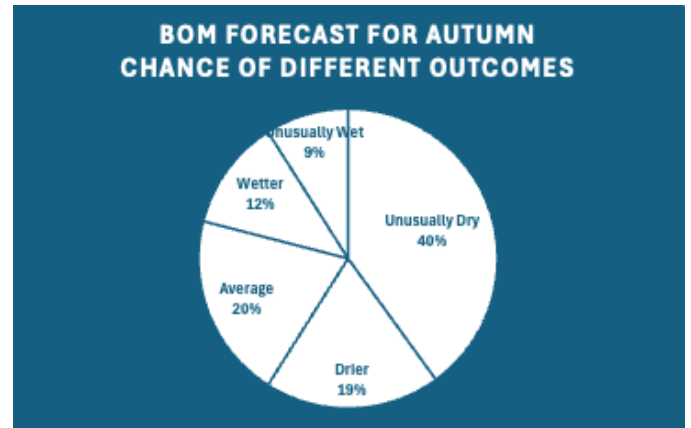
The Hume Reservoir recorded 93 mm for Summer (November - January) which was 40% below average. January was the shocker with only 2 mm but December was actually wetter than average.



The rolling 12-month rainfall here has fallen from 1167 mm in November 2022 to 307 mm this January which is 56% below average (700 mm). No wonder the dams are dry.

Prospects for Autumn (March through May)

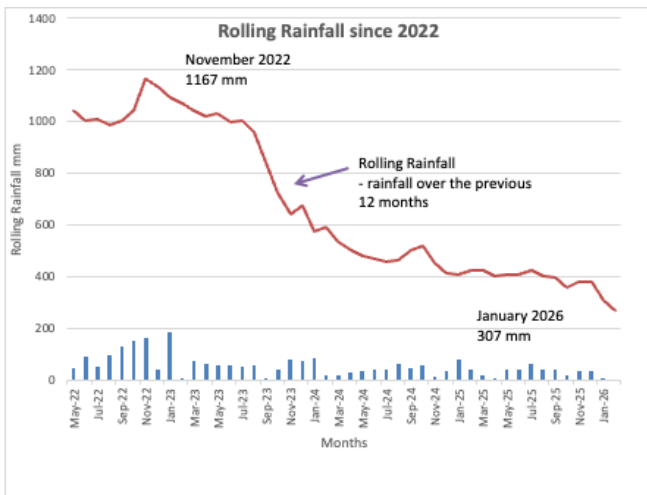
I'm looking for some better news than BOM has to offer. Their model gives a 70% chance that rainfall through to end May will be less than the average of 140 mm. They also suggest a 40% chance that it will be less than 80 mm (unusually dry).



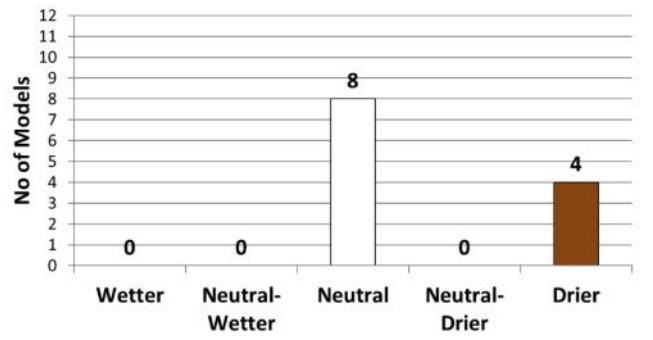
Other models are not so pessimistic with Dale Grey suggesting that an average outcome (140 mm) is more likely – let's hope so.

The summer forecast from BOM in November was fence-sitting – equal chances of anything so of course they were right but the dry December was a 1 in 20 year result.

You don't need to be told that the big picture is that we have had a sustained dry period since March 2022. This was our rainfall on Carinya – worse than Hume.



Model Distribution Summary for Victoria Rainfall Feb - Apr 2026



The key climate drivers are giving only weak neutral signals and while there is some talk about an upcoming La Niña, it's too early to call it.

Greg Hayes

Stay Informed

Latest Council Updates

At Council we use a variety of ways - both in print and online - to reach our community and let you know about opportunities for consultation, project updates, events and services.

One of the easiest ways for you to get all the important information direct is our fortnightly e-newsletter.

Simply scan the QR code below and submit your email and you'll be able to keep up to speed with council information by having it sent directly to your inbox:



Scan the QR code to sign up for our newsletter

Other places you can find updates are:

- Local newspapers
- Community newsletters and email trees
- Council's Facebook
- Council's Website

9 HOLE GOLF COURSE

PARTY VENUE HIRE

Social events & BBQs
Regular ladies golf
Family's & kids

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(6km from Bethanga)

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Bethanga Hotel

OPENING HOURS:

CLOSED Mon/Tues. OPEN Wed - Fri 12pm till late.
OPEN Sat 11am till late. OPEN Sun 11am - 6pm.

Online bookings www.bethangahotel.com.au or Facebook

Email: hello@bethangahotel.com.au
www.bethangahotel.com.au
02 6026 4214

Big Things Brewing at Bethanga Hotel

After a hot summer, we're rolling into the cooler months at the Bethanga Hotel with good momentum and plenty to look forward to.

The weekly rhythm at the pub is well and truly locked in now and judging by the full tables, you're all making the most of it. Wednesday Parmi Night has become a mid-week must, with a rotating line-up of specialty toppers to choose from and easily one of the best-value feeds going around. Trivia nights are loud, Jam nights are growing, happy hour cocktails on Saturday afternoons are in full swing, and our Sunday roast and apple pies continue to save a lot of cooking at home.



Our weekly specials have never been more popular, a strong mix of pub classics and global favourites. Cooler days are coming... and a new menu isn't far behind. A few new favourites are already taking shape in the kitchen.

Behind the scenes, there's some exciting progress underway, with plans developing for thoughtful improvements, all while keeping the old pub's warmth and character firmly intact.

One of the standout moments of the past month was watching this community rally during the fires. The sup-

port shown to our CFA crews was something pretty special, and a reminder of what makes this town tick.

Our Back Bar Stories continue to grow (& so do our old photos on the pub walls), thanks to locals sharing family archives and town history, and we've got more great pieces still to come.

Thanks for being part of it, whether it's a quick coffee, a parmi and a pot, a raffle ticket, or a long Sunday session.

As always, see you at the bar!

Jac & Dan O'Connell





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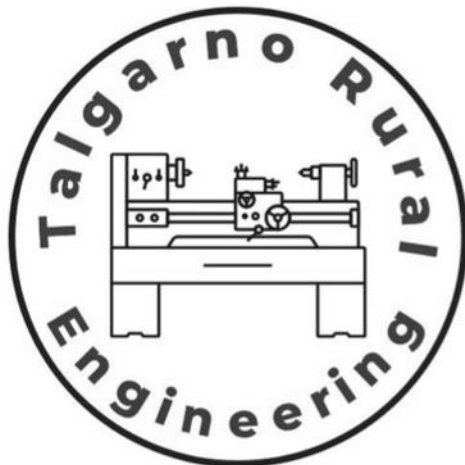
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COMMUNITY NOTICES

This section is for community members to give notice about local happenings, local photos, births, deaths and marriages etc. Email to info@berringacommunitynews.com.au

Wymah Ferry

Operating hours

7am – 8pm

During daylight saving

6am – 9pm

(NB no meal closure times)

OUTSIDE THESE HOURS

**Ring the contractor,
6020 2038**

For information on ferry
closures: www.livetraffic.com

Talgarno Hall and BBQ Shelter

Hall and BBQ Shelter is available for Hire

Functions and Meetings held by local and non - local
patrons welcomed

Chairs and Tables available for hire

For more information please email

Talgarnorecreationreserve@gmail.com or phone 0429 201 135

Bethanga Soldiers Memorial Hall

Hall and Supper Room Available for Hire

Functions and Meetings

Day / Night

Air Conditioned / Heated

Competitive Rates

For more information and Hall bookings contact: Vicki 0420 304 900
or Graham 0474 381 775 or Felicity 0419 651 859

DYSONS CORRYONG BUS & FREIGHT

Passenger and freight service between
Albury/Wodonga and Corryong along
Murray River Road

Daily Monday to Friday

Dysons Corryong Bus & Freight
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Women's Health Clinics

Clinics are held at Tallangatta on the
first and third Monday of each month.

All ages welcome.

This is a free service. Appointments
necessary. For bookings or further
information phone the Tallangatta
Health Service

Sue Reid 6071 5270

Granya Hall

Hire of the Hall - \$80.00 (hire only)

Community Meeting \$30 (hire only)

For all catering information and availability please contact

Bob Cowan or Sharyn Terlich

0448 474 669 rcowan@bordnet.com.au

0411 299 911 shalinda56@yahoo.com.au

Autumn is here, time to enjoy the cooler weather with a good book from the Talgarno Street Library

**Open all hours for everyone at the Talgarno Hall.
Bellbridge Branch now open at the Bellbridge Container Cafe**

Bonegilla Hall

Hall available for hire.

Craft Group held every Thursday
10am-2pm.

Enquiries: 0414 849 662
Email: BonegillaHall@gmail.com

Maternal & Child Health

Do you have young children? Have you accessed Council's Maternal and Child Health Service for free health, developmental and learning checks?

Towong Council's Maternal and Child Health Service is available at Bellbridge Community Centre on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Drop in to see a qualified nurse between 9:30 am and 12:00 noon or arrange an appointment for the afternoon. Home visits can also be arranged for a time that is convenient for your family.

For more information or to make an appointment call Trudi Ellis on 6026 4228 or 0417 535 978

In Memorium



Austin Elliot 5 January 1938 - 13 January 2026

Austin Elliot was born on the 5 January 1938 and passed away on the 13 January 2026. His early life in was spent in Talgarno as his parents owned Kelso Park in Talgarno and he

attended Talgarno Primary school.

Austin Elliot's life was deeply connected to the Talgarno and Bethanga districts, and much of his energy was directed toward serving and strengthening those local communities through practical work and volunteering. Austin was born in Talgarno.

He began his working life as a farm labourer and fencer, later moving into stock carting and fuel distribution. His early fuel distribution work specifically serviced Talgarno and Bethanga before expanding further across the wider region. Although his business interests grew over time, he remained closely tied to the Talgarno area and eventually chose to step back from larger commercial operations to focus again on farming there. He invested in expanding his farming assets in Talgarno and found satisfaction working with his Angus cattle and improving the land. His commitment to land stewardship led to his involvement with local Landcare efforts, and he was nominated for a Landcare award connected with the Wisers Creek Landcare group. Working on the land and caring for it properly was something he valued highly.

Alongside his working life, Austin made a sustained contribution to community organisations in Bethanga

and Talgarno through hands-on volunteering and leadership roles. He served as President of the Bethanga Football Club, giving his time and organisational skills to support the club

and its people. He was also an active member of both the Bethanga and Talgarno Fire Brigade, contributing to community safety and emergency response — a significant and practical form of local service.

Community fundraising was another major focus. At his Bethanga property, Illinga, he hosted charity open gardens, welcoming visitors and raising funds for several causes. These events supported the Border Cancer Support Group, Brown's Lagoon therapeutic gardens, and Rotary projects. These open days combined his pride in the land with his desire to help others.

Rotary was a central part of his volunteering life. He was a Charter member of the Bellbridge Lake Hume Rotary club and remained involved for 19 years. His dedication was recognised when he was made a Paul Harris Fellow in 1992. He also contributed at a regional level, serving on the Rotary Region 970 conference committee in 2004 and 2006. Through Rotary, he supported numerous service and fundraising efforts.

He also assisted the Motor Neurone Association by transporting collected corks to Melbourne for recycling, helping raise funds for equipment for terminally ill patients.

Across Talgarno and Bethanga especially, Austin will be remembered for steady service, practical help, and long-term commitment to local volunteering.

Taken From his Eulogy

In Memorium



Anne Margaret Maginnity

9 March 1948 – 22 Jan 2026

Anne was a beloved wife to Colin for 55 years, a devoted mother to Gerrard, Ken, Terry, Simon, and Clare, and a proud Nanny to her 10 grandchildren.

Born on 9 March 1948 to Mary and Walter Woolcott, Anne grew up in Byron Bay, one of nine children. Her childhood was full of sunshine and salt water,

with long days spent swimming at the beach with her siblings. Safety, they learned, was always in the middle of the pack — especially the day someone shouted “Shark!” and they all set record speed getting back to shore.

Anne had a natural eye for fashion and could recreate outfits from memory and sew them herself. After finishing school and a secretarial course in the Ballina area, she worked at the Wollongbar Research Station before transferring to Sydney. It was there, at a disco, that she met Colin. Their romance began just as he was called to serve in Vietnam.

Their early married life took them to Tom Price, with their first child born in Perth. They later settled near Albury and built their first family home in Bellbridge — a place

that became central to family life and memories. With help from relatives, they built at Craig Drive, welcomed four of their children there, then moved across the road and completed the family with Clare. Bellbridge was where Anne’s love of gardening flourished — including the chokos her children never learned to love.

Anne and Colin shared a deep and steady devotion, standing by each other through life and health challenges. They traveled widely to visit their children and grandchildren across Australia and overseas, never missing important milestones.

Anne was famous for her spotless house, generous heart, and joyful “Nanny Specials” of sweets before dinner. She loved teaching her family practical skills — fishing, filleting, sewing, baking, and gardening — and created lasting memories by the water and around the table. With dozens of nieces and nephews, she was at the center of a large extended family, celebrating every wedding and birth with pride.

Anne was the thread that wove the family together— through 55 years of marriage, five children, and ten grandchildren. She shared her knowledge of how to fish, how to garden and most importantly, how to show up for one another. She may have kept a spotless house, but it was the love and laughter she filled it with that truly mattered.



Catherine ‘Joyce’ Brown

14 July 1935 – 12 May 2025

Catherine “Joyce” Brown (née Parkhill) was born on 14 July 1935 in

Balranald, the second eldest child of Les and Leila. She grew up with her brothers Jack, Robert, Jeff, Mike, and sister Sue. Due to work opportunities, the family moved around

before settling in Albury when Joyce was six. She attended Albury PS and later Albury High School, leaving at 15 to work in the Adelen clothing factory, and a dress shop at 18.

At 20, Joyce married her husband Glen on 26/12/1955, and together they raised six children: Glenda, Craig, Julie, David, Tracey, and Katie. She became a much-loved “Mumma,” “Nan,” and “Grandma” to her eight grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren. Known for

her quiet strength, Mum supported her family through all stages of life without judgment and was always there for us through good times and bad.

Mum’s father grew up in Bethanga with 11 siblings. She had fond childhood memories of her and Jack riding their bikes from Albury to visit them. Mum and Dad moved to Talgarno in 1973 and remained in the area for the rest of their lives. She remained active throughout her life, joining social tennis at Talgarno, and being a member of the local CWA.

Mum had a deep love for animals, having dogs, a goat and horses at home, as well as raising orphaned lambs and even a baby kangaroo.

A dedicated volunteer, in the 1980s, she volunteered as a Lifeline consultant, reflecting her caring nature.

Mum also played a significant role in the reformation of the Bethanga Football & Netball Club in 1976. She worked in the canteen, helped and cooked for functions

and washed football jumpers. Both Mum and Dad were awarded life membership for their service. Even after Dad's passing in 1988, Mum continued to follow football closely, travelling to watch her children and grandchildren play.

She had a passion for sport, often staying up late to watch Australians compete at Wimbledon and never missing a Boxing Day Test.

Creative and resourceful, Mum embraced many crafts throughout her life, including knitting, sewing, cake decorating, and more. Her handmade items remain

Avril Lambert (Salome)
April 1958—December 2025

Formerly of Bethanga and Flinders Island

John Atkins
26 /12/1949 —1/12/2025

Formerly of Lake Road Bethanga

cherished by her family.

Despite ongoing heart issues from her fifties, Mum remained resilient—truly “tough as nails.” She valued family deeply, maintained a remarkable memory, and enjoyed social outings with her friends.

Mum will be remembered for her strength, kindness, creativity, and unwavering love for her family.

Apologies to the family. We missed including this eulogy in the Summer edition



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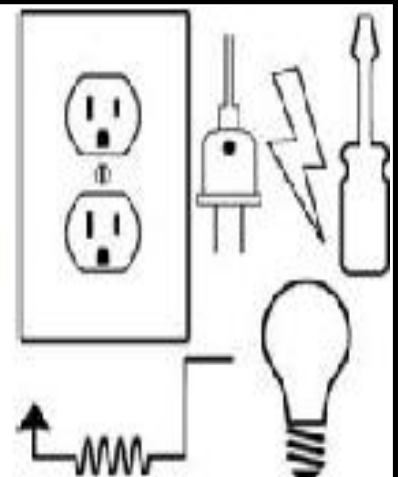
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BERRINGA CERT



Berringa Community Emergency Response Team are community volunteers who are dispatched at the same time as an ambulance, to time-critical emergencies within our local community. We are trained to provide basic emergency care services until the ambulance arrives. CERT does not transport patients; it provides emergency response in locations with low caseloads and limited ambulance coverage.

We welcome new volunteers. Please call Julie Miller on 0419 339 679 for more information.

The Victorian Virtual Emergency Department

It is a public health service operated by Northern Health in Melbourne for non-life-threatening emergencies. If you are experiencing symptoms and think you may need medical attention, and your usual GP/health service is closed or unavailable, instead of calling an ambulance or going to the emergency department, you can contact VVED. These symptoms may include pain, vomiting, urinary infection, and influenza.

It is open 24 hours a day, with medical reviews available between 8 am and 11:30 pm, 7 days a week, and provides full adult and paediatric services.

No referral is necessary. You can visit vved.org.au or scan the QR code



Defibrillators

Please contact me if you hear the defib. beeping or if there is a cross in the window.

Eight public-access defibrillators are available 24/7 on the Berringa Peninsula. They are all registered with 000 through Ambulance Victoria. In the event of a cardiac arrest, 000 operators will advise the caller of the location of the nearest available defibrillator.

Cardiac arrest happens when a person's heart suddenly stops beating and stops pumping blood effectively around the body. It can happen to anyone, anytime, anywhere. Bystanders starting chest compressions or CPR and using an AED can save lives.

Anyone can save a life in three simple steps. Call, Push, Shock: Call Triple Zero (000), Push hard and fast on the middle of the chest, and Shock using an AED.

Defibrillators are available 24/7 in a white box on the front walls of:

- ◆ Bethanga General Store
- ◆ Bethanga Recreation Reserve pavilion
- ◆ Bellbridge Community Centre
- ◆ Bellbridge Foreshore Bus stop (near fish)
- ◆ Granya Hall
- ◆ Talgarno Hall
- ◆ Bethanga Golf Club
- ◆ Wisers Creek Road, Talgarno bus stop

*Julie Miller,
Team Leader Berringa CERT
juliemiller3691@gmail.com
0419 339 679*

ROTARY CLUB OF BELLBRIDGE LAKE HUME INC.

Christmas Carols

Another large crowd of about 300 people attended the Christmas Carols on 7 December held at the Hume Boat Club, Bellbridge.

All enjoyed Santa Claus, BBQ food, refreshments and singing along with the choir.

Local sponsorship covered the cost of event expenses for the community event

Lake Hume Cycle Challenge

About 300 cyclists of all abilities participated in the 5 cycling events of the Lake Hume Cycle Challenge held on 8 Sunday February. The change in weather conditions was appreciated by the cyclists. After availing themselves of refreshments during the rides, the participants were treated to BBQ sausages, drinks and more refreshments. Approximately \$25,000 was raised for the Albury Cancer Wellness Centre.



Australia Day Celebrations

On a typical warm summer's day, over 100 people attended the Hume Boat Club, Bellbridge, to celebrate Australia Day and the announcement of the Berringa Peninsula community awards.



Rotarian Andrew Christy

TALGARNO TENNIS CLUB

The 2025/2026 season is coming to an end, and we've had a great season all around.

Section 1

Another strong season for Section 1 saw the team finish an impressive third on the ladder. Consistency and teamwork were key, and we thank everyone who filled in

throughout the year to keep the side competitive. We now look forward to seeing Section 1 contest the finals and wish them every success.

Section 2

With several key players sidelined through injury, Section 2 faced a challenging year that could have derailed the season. Instead, it became a true display of community spirit. We uncovered fantastic local talent, welcomed new faces to the court and built a team defined by resilience, commitment and heart. While the ladder didn't reflect dominance, it certainly reflected determination. Most importantly, we had fun. A huge thank you to everyone who stepped up — often at short notice — and special credit to those who battled extreme heat with grit and good humour. It may not have been our strongest season on paper, but it was one of our most spirited. Thanks to Genn for coordinating the team this year.



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Section 3

Section 3 has enjoyed a remarkable season, finishing the home and away rounds at the very top of the ladder. With the addition of several new recruits bringing valuable experience and fresh energy, the team has gone from strength to strength. Thank you to Karen for coordinating the side and keeping everything running smoothly. This group has shown great maturity, competing with spirit, respect and fairness all season. Congratulations to all players, we can't wait to see you shine in the finals.

Section 4

Our two Section 4 teams have also had outstanding seasons. Talgarno Gold, a group of little legends, has shown incredible growth, always giving their best and displaying wonderful sportsmanship. Watch out next year, they are ready to shine even brighter. Our more experienced team, Talgarno Blue, finished the season strongly to secure second place on the ladder and will also compete in the finals. We look forward to cheering them on. A big thank you to Jess and Karen for being the



team captains this year.

We are also excited to be hosting the Association Grand Final at Talgarno this year and look forward to welcoming players and supporters for what promises to be a fantastic day of tennis.

We'd love to see everyone at our **End of Season Break-Up and Awards Night**, happening on **Saturday 14 March at 6pm** at the Recreation Reserve shelter. All members and sponsors are warmly invited to come along and celebrate with us. This year's theme is "Wimbledon Whites", so come dressed in your tennis whites and please bring along a plate to share. On the night, we'll be presenting club awards across all sections, and we're hoping for a relaxed, fun celebration to wrap up the season together.

Our **Pickleball 6-week competition will start at the end of February**. It's been great to see new members joining the club, and we're really looking forward to a fun and friendly comp for everyone involved.

Talgarno Tennis Club Committee.

BETHANGA TENNIS CLUB

Lesley Smith 0467 191 426

Diane Star 0419 436 347

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PENINSULA MEN'S SHED



6 Sirl Street, Bethanga

Anyone interested in joining the group would be most welcome. It's a great way to share and learn from each other, and it is also a social outing.

The Men's Shed is open every Wednesday from 9 am until 6 pm (depending on attendance). You are welcome to come along and get involved in Men's Shed projects or create your own. The men at the shed could do a project or repair job for you or you can just come along for a cuppa and a chat.

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BETHANGA CRICKET CLUB



2025-2026 Season

Please follow us on Facebook for more info, or to play cricket with us! You can also email us at bethangacc@hotmail.com

The Bethanga Cricket Club 2025-2026 season is into the second half of the year! All 3 teams are looking promising to make the finals.

Our Woolworths Cricket Blast program was another great success with kids in the local community. Our Sponsors/ Life Members Day was a wonderful way to celebrate those who have financially supported our club and through playing over the years.

Please see below our upcoming autumn events.

February 2026	March 2026
7th ~ A grade @ Home vs Howlong	7th ~ Finals Week 1 Venues TBA
14th ~ B grade @ Home vs Dederang	14th ~ Finals Week 2 Venues TBA
20th ~ Goods and Services Auction @ Bethanga Hotel	21st ~ Grand Final Venues TBA
21st ~ A grade @ Home vs Yack	27th ~ Presentation Night Venue TBA
28th ~ B grade @ Home vs Kiewa	

Please follow us on Facebook for more info or to play cricket with us! You can also email us at bethangacc@hotmail.com

BETHANGA CFA



Fire calls 000
Burn Notifications VICFIRE 1800 668 511
Victorian BushFire Information 1800 240 667
All Peninsula Fire Units - UHF 24

Follow the Bethanga and District Rural Fire Brigade on Facebook for localised information

CALL OUTS

Due to the number of trees already burnt down, I will refrain from naming all the events and turnouts we've been to save a bit of paper. Let's just say, there has been A LOT.

Thank you to our amazing community

During this season, we've had so many generous people drop off supplies, check in, and offer whatever they could to help keep those on the front line fed, hydrated, and supported. Your kindness shows exactly why this community is so special. When things get real, and we can physically see fire around us, it's natural to feel overwhelmed or helpless. Wanting to do something is a very human response; you are not alone there. We also live in an area where fire will always be part of our reality. It's the price and privilege of living in such a beautiful place.

I'd particularly like to mention Bethanga Hotel and their incredible staff, who worked with us to facilitate donations, offered respite, provided cold beer and hot food after turnouts, and created a little hub where the community could gather, debrief, and look after one another. They even opted to shut early on one particularly hairy Friday night. This was an incredibly responsible call made at the expense of their own bottom line to ensure everyone remained alert, vigilant, and ready to enact emergency plans if needed. Maybe it wasn't popular at the time, but it was the right decision. Please support them as they have and continue to support us.

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Many of you reached out when I asked for help with a chainsaw after ours had been stolen. Thank you for that. I'd like to thank Jon Dunn, Bunnings Albury and Peter Randal, who helped me out on the day, as well as Mark Trafford, who was my designated chainsaw expert and helped me navigate the influx of messages and worked with me (not an easy task) to get what we needed on the day. Many, many more of you offered, which was incredibly overwhelming and unexpected. We probably could have had a chainsaw for every day of the year if we wanted to.

We also had an amazing response from our coordinated "Private Units"; these are CFA members and some non-members who are experienced in fighting fires and turn out to help with their farm vehicles, which are fully equipped with water tanks and ready to go. They have radios so we can all communicate effectively, and they are a crucial part of our network. Affectionately known as "Dad's Army", it's amazing how they continue to step up when we need them, but some younger, less arthritic bodies would be useful so that these men can work a bit more behind the scenes. Because of that, we're working on strengthening our volunteer base for future large-scale events and to give "Dad's Army" and the Brigade a bit of extra help.

How to Volunteer

We were inundated with support when the fires were in full force, and it's incredibly appreciated, but when the fires are here, it is too late for us to train people up. We'd love more CFA-accredited helpers in the future; Mel already has a few people to call back who expressed interest in the process. Please be patient. For any others interested, please go to the following site: <https://applications.cfa.vic.gov.au/vrh/> (CFA Volunteer Recruitment Hub), select Bethanga in the Location drop-down, and then apply to our Bethanga Brigade. Due to the recent level of activity, there may be a delay in processing. Please know you are valued and we'd love to have you.

There are many things that need to be done in the event of a fire that don't require physically putting it out. Any others that would like to put their name down to help in other ways please contact one of our members and we can pop it into our "**here if you need**" register.

There are so many people who have helped and continue to, whether you are part of the Brigade Management Committee or not you are appreciated. It's like a network of ants that just keep working together for the greater good. Berringa, you should be very proud. Continue to look out for one another and be kind.

CAPTAINS MESSAGE

This fire season has been one of the busiest in quite some time, and I am personally extremely grateful for the amazing community of volunteers in not only our brigade, but also in all the brigades in our area.

As soon as the pager and alarms go off, our people drop everything and leap into action with very little hesitation, and this period has been no exception.

I want to acknowledge the call to duty that

everyone showed with the Walwa/Mt Lawson fire that started on the 5th of January. Regarding our brigade, we had crews up to the fire every day and most nights for over a week, and the number of members who put their hands up was amazing. The toughest challenge was organising it so that everyone could actually attend.

Then there were those who could not attend to the fire, but assisted with so many duties in the background; I am

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overwhelmed with gratitude.

My duty as Captain is made so much easier and more satisfying by the amazing community in our brigade.

Thank you all so very much.

Regards,
Shane

CONTACTS

Shane Bracegirdle, Captain 0459 362 395
bethangacfacaptain@gmail.com

Molly Peterson, Secretary 0412 997 157
bethangacfasecretary@gmail.com

Mel Naismith, Community Safety Liaison
0428 191 283

John Northey, Junior Brigade Liaison 0414 931 442

*Stay Less Crispy Berringa
Cheers Mel*

the next few days, it broke containment lines on 9 January. With fire conditions at catastrophic level, the fire continued to burn through to Koetong, Bullioh, Granya, Tallangatta Valley, and on the other side of the range, Cudgewa, Berringama, Nariel Valley, and Lucyvale. This impacted many farms and residences, resulting in losses of houses, livestock, buildings, pasture, and fences. Importantly, no loss of life or serious injuries has been a blessing, partly due to our training and the community being proactive in their own safety and preparation for a major bushfire.

Talgarno CFA members have been extremely busy over this period, supporting our neighbours with our tanker and ultralight. We have had numerous other fires in our area, including lightning strikes, car fires and accidental ignition fires.

The Brigade attended a deliberately lit car fire on Saturday, 14 February, on Trewellas Road. The car fire quickly spread to paddocks, with a chance of impacting Bellbridge.

TALGARNO RURAL FIRE BRIGADE



Hi all

Well, after a reasonably quiet period over Christmas /New Year, the dry conditions and predictions of a bad bushfire season played out in our local area.

After a few days of stormy weather and dry lightning on 7 January, lightning caused a fire at the northern end of Mt Lawson.

Our Brigade, along with our neighbouring brigades, CFA strike teams, FFMV, contractors, landholders and private units, arrived to find a fire had turned into a very large bushfire complex known as the Walwa fire.

After attempting to contain it to the Mt Lawson area over



Joe Calvert calvertandco.com



Conditions were tough for the brigades, with a high fuel load, multiple fences, and rough terrain. Approximately 50 acres were burnt before the fire was brought under control. Many thanks to all the brigades, contractors and the private units who attended for working well together

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all our volunteers for their effort over the last month and a half, as well as family and friends who supported our members while they were at the fires.

I would also like to thank the community and individuals for supporting our brigades. Your support is very much appreciated and helps us to better protect the community

We welcome six new prospective members who have applied to join our brigade. Their training will now commence, and hopefully they will be fully fledged members later in the year.

We are always looking for new members. Any person over 16, with or without experience, is very welcome to join our brigade.

In the past few weeks, you would've come across heated media reports about the current situation in the CFA. Despite the Victorian government stating in media outlets that the CFA is not affected by budget cuts, the reality for volunteers is ageing single-cab trucks with no air conditioning, poor station facilities, and the expectation that rural ratepayers will pay more taxes through the emergency services tax on their rates notice. Despite this, volunteers within our CFA still turn out, putting their lives at risk to save lives and property to the best of our ability, with the equipment that is provided

Something to remember - CFA is volunteers and volunteers are community, community is family, friends and neighbours.

As the Walwa fire impacted residents and landholders begin to rebuild, there are many volunteer organisations working to help them. If you can help donate financially or with labour, especially fencing, please contact BlazeAid, Fencing for Fires or Towong Shire for information.

Finally, a reminder that with no rain and very dry conditions currently, the fire season is not finished, fire restrictions remain in place and we need to remain vigilant.

Let's hope rain is not far away

Cheers

Michael Elliot

Talgarno CFA Captain



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BETHANGA-TALGARNO JUNIOR CFA BRIGADE

Junior Brigade/CFA Championships

We welcome 7 new juniors, bringing the total to 11. We are busy training for the District 24 championships competition at Rutherglen on March 1st and the District 23 Championships at Eldorado on 15 March. We will have two 11-13yo teams, one 11-15yo team, and one senior team competing.


Go Bethanga/Talgarno

John Northey, Junior Brigade Liaison.

JOINING THE JUNIOR BRIGADE

If you are 11 to 15 years old (or turning 11 soon) and are interested in joining the junior brigade, please contact us using the details below.

John Northey 0414 931 442
bethangatalgarnojuniors@gmail.com



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BETHANGA RECREATION RESERVE

Construction of the New Sports Pavilion

We are pleased to announce that this will be the final year using the *Old Pavilion* for Cricket and the Easter Gymkhana. Construction of the new Sports Pavilion is set to commence within the next few weeks — exciting times ahead!

The successful tenderer is Q1 Constructions Pty Ltd, a Wodonga-based company. The Project Manager is Darren Hall, Director of Four18 Architecture. An exclusion fence will soon be installed around the construction site. This area will be strictly a work site and a No Public Access Zone. Signage will be placed on the fence to provide information to the public.



Camping & Amenities

- Camping facilities will be reduced to one shower only during construction. Please inform fellow campers who may be visiting the reserve.
- A notice will be displayed on the front notice board.
- The toilet block will remain operational until the new Sports Pavilion is completed.

Once construction is finished, the existing building will be refurbished for storage use.



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Please stay tuned for regular updates via the Bethanga Rec Reserve Facebook page.

Trees at the Oval

There are several aged Elm trees at the reserve. Due to the extremely dry conditions, there is a risk of limbs falling without warning. Safety signage has been erected for public awareness.

The Committee of Management has obtained quotes for regular pruning and is also exploring options for planting new trees.

Upcoming Events

- Annual Easter Gymkhana – 4 April 2026
- Public General Meeting – June/July 2026 (Date to be published in the next *Berringa News* edition. The meeting will include financial and operational updates.)

We appreciate the community's patience and cooperation during this exciting period of improvement for our reserve.

Jo Sirl President
Bethangareserve@gmail.com

Bethanga Recreation Reserve Committee of Management
PO Box 45
Bethanga VIC 3691

HUME BOAT CLUB



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email: administrator@humeboatclub.com

BETHANGA GOLF CLUB

Thursday Nights at Bethanga Golf Club Bring the Community Together

Thursday nights at the Bethanga Golf Club are proving to be a hit, with a fantastic lineup of family-friendly events running through until 26th March. The club is welcoming

players of all ages and skill levels to join in the fun each week.

A highlight of the evening is the free Kids Golf Clinic, held from 5:30pm to 6:15pm, giving young golfers the chance to learn new skills in a supportive and encouraging environment. On Thursday 12th February, nine enthusiastic kids took part in the clinic, enjoying coaching and building confidence on the course.



Adults are also getting involved, with seven players participating in the popular "6 and Social OneClub" round — a relaxed and social way to enjoy the game.

Excitingly, history is being made at the club with the launch of its inaugural junior competition. Hamish B and Jude B proudly kicked off the new era by competing in a 6-hole junior tournament,

marking a significant milestone for the club.



With something for everyone, Thursday nights at Bethanga Golf Club are fast becoming a wonderful way for families and friends to connect, learn, and enjoy the game together.

BONEGILLA HALL CRAFT GROUP

Come along to our craft group session every THURSDAY (excluding school holidays). Bring all those UFOs along and enjoy a bit of laughter.

10:00 am to 2:00 pm; Cost \$4.00, includes tea or coffee.

Bring along your lunch.

TALGARNO CRAFT GROUP

Held on the last Friday of the month. Come and share ideas and enjoy each other's company. For further information contact:

Joan Elliot 0498 208 308

PALMS

PENINSULA ACTIVITY, LAUGHTER, MOVEMENT & SOCIABLE

Run by Tallangatta Health Service, this group offers a range of activities that provide opportunities to meet new people and make new friends, a great avenue for companionship and staying active in the community.

When: 1st & 3rd Wednesday

Time: Starts 2 pm

Where: Bethanga Hall

For more information contact the MCHC office on Ph (02) 6071 5238 for further details



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Talgarno Landcare Group

There has been little to no rain, with lots of power outages across our membership area, unfortunately.

Our AGM was held at the Talgarno Hall on Thursday, 26 February .

Members re-elected the current committee.

Meredith Mitchell, our guest speaker for the evening, conducted a session on native grasses prior to the meeting. The sessions covered

- **Identifying** the key native grass species common in pastures and their distinguishing features.
- **Explaining** the ecological and agricultural benefits of native grass pastures, including biodiversity, soil health, and resilience to climate variability.
- **Recognising** the role of native grasses in sustainable grazing systems and whole-farm planning.
- **Applying** practical knowledge on establishing and managing native grass pastures, including grazing strategies, weed control, and long-term maintenance

Talgarno Landcare is hosting **the follow-up Days to the**

Digging Deeper in Soils & Pastures program previously mentioned by our Landcare facilitator, Simon Feillafe, on the dates below:

- **Friday 27 Feb 2026**
- **Friday 8 May 2026**
- **Friday 26 June 2026**
- **Friday 20 Aug 2026**

If you are interested in attending any of these events or want further information, please get in touch with our secretary Jess Furst - jessfurst@outlook.com

Feel free to contact any of our committee members if you have any Landcare enquiries.

COMMITTEE

Jim de Hennin 0408978847
Jessica Furst 0400357634
Hugh Dunchue 0488257177
Simon Feillafe 0438190999



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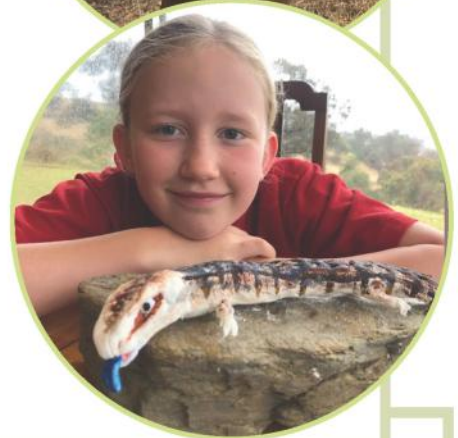
Last November, local primary school children were invited to create a project “inspired by nature” and the response was fantastic!

The Bethanga Junior Landcare Award 2025 celebrated two outstanding young artists:

Second Prize (\$50) – Scarlett Packer for her beautiful drawing of a galah, inspired by the colourful birds flying around her family farm.

First Prize (\$100) – Sylvie Nelson for her incredibly life-like blue-tongue lizard sculpture and diorama. Sylvie even attended our first 2026 meeting to speak about her work – receiving a big round of applause!

Congratulations to both winners. We look forward to opening entries again in September — so get creative, kids!



Be Part of Something That Matters

Bethanga Landcare is powered by local volunteers who care deeply about the future of our land.

Our region faces real challenges – from bushfires and drought, to pest control, soil erosion, and water quality – and real opportunities to make a difference.

Through guest speakers, field days and shared knowledge, we take practical action to protect our landscape and help wildlife thrive.

- New members are always welcome.
- Bring your ideas. Bring your curiosity. Bring a friend.
- Every contribution makes a difference.
- Join our mailing list to find out more:

bethangalandcaregroup@gmail.com

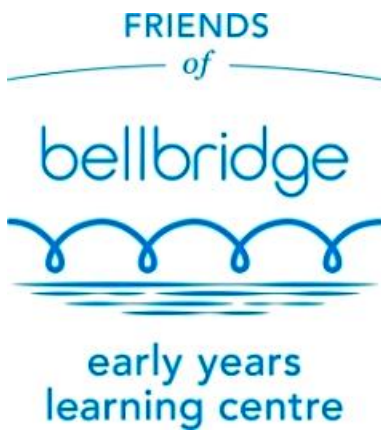
Or you are welcome to join our meetings. These are bi-monthly and are held at the Bethanga Memorial Hall starting at 6.30 pm.



Facebook.com/BerringaLandcare
bethangalandcaregroup@gmail.com

Upcoming meeting dates for your diary!





Friends of BEYLC Launch 2026 with Celebration, Community Pride and Busy Plans Ahead

Bellbridge Early Years Learning Centre (BEYLC) families have kicked off 2026 with warmth and community spirit, gathering for the Centre's annual Christmas celebration—an event that continues to grow in both attendance and significance for local families. Organised by our ever energetic Friends of BEYLC parent group, the celebration offered festive fun and a moment to reflect on the enormous contribution



the group has made across the past 12 months.

Speaking to families, the committee Secretary, Rowena Calvert, opened with heartfelt thanks to the dedicated educators who continue to develop engaging programs and provide a nurturing environment for the Centre's little learners.

Friends of BEYLC began seven years ago when the Centre faced an unexpected closure, prompting a group of parents to band together, successfully lobby for federal support, and ensure the Centre's survival. That legacy remains strong today, with BEYLC thriving and demand for places continuing to grow.

Throughout the past year, the parent group has continued its tradition of practical, hands - on support. Children have



enjoyed a host of new materials purchased for the Centre, including a mud kitchen, gardening seeds, spare clothing for outdoor play, warm beanies, extra snacks, graduation gowns and even a reserve supply of nappies to help educators manage busy days. The group also rolled up its sleeves to plant the front garden, complete with drip irrigation.

A rich program of incursions kept curiosity alive, with highlights including Captain Pete's music session, a bee pollination workshop, Museum Victoria's fossil and dinosaur experience, the much loved Flying Bookworm performance and sessions with My Future Academy that combine movement, mindfulness and play.

Community events remained a strong focus, from the popular Christmas in July gathering, complete with jumpers, raffles, decorations and plenty of dancing, to themed Centre days like the Term 3 PJ Day. Fundraising efforts also played a crucial role, including bulb sales, picture plates and a well supported wood raffle.

As the Friends of BEYLC look ahead to their next meeting in February, families are encouraged to join the committee. If you're interested, please message the Friends of Bellbridge Early Learning Years Centre Facebook page, or reach out at drop off/ pick up! With energy high and new faces stepping forward, 2026 is already shaping up to be another year of growth, creativity and community connection at BEYLC.

To our 2025 graduates, we wish you the very best at school and hope you remember your days at BEYLC with a smile!

Last, but by no means least, we thank Rowena Calvert for her incredible contribution to FOBEYLC and the centre over the last eight years. Her dedication, community spirit, absolute work-horse attitude and heart for the children of BEYLC is felt and deeply appreciated by us all.



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Our school continues to be a vibrant place of learning, growth and opportunity. Over recent weeks, students have been deeply engaged in rich learning experiences across all areas of the curriculum, demonstrating enthusiasm, persistence and pride in their achievements.

We are especially excited to welcome our six new Foundation students, who have been glowing in their first few weeks of school — Lilly, Jade, Sienna, Winnie, Remi and Kayden. They have embraced school life with confidence and joy, already forming friendships and participating enthusiastically in classroom routines.

We would also like to extend a very warm welcome to three additional students beginning their journey at Talgarno: Jack (Year 5), Allira (Year 4) and Wade (Year 1). Each of them has settled in seamlessly, and it has been wonderful to see how quickly they have become valued members of our school community.



In classrooms, students have been strengthening their literacy and numeracy skills through targeted teaching and hands-on learning. Teachers continue to use student data to tailor lessons to individual needs, ensuring every child is supported and challenged to reach their full potential. The fantastic learning we are seeing is a testament to the dedication of our students and staff.

Sport continues to play an important role in our school culture, encouraging resilience, teamwork and healthy, active lifestyles.

Last Friday, students participated in the swimming carnival where they represented our school superbly, showing great determination in having a go at their events and cheering each other on with pure enjoyment. We could not be more proud of the way they represented our school community. A huge congratulations to Moby Gordon, Billy Kotzur and Mia Kotzur on progressing to the Divisional Swimming Carnival next week. A special mention to Mia, who was crowned 11 Years Age Champion — an outstanding achievement.

Opportunities such as these build confidence, strengthen friendships and create lasting memories for our students.

Preparations are also underway for upcoming community events, which provide valuable opportunities for families to connect and celebrate student learning. These events highlight the strong partnership between home and school — something we value deeply. The meet and greet night was a highlight within the school community where parents and students mingled with the staff to create a fun and vibrant atmosphere, kicking off a great start to the 2026 school year.



Bethanga Primary School

School Values

RAPPORT – **R**espect **A**cceptance **P**ersistence
Pride **O**ptimism **R**esilience **T**ruth



Our Purpose We provide all students from Bethanga, Bellbridge and beyond with an inspiring and responsive curriculum to promote thinking and encourage curiosity. We nurture individual talents and needs in our setting underpinned by high expectations, quality opportunities and caring personalized attention in order for our children to reach their full academic and social potential.



A fabulous start to the 2026 school year!

Term One at Bethanga Primary School has been filled with purposeful learning, creative energy and strong community connections, setting a positive tone for the months ahead.

From the outset, students have shown great adaptability and enthusiasm, supported by a strong focus on wellbeing and engagement. Classrooms are alive with hands-on learning and curiosity, while the playground reflects a culture of cooperation and imagination, with students working together, creating and problem-solving during play.

A cornerstone of the school's wellbeing approach continues to be the Breakfast Club, which operates three mornings a week. The program provides students with access to a range of breakfast foods and fresh fruit, helping them to start the day nourished and ready to learn. This term, families are also receiving fresh fruit to take home, strengthening the school's commitment to supporting students beyond the classroom.

The weeks ahead promise a range of exciting opportunities that connect learning with real-world experiences. Students in Years 3–6 will participate in the NERSSA Swimming Carnival, representing Bethanga Primary with pride, while building confidence and sportsmanship.

Creative expression will also take centre stage as students begin rehearsals for State School Spectacular, working together to develop performance skills and teamwork. Later in the term, Bethanga Primary will host a Cluster Day, welcoming neighbouring schools for a dynamic workshop led by the Stomp Dance Company from Melbourne. The visit will provide students with a high-energy introduction to rhythm, movement and collaborative performance.

To conclude the term, Year 5/6 students will travel to Ballarat for their school camp. The experience is closely linked to their current inquiry into gold and Australia's gold rush history, offering students a hands-on opportunity to deepen their understanding through place-based learning.

With a strong emphasis on wellbeing, creativity and authentic learning experiences, Bethanga Primary School continues to provide students with rich opportunities to grow, connect and succeed.



Rachel Saunders

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The editorial team reserves the right to decide on the content and size of any articles or advertisements submitted.

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Elizabeth Wood, Di Singline (0452 424 248)
Kerrie Stephenson, Julie de Hennin, Lea Casey,
Jacki Eckert
Treasurer- Kerrie Stephenson 6020 1146

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Firstly, the Editorial Team wish to thank our advertisers – without your advertisements in our community newsletter – there would be no newsletter!

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We would like to thank Rosemary McFarland, Bob Singline, Mary Schorobura, Bethanga PO, Talgarno mail contractors and Michael Wood for their on-going support in delivering the Berringa Community News

COMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Page
March		
4	Men's Shed member meeting	22
5	Bethanga Golf Club AGM	
11	Jam Night Bethanga Hotel	12
13	Talgarno Community BBQ 6pm	
14	Talgarno Tennis Club Season breakup	16
15	CFA District Junior championship	25
18	Trivia Night Bethanga Hotel	12
19	Peninsula Market Meeting	4
April		
1	Men's Shed member meeting	22
4	Bethanga Gymkhana	5
8	Jam Night Bethanga Hotel	12
10	Talgarno Community BBQ 6pm	
14	Bethanga Landcare Meeting	30
22	Trivia Night Bethanga Hotel	12
25	ANZAC Day Bethanga	6
May		
6	Men's Shed member meeting	22
13	Jam Night Bethanga Hotel	12
8	Talgarno Community BBQ 6 pm	
16	DEADLINE BERRINGA NEWS WINTER EDITION	
20	Trivia Night Bethanga Hotel	12



The Berringa Community News is published four times per year at the beginning of each season

Deadlines for articles and advertising for 2026/27 editions are:

Winter 2026 - 16 May
Spring 2026 - 16 August
Summer 2026 - 15 November
Autumn 2027 - 15 February

Enquiries and contributions email
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The newsletter is also available in colour on line at www.berringacommunitynews.com.au