

Berringa Community News

News and views from the residents of
Bellbridge, Bethanga, Granya & Talgar-
no

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Autumn 2023



A Combined 90 years of Service to the Berringa Community

Three members of the Community News team were recognised for their significant service as volunteers to numerous groups (too many to list here, see below). Julie de Hennin received an Order of Australia Medal, Julie Miller received an Ambulance Service Medal, and Di Singline a Towong Shire Citizen of the year award. These three generous volunteers have also been integral to bringing you this quarterly newsletter, by sourcing and writing stories, photographing and attending events, editing, proof reading, collating and delivering. We thank them wholeheartedly for their continued contributions to our community.

Bert and Lea

Ms Julie de Hennin OAM, Medal of the Order of Australia in the General Division for service to the community of northern Victoria.



Rural Business and Land Management

- *Former Chair, Australian Alpine Valley's Agribusiness Forum, 2005-2009.*
- *Member, Australian Women in Agriculture.*
- *Secretary and Office Bearer and Member, Wises Creek-Talgarno Landcare Group, 30 years.*
- *Board Member, Albury Wodonga Community College, 2008-2011*
- *Member, Towong Shire Economic Development Advisory Committee.*
- *Former Board Member, Albury Wodonga Parklands*
- *Inaugural Committee Member, Australian Lavender Growers Association, 1996-1988.*
- *Albury Wodonga Regional Cancer Centre volunteer Coordinator and Host, Berringa Peninsula Community Morning Tea Fundraiser, since 2018.*
- *Community Advocate, Albury Wodonga Cancer Centre Trust Fund*
- *Current President, Talgarno Cemetery Trust, since 2020.*
- *Member, Talgarno Fire Brigade, Country Fire Authority, current.*
- *Editorial Team Member, Berringa Community News, since 2017, and regular contributor for 20 years.*
- *Secretary, Berringa Peninsula Neighbourhood Watch, 1998-2018.*
- *Former President, Talgarno Tennis Club, and Wodonga Tennis Centre.*
- *Established Special Olympics (North East Victoria) for young people with a disability*
- *Current Member, Friends of Albury Botanic Gardens*
- *Director AWARE Industries and a Life Member.*

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.

Ms Julie Miller ASM Ambulance Service Medal,



Julie commenced service with Ambulance Victoria in 2006. During her career she has served as a volunteer Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) member in Bethanga, a small rural town in North-East Victoria. She currently holds the position of Community Emergency Response Team Leader Bethanga/Berringa.

As Team Leader of the local volunteer CERT in Bethanga/Berringa, she has been instrumental in ensuring the local, widely dispersed rural community has 24-hour access to vital emergency care. She not only undertakes the critical hands-on operational role of a CERT, but also provides a vital link that maintains the team's cohesion, wellbeing, and support to ensure that they can provide timely responses to medical emergencies in the local community, through early life saving intervention and care of patients. This includes supporting new recruits through their initial training program, together with encouraging their continuing development throughout their volunteering careers.

As a first responder state forum representative, she has actively participated and significantly contributed to first responder initiatives at Ambulance Victoria, including their first responder team leader development program, initial first responder training course review and the development of an updated Patient Care Record for first responders state-wide.

During her 15-year career as an Ambulance Victoria CERT volunteer, Julie has not only been an active, well known community leader, her determination and commitment to the community of Bethanga/Berringa and its local CERT, in this remote location in Victoria, has been distinguished.

Dianne Singline Berringa Peninsula Citizen of the Year 2023

In every community, there are people involved in committees who do not take on office bearer roles or a public face but work behind the scenes to contribute to the community. They would be humbled by being recognised with an Australia Day award.

One of these people is Di Singline from Bethanga. Di taught at Bethanga Primary School and elsewhere on the Peninsula from 1988 to 2009. As a teacher, she was always on the School Council, never missed a working bee, often the first there and last to leave!

She was a member of Bethanga Heritage Group when it was operated in the 1980s and is still involved with Bethanga Landcare since first taking her children to plant trees in 1980.

Di is co-editor for Berringa Community News. She writes articles, edits and distributes the newsletter in Bethanga. She has been on the Bethanga Memorial Hall Committee for about 10 years and has been on Berringa Peninsula Community Network since its inception in 2020. Di was on a sub-committee that arranged business networking events and organises venues and catering for meetings. Di has been involved in organising the local Australia's Biggest Morning Tea events and can always be found at Bethanga Gymkhana making cakes or slices and helping serve on the day.

Di has come a full circle, since having grandchildren at Bethanga Primary School, she has returned to the school as a volunteer to hear reading and has spent a lot of time the last two years helping set up for the annual Art Show.

Bethanga and the communities of Berringa Peninsula thank Di for so many years of service to the community.



Di Singline presented with the Berringa Peninsula Citizen of the Year award by Towong Shire Mayor Cr Andrew Whitehead

Australia Day 2023



The Rotary Club of Bellbridge Lake Hume, in conjunction with Towong Shire Council and Hume Boat Club, conducted the annual Australia Day celebrations at the Hume Boat Club Bellbridge on Thursday 26 January. The weather was fine for the special occasion. All those present enjoyed a hearty breakfast and fellowship prior to the presentation of awards. John Parry and Bella Tomasi provided musical entertainment and face painting for the kids.

The flag raising ceremony was performed by the TS Albury Navy Cadets.

Dianne Singline was presented with the Berringa Peninsula Citizen of the Year award.

Bethanga Primary Art School Show 2022. was presented with the Community Group of the Year 2023 award.



Bethanga Primary School Art Show

The Bethanga Primary school held the Inaugural Bethanga Art show in 2021, followed up in 2022 and with its success is planned to be an annual event.

It is a wonderful event that showcases local artists and their creative pursuits through paintings, drawings, mixed media, threads and textiles, sculpture and photography. The Art Show provides encouragement to other local artists to exhibit and helps them recognise themselves as artists. It encourages local artists to develop their ideas and inspires the local children by hanging their work amongst the adult works.

The event had a great opening night with beautiful food and wine and a selection of works for auction. It provided an opportunity for social engagement and connection of wider community members from the Berringa Peninsula who may or may not have children at the school.

The event is a Bethanga Primary School fundraiser. The exhibitors, 21 in 2022, decide how much commission from their sales goes to the school, with a minimum 10%. A silent auction of a large range of generously donated goods and services was held over 2 days. In 2021 \$6500, was raised with \$5000 donated to a local family who had lost everything in a house fire and in 2022 \$8000 was raised.



Cr Andrew Whitehead also conducted an Australian Citizen Ceremony



Article Andrew Christy
Photos Rachel Cooper

Police Report

Hello all,

I hope all is well and people are enjoying the summer.

The summer months get particularly busy with the influx of people enjoying the lake and the lovely area Bellbridge foreshores has to offer.

I have noticed an increase of people from Albury Wodonga due to the lake being full. Unfortunately not all people do the right thing and I have had several complaints of hoon drivers, as well as erratic boat and jet ski users.

Over the past few months I have made a concerted effort to bring this under control. Numerous traffic tickets were handed out to young drivers in an effort to curb this behaviour. It appears now that the message is out that this behaviour is not acceptable in our area and traffic complaints are down.

I employed the services of the water police over the past few months. Unfortunately over 150 infringement notices were issued over this time for all types of offences. This ranged from not having the required safety equipment, registration offences and dangerous boating too close to the shore. The water police will continue to turn up unannounced at any time. I have already noticed the change in boating and jet ski operators.

I have also noticed out of town an increase in burnout marks on the roads. If anyone does witness this happening, please let me know. The last thing we want is another fatality on our roads. Registration numbers and makes and models of offending vehicles would be extremely beneficial to me.

We had a spate of theft from motor vehicles not so long back. With an outstanding community effort we were able to locate and arrest the offenders within a few days. CCTV footage was invaluable in this investigation. Security lights were seen as a deterrent on a couple of occasions where the offenders ran off when the light came on. Unfortunately again we have people come in from out of town and find the area a soft target. They generally concentrate on easy pickings targeting unlocked vehicles. I cannot stress enough to secure vehicles and houses and keep valuables out of sight.

I have recently been alerted to some package thefts in the Talgarno area. These thefts are generally opportunistic thefts from people driving by. Again this is

hard to control as postal services leave packages in mail boxes in remote surroundings. If anyone does see a strange car pulled up, or anything that doesn't seem right it would be helpful to take notice.

I have had a case of diesel theft from machinery in the Talgarno area as well. If you are leaving machinery near the road make sure you have a lockable fuel cap, or if you can move the machinery out of sight. Again we need to eliminate opportunistic thefts.

I had a report from Towong Shire Council regarding some damages and thefts of signage from Bellbridge where the traffic lights are situated on Lake Road. A set of wheels were also taken from the traffic light trailer. I have conducted a door knock of the area a couple of times to try and gather any information that would help me to apprehend the offenders. I haven't spoken to everyone as yet so if you have any information, please let me know. The cost to the council was nearly \$1500.00 for repair and replacement.

Due to the amount of rain we have had, the roads around our shire are in a bad way. Please take care when driving and obey the reduced speed signage. The council is working tirelessly to repair the roads, but unfortunately it is going to take quite some time. I will be enforcing speed reduction areas so please be mindful.

The Bethanga Hotel is now open. I have backed the new publican and I am sure he will do a fantastic job. I have had numerous meetings with him and had some very positive outcomes. On that note I just want to remind everyone about my zero tolerance to drink driving. Please enjoy yourself but make sure you have a ride home. I will be increasing breath tests around the area from this point on. I have attended far too many drink driving fatalities.

I hope everyone enjoys the rest of the summer. The area we live in is fantastic. The population here is upstanding. I will be keeping a close eye on the unwanted visitors to the area in a hope the message gets out that any unsociable behaviour will not be tolerated.

Thankyou.

*Leading Senior Constable Luke FOGARTY
Bethanga Police Station.*

ANZAC Day 2023

The Bethanga Soldiers Memorial Hall Committee will be conducting an ANZAC Day Service at the Hall gates on Tuesday 25 April 2023 at 08:30 AM.

Morning tea to follow in the Hall. Please bring a plate if possible.

Graham Maynard

President Bethanga Soldiers Memorial Hall C.O.M

e: gcmaynard1@gmail.com

m: 0474381775

Update on the Three Halls Project

We have had a dozen Working Group meetings over the last 12 months, many site visits, submissions to Towong Shire, negotiations with the commonwealth government, project managers, building contractors, insurers and tradies, as well as numerous emails and letters. Unfortunately, despite this hard work by the Working Group we have no concrete work completed to date.

However, the ground work is done and we are on the brink of getting actual work started. Permits have been obtained, insurance arranged, and extensions of time with the Commonwealth Bushfire Recovery agency negotiated.

Bethanga Landcare Group has a MoU with Landcare Victoria Incorporated (who are handling the finances). A contract has been made with Partnear for Project Manager. A contract is being finalised with TVN On Country as head (building) contractor. Local tradies are invited to register with TVN On Country if they are interested in obtaining work.

Thanks to the immense amount of work by the volunteers on the Working Group.

TVN On-Country

Request for Quotation

TVN is looking for suitable qualified contractors to submit a quotation for the following project:

3 Halls Refurbishment

(Bethanga, Talgarno, & Grenya)

Suitable qualified contractors include:

Roof Plumbers, Electricians/Solar, Plumbers, Joiner, Carpentry, Painting.

Any expressions of interests, please email your company details to meagan.ablett@tvngroup.com.au and we will send out the scope of works. If you have any questions regarding the project, please call **02 6024 6859**.

Hugh Hanna

Three Halls Working Group

The Peninsula Bush Dance

On Saturday 11 February the Talgarno Recreation Reserve hosted a great community event - 'The Peninsula Bush Dance' at the Granya Wool Press. This community event was sponsored by the Towong Shire and supported by the Berringa Peninsula Community Network to bring local communities together given recent trying times.

This night was a huge success with over 180 guests who enjoyed a community BBQ and some fabulous bush dancing with music provided by 'The Remnantz'. It was great to see all age groups integrating and having a great night full of fun, laughs and dancing.



The proceeds from this event will go towards upgrading the facilities to the Talgarno Recreation Reserve and to making it possible to turn this into an annual event to be run at the Talgarno Recreation Reserve.

A big thank you to The Granya Wool Press and 'The Remnantz' for providing a great venue and creating a family friendly atmosphere for all to enjoy. Thank you to the Towong Shire for their support and the committee members for hosting the event.

Mari Jones
Secretary,

Talgarno Recreation Reserve Committee of Management

Peninsula Seasonal Markets: A Must-Visit Destination for Locally Made Goods and Delicious Food!



Mark your calendars, because the date is confirmed for our next market! **On Sunday, April 23rd**, from 9am to 1pm. Head to the Lake Hume Boat Club in Bellbridge to experience a true autumn market filled with all sorts of handmade and locally produced goods.

You'll be able to find everything from artisanal jewellery to handcrafted gifts, all made by local artists and craftspeople. Whether you're looking for a unique gift or something special to treat yourself, you're sure to find it here.

The market will also feature a variety of food stalls and coffee carts. Satisfy your cravings with tasty snacks and delicious beverages while you browse the stalls and take in the beautiful surroundings of the Lake Hume Boat Club.

So why should you make the effort to attend the Peninsula Seasonal Markets? Firstly, by shopping locally

and supporting small businesses, you'll be making a valuable contribution to your community. Not only will you be purchasing high-quality goods, but you'll also be helping to create jobs and support the local economy.

Secondly, attending the autumn market is a wonderful way to spend a Sunday morning with family and friends. You can soak up the atmosphere, take a leisurely stroll around the stalls, and perhaps even make some new connections with fellow shoppers and vendors.

Our upcoming market is an event not to be missed. With its unique selection of handmade goods, delicious food, and gorgeous location, it's the perfect destination for anyone looking to experience the best of what the local community has to offer. So come along on Sunday, April 23rd, and see for yourself what all the **fuss** is about! .

The Way We Were

At the Wodonga and District Historical Society we have now celebrated being at Hut 97 for our first year. The number of visitors has been mostly good, but then sometimes we are all set up and no one comes.

We are very short on volunteers as we must have at least two when we are open. There is plenty to see and many have an interesting story to them, so we would love to see you visit us for the price of a cup of coffee, a donation of \$5 will keep the collection in prime condition.

Our project for 2023 is an exciting one. The photo shows one similar to what we have in mind and as we have a few multiples of rusty old tools, we thought this was putting them to good use in the form of a piece of Art. The tools of yesteryear.

Please, if you would like to add a piece of your history to this project, we would welcome it as so far, we need more to make it a sizeable



statement of our early history. We haven't got a rabbit trap yet.

Just give me a call on 0412264238 and it will be collected.

Recently we were given a donation of a beautifully restored Organ from a family in Tallangatta.

Last week we had a visitor from Albury who wanted to leave district maps to add to the collection and when he saw the organ he asked if he could play it. I believe it was quite emotional and brought tears to the eyes of those present as it was so beautiful. It was John Scott who plays the organ at St Mathews in Albury. I was so disappointed I wasn't there to hear it.

Please consider writing your family history and have it digitized into our many family histories as a place of research for the generations to come. Don't take your history to the grave, we need it here.

Hoping we see you soon at Bonegilla Migrant Experience, Hut 97, Mon, Wed, Sat and Sun, 10- 3pm.

Marie Elliot

*President
Wodonga & District Historical
Society.*

Talgarno Recreation Reserve – What’s happening

The Talgrno tennis courts are nearing completion with asphalt being laid prior to final surfacing. The Towong Shire has assured the committee that it will maintain the courts in the future as it does other courts across Towong Shire. Concerns about the court alignment and flooding of the clubhouse in the recent rain event have been conveyed to the shire and the Project Manager. Everybody is looking forward to the successful conclusion of the project.

The delays on the Three Halls Project have continued owing to the need to put in place a more comprehensive insurance coverage but this is now approved. Work should commence in the next few weeks.

Work on the BBQ shelter is about to start with an expected completion by mid-March. Solar panels will be installed in April. Electricity connections will be carried out in conjunction with the Three Halls Project which includes the storage battery. We have also requested a quote for installation of a drain between the shelter and the hall to avoid the flooding and wet ground problems that were experienced last year.

Although discussions with the Shire on modification to the playground were promising there has yet to be any action taken possibly because they are waiting for the court upgrade to be completed.

We have requested further information from the Shire about possible public toilets for Talgarno but the details of options have yet to be provided. In the meantime, the committee has requested quotes for a minor upgrade to the hall’s toilets which we may have to fund using our own resources.

If anybody in the community has any comment or question for the Recreation Reserve Committee, please contact me (0419 609 042) or our Secretary, Mari Green (0418 693 535). Our next meeting will be at the Hall, 11 AM, March 5.

Greg Hayes

President,

Talgarno Recreation Reserve Committee of Management

Talgarno Hall to Host Music Night

Towong Shire Council is excited to announce that they are bringing the Festival of Small Halls Talgarno Hall in April! The Festival of Small Halls is a relaxed, family-friendly show that tours Australia, bringing performers from larger festivals to the regional community halls for a social night of tunes and good times.

Folk and contemporary acoustic music will feature on the night. The artist line-up includes Australian artists Folk Bitch Trio , Canadian folk singer and song writer Scott Cook , plus Bethanga local, Peter Klein - they'll all play music of exceptional quality and heart and were chosen for the tour not only because of their beautiful songs and tunes, but because they have the ability to really connect with

the people they play for, whether through storytelling, the ability to tell a good joke (or a truly terrible one), a wonderful



Folk Bitch Trio

warmth and a real interest in visiting places a little off the beaten track.

Each night of the tour is hosted by volunteers from the local community (that’s us!), so it’s also a chance to show off our warmest welcome and bring our trademark enthusiasm.

You can expect a beautiful night of original music, as well as a chance to catch up with families and friends before, during and after the

show. It’s an all ages event and all are welcome. There’ll be food and a bar.

When: 6pm-9pm, Thursday April 6, 2023

Where: Talgarno Hall

Tickets to the event are just \$15 adult/\$10 concession/\$5 child, please book at the Festival of Small Halls website: festivalofsmallhalls.com.au



Scott Cook

FENCING WORK REQUIRED

The Talgarno Cemetery Trust has an area in the cemetery that requires approximately 150 metres of fencing to be completed.

The fencing wire has been purchased and the strainer posts and stays are in the ground.

In you are interested in this work please call Graham Redman. Ph 0459 352058 for more information.

Quotes for Minor Upgrade for Talgarno Hall Toilets

The Hall committee is requesting quotes for minor works to improve the appearance and simplify the cleaning of the Hall's toilets. The work involved needs to be agreed with the committee but we are envisaging something along the following lines:

- Replacement of toilet suites in ladies' and men's toilet
- Lining of the walls in both toilets with suitable sheeting to make it easier to keep clean and to improve appearance
- Supply and installation of grab rails in both toilets
- Painting of ceilings, door and architraves
- Supply and installation of LED lighting
- Replacement of broken floor tile in men's toilet

Trades people interested in quoting on all or part of this work are invited to contact Greg Hayes (0419 609 042) or Mari Green (0418 693 535) to arrange an inspection with a committee member.

Men's Shed Update

The Bethanga Men's Shed, sited on the old council depot, opened in November, 2009 with one small unlined shed. Over the years the members have steadily improved the facilities and expanded the activities pursued there.

At present there are 12 members, with an average of 6-7 regularly attending on Wednesdays, from 9:00 a.m. onwards. The initial fee to join Men's Shed, Victoria is \$50, which is essential for insurance purposes. Members pay \$2 per week to cover fuel, electricity, etc.

Members have a variety of skills to share and enjoy working on group projects or individual ones from home. Occasionally some items are put up for sale. All comers are welcome, with the mutual support and conversation being an important part of the Men's Shed ethos.

A new building is well decked out as a lunch and conference room, where morning tea is also enjoyed. Other buildings have been added including a storage shed, with a recently added verandah, where instruction in stick and MIG welding is currently being done. This shed has a lathe, kindly donated with accompanying tools, as well as a mitre saw and Triton work centre. A large overhead umbrella, through a mining company grant has added an extra shade area. There is a woodshed and two tanks that were obtained through the FRRR (The Foundation for Rural & Regional Recovery).

Some recently completed projects have been items donated and returned to working order, including:

- *a self-drive rotary hoe
- *a hand operated drill press
- *an old railway table
- *a foot operated potter's wheel
- *a sandstone grinding wheel

BETHANGA GYMKHANA



SPORTS AND FAMILY FUN DAY APRIL 8TH 2023

- KIOSK • BBQ • BAR • COFFEE
- HOME MADE CAKES & SLICES
- FREE KIDS GAMES • HORSE EVENTS
- DOG JUMPING COMPETITION
- LUCKY GATE PRIZES • SILENT AUCTION
- LOCAL SCHOOLS ART DISPLAY

eftpos facilities available



Bethanga Recreation Reserve,
Hollow Street, Bethanga, VIC 3691



An ongoing restoration project is a manual tracking telescope donated by the late Bob Price, a life member of the Men's Shed and passionate observer of the cosmos via his huge telescope in Bethanga. It was made in Australia in the 1920's or 30's and later sent to Singapore. It works like a grandfather clock with suspended weights and it also has a mechanical tracker that adjusts as the earth spins. It will be a wonderful and very unusual piece when it's finished.

If you think you would like to join the group or have any questions, president, Phil Craig or any of the other members would be happy to oblige.

Di Singline

Bethanga Cricket Club Pink Ladies Day 2023

The second Bethanga Cricket Club Pink Ladies Day on Saturday Feb 18th was a roaring success for both attendees and the hard-working Committee.

In spite of the heat, sixty ladies in various shades of pink



shared lunch at beautifully set tables in decorated white marquees at the picturesque ground.

Whilst it may not have rivalled the annual Pink Test in Sydney, there was pink everywhere in support of a great cause. Bethanga A Grade played Baranduda in pink shirts and pink caps and the stumps were pink.

The committee put on a great day with all tickets sold. Pink drinks went down a treat in the shade, as did the savoury food and pink topped cupcakes. Tilly Pearson worked hard all day bringing out platters of food, and the bar staff kept up with the demand for cocktails and cold drinks.

A silent auction during lunch, cricketer Calcutta and a post match auction all generated funds which, along with any profits from the day, will be donated to the McGrath Foundation which raises money to place McGrath Breast Care Nurses in communities across Australia, and increase breast health awareness.

Keep an eye out for the next season's Pink event at the club, get in early for your tickets.

Jacki Eckert

Bethanga Local Appointed New Director of National Portrait Gallery

Bree Pickering is "thrilled and honoured" to be recently appointed Director of the National Portrait Gallery in Canberra, a prestigious and influential/valued role.

NPG Chair Penny Fowler said "Bree's proven track record as an ambitious and transformative arts-leader ... whose vision and ideas had positive impacts across all aspects of the business ... marks an exciting new chapter for the NPG as it enters its 25th year. We know she will bring energy, ideas, an appetite for innovation and a passion for growth and expansion into this important role."

Bree has spent the past 6 years as Director of MAMA, Albury, where she, along with her team, was instrumental in establishing the gallery as one of the best in regional Australia, whilst at the same time moving the museum to a new model of governance. A passionate advocate for the fair treatment of artists and arts workers, Bree curated a distinguished catalogue of exhibitions and programs for the local and wider community.

Bree was born in Noosa and after completing high school she developed her interest in the performing arts in Brisbane, becoming involved in theatre groups there. She then moved to Melbourne for two years, followed by enrolment at the Sydney College of the Arts, studying Australian and First Nations history. It was here that she met her future husband, Marley Dawson, a talented sculptor who has exhibited in Washington DC and Hyphen, Wodonga. They became prominent members of the local arts community and Bree continued writing articles, reviews, etc. involving the theatre but she gradually moved more into the visual arts scene.

After graduating from SCA, Bree gained a position at the Anna Schwartz Gallery of Commercial Art in Melbourne. Bree and Marley then moved to the USA for 2 and a half years where she was Executive Director of VOX Populi, a not-for-profit contemporary art space in Philadelphia. She also served as Cultural Program Manager for the Australian Embassy in Washington DC.



Living and working in Philadelphia heightened Bree and Marley's awareness of the huge contrast between the living conditions of the very rich and the very poor. It cemented their shared values and appreciation of the Australian lifestyle. It became a time when a choice of direction in their life was being considered and so they moved back to Australia, near to Marley's parents in Albury.

They settled very happily into their new home at Bethanga, which they love and soon their son Neon, joined the family. Whilst excited to be taking on this new role, Bree and Marley are very sad to be leaving the area and are extremely grateful for our supportive community, in particular at the Bellbridge Early Childhood Centre.



Berringa Peninsula Community Network

The Berringa Peninsula Community Network held its AGM in November. The new committee is

- Chair:** Julie Miller
- Vice Chair:** Brendan Pearson
- Secretary:** Rowena Calvert
- Assistant Secretary:** Liz Welch
- Treasurer:** Riley Maloney
- Ordinary members:**
 - Emma Nichol
 - Di Singline
 - Denise Anderson
 - Dave Wortmann
 - Jenni Manguy
 - Jim de Hennin
 - Leslie Smith
 - Louis McMahon
 - Owen Cooper
 - Peter Jacobsen
 - Ross Mitchell
 - Sandra Maloney

If you need more information or have some ideas you would like the committee to consider, please contact any of the committee members.

Funding for Community

The Berringa Peninsula Community Network (BPCN) has access to funds through Emergency Recovery Victoria (ERV) that may be used for community events, skills or leadership development. The BPCN invited community groups, local businesses, and community members to get together on 7 November 2022 at Bethanga Hall to find out what events or projects are planned that could benefit from some financial support and uncover ideas for new opportunities to build or bring the community together. We are issuing a funding application form to those groups whose ideas meet the funding criteria.

To be eligible for funding

- * The activity promotes the inclusion of vulnerable community members
- * The event will help grow your organisation.
- * This activity is part of a plan for sustainable community engagement.
- * The event will promote relationships between other community organisations/agencies.
- * It will provide an opportunity to develop new skills, interests or engagement.
- * This activity complements, or fills a gap or need, in a calendar of events.
- * There is a longer-term benefit for the community from this activity /event.

If you did not attend the meeting but your not-for-profit group has a project or event that meets the funding criteria, you are invited to apply. Please email berringapcn@gmail.com or call Julie Miller to obtain an application form or more information.

Community Emergency Management Plans

Did you receive this in the post?

Help your community prepare for emergencies

Berringa Peninsula Community Network is seeking Expressions of Interest from community members to help develop emergency management plans.

Will you help?

When: The Working Groups propose to meet initially in April 2023 and will meet three times thereafter to establish community needs and develop a plan for each region.

Who: Is it you? Do you want to help better prepare our regions for emergencies? Turn the page for three easy options to register your interest...

What: We're developing Community Emergency Management Plans for Bellbridge, Bethanga, Granya/Bungil and Talgarno. Plans will cover fire preparedness; storms and flooding; community and personal disasters.

How: We need local knowledge and input from the community to make sure these plans are successful. The four Community Working Groups (one for each region) will work with the CFA, SES, CERT and Towong Shire Council.

OPTION 1: Complete the form below and return by post OR
OPTION 2: Email the information below to: berringapcn@gmail.com OR
OPTION 3: Phone Jenni Manguy: 02 6026 4260

Expressions of Interest due by 17 March 2023

I am interested in joining a Community Working Group for my region: YES NO

My region is: (Tick one)

Bellbridge

Bethanga

Granya/Bungil

Talgarno

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

I can't join a Working Group, but here are my suggestions:

Berringa Peninsula Community Network
 C/O Bethanga LPO
 2 Bridge Street
 Bethanga Victoria 3691

PLEASE PLACE STAMP HERE

BPCN is seeking expressions of Interest from community members to help develop individual community emergency management plans for Bellbridge, Bethanga, Granya/Bungil and Talgarno. Plans will cover fire preparedness; storms and flooding; community and personal disasters.

We have posted cards to each household on the Peninsula. If you did not receive one and are interested in being involved please email berringapcn@gmail.com or call Jenni Manguy 02 6026 4260

Julie Miller
berringapcn@gmail.com
0419 339 679

Prospects for the Season Ahead

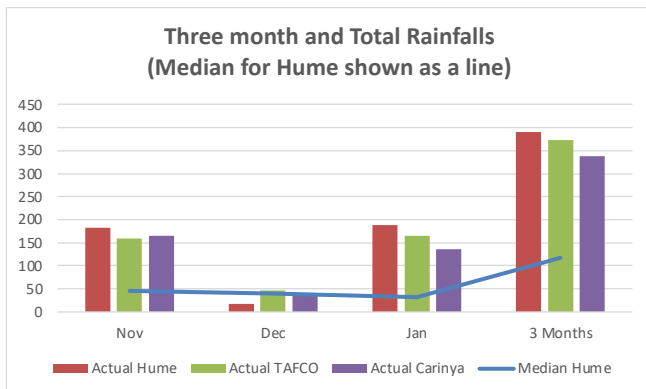
Thank you to Greg Hayes who has agreed to regularly contribute weather related articles for Berringa Community News readers.



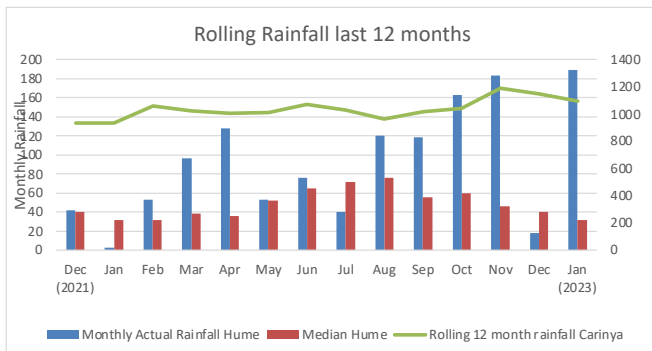
Rainfall Round-up

BOM got it right again saying that the summer rainfall was highly likely to be above average.

The historical median rainfall for November to end January is 118 mm. The actual rainfall for Hume Reservoir was 390 mm, or 330% of median. I had 337 mm and Jim & Julie de Hennin had 372 mm. The December rainfall was about average but November and January were very wet. Last November was one of the wettest on record.



So we have had another exceptionally wet year. As you can see from the graph below, the rolling 12 month rainfall has seldom dropped below 1000 mm and it's currently sitting at 1096 mm. That's more than 40% higher than normal. It's as if we were transported into a high rainfall zone. We all know that this can't last and that things will revert to normal. Who knows how it will turn out? Are we going to continue to have these extreme events and will this become the new 'normal'? A lot of the smart money is saying that these extreme events are here to stay – each of us will make our own call.



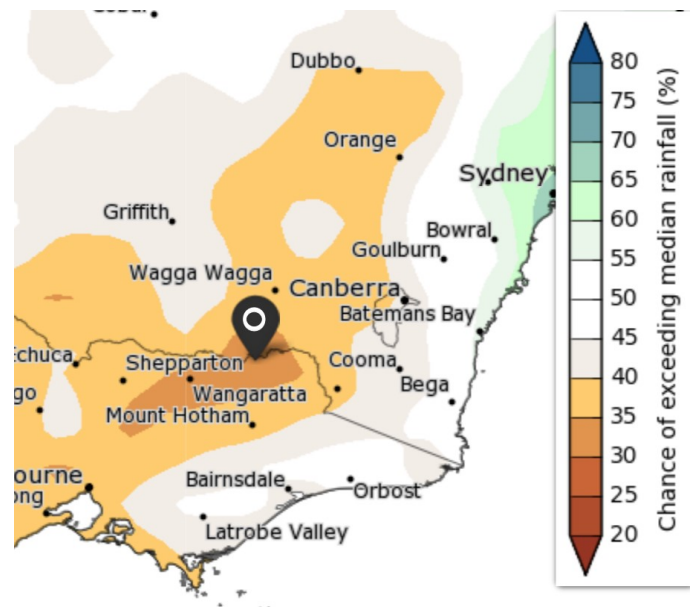
As a result of all this rain, water storages across the Murray-Darling Basin are at 97% of capacity. But because so much of it has come in storms, the erosion and flood events have been extreme, including in our area. All of us with creeks have had to rebuild crossings and repair fences and in some cases repair dams.

Again, we had heaps of rain because the seas in the northwest, north and northeast were warm and the air was full of moisture, with winds pushing the wet air our way instead of to South America. We also had some carryover effects of the volcano in Tonga 12 months ago which helped develop a positive Southern Annular Mode, meaning that the sub-tropical ridge of High Pressure was further south than normal. This meant that any fronts coming in from the west reached us but the south of Victoria and Tasmania missed out.

A weak La Niña still persists, the third in a row which has only happened three times in the last 150 years.

Prospects for Autumn (March to end May)

It is expected that the La Niña will break down in the next few months and most models suggest an El Niño will develop in winter. Nine out of 12 models reviewed by Dale Grey indicate neutral conditions up to April meaning neither wetter nor drier than average. Looking at the May to July period, Dale's models are shifting towards drier conditions. BOM are saying that rainfall is likely (77% chance) to be below the median over the March to May period. There is a 40% chance that it will be unusually dry. (This is BOM's March to May forecast)



It does look as if the exceptionally wet conditions are ending and that we should be preparing for drier times.

Greg Hayes



Georges Creek Road Upgrade

The Georges Creek Road Upgrade project has entered its final stage with widening, pavement construction and sealing commencing next month at the Talgarno end.

Traffic control measures will be in place while works are underway.

If you have any questions about the project please contact the project manager on 1300 365 222 or infrastructure@towong.vic.gov.au



How Do I Report Road Damage or Hazards?

If you notice any damage or a hazard on a local road you can report this by contacting our Customer Service team on 1300 365 222 or info@towong.vic.gov.au.

Providing these key details will help us locate and resolve the issue as quickly as possible:

- Name of the road
- Any identifying geographic features
- Whether it's sealed or unsealed
- If you have your phone, take a picture and email it to us

TOWONG SHIRE COUNCIL

Visit www.towong.vic.gov.au or find us on Facebook for news and information that can help you make the most out of living in Towong Shire.

Questions, concerns, feedback?

Please contact us:

32 Towong Street (PO Box 55)
Tallangatta 3700
T 02 6071 5100
E info@towong.vic.gov.au



2023 Council Meetings

Time	Date	Location
10.30am	25 January 2023	Tallangatta
10.30am	22 February 2023	Corryong
1.30pm	22 March 2023	Tallangatta
10.30am	26 April 2023	Corryong
10.30am	31 May 2023	Tallangatta
10.30am	28 June 2023	Corryong
10.30am	26 July 2023	Tallangatta
10.30am	23 August 2023	Corryong
10.30am	27 September 2023	Tallangatta
10.30am	25 October 2023	Corryong
10.30am	22 November 2023	Tallangatta
10.30am	20 December 2023	Corryong

The agenda and requirements for Public Question Time can be found prior to the meeting on our website or by calling 1300 365 222.

Visit towong.vic.gov.au

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 bridge and ferry closures: www.livetraffic.com

CORRYONG BUS & FREIGHT

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

Daily Monday to Friday

Maurie Johnston

0427 240 077

Women's Health Clinics

Clinics are also 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

G ranya Museum
Specialising in
pioneer families.

Open by appointment

6072 9540

Talgarno Hall

Hall hire rates, which include air conditioning costs, are:
Community meetings under 3 hours \$15,
meetings over 3 hours \$25.

Local resident function hire \$150 plus \$150 bond
(includes insurance).

Non-resident function hire \$250 plus \$150 bond
(includes insurance).

The old chairs and the tables are available for hire by donation.

For bookings contact Anthea 6020 1134

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: Graham Maynard 6026 4007, Ron Evans 6026 4301 or Robin Neilson 0400 472 247

Granya Hall

Fees for the hall hire

Non-profit organisations - \$60 including tea and coffee.

For other functions it will be \$100, included is \$40 to cover public liability insurance.

Catering \$8 a head

Community Meeting \$15

Bookings and Information contact

Kim Stewart

kstewart557@gmail.com

0412 672 629

Autumn is here, time to sit in sun with a good book from the Talgarno Street Library

Open all hours for everyone at the Talgarno Hall.

Bonegilla Hall

Hall available for hire.

Craft Group held every Thursday
10am-2pm.

Monthly Dance held on the 4th
Saturday of the month 8pm start.

Anyone interested in Zumba
classes?

Enquiries: 0439 186 373
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

Harris- Malcolm Hugh (Massey)

Massey was born on the 18/ 10/ 1933 in Albury and died at Westmont on the 13/02/2023.

His parents and grandparents were farmers from Bethanga.

Massey went to Bethanga Primary School and then on to Wodonga Tech and Albury Grammar. After his schooling, Massey came home to the farm to assist his father. It was then obvious that he needed to find a job off farm. He was a school bus driver for many years, delivering the young students to the high schools in Wodonga. He was also a truck driver, driving for his brother-in-law, Bob Pearce. He also drove cement trucks and tried his hand at selling tractors.

Massey and his family were on many committees in Bethanga and were involved in all sorts of social activities around the town eg Euchre nights at Bethanga Primary School, monthly dances and Young Farmers events. Massey was a member of the Lodge for over 50 years. He was a great supporter of the Bethanga Football club. He had the very unenviable job of goal umpiring for many years for the Club.

Massey moved from Bethanga and built a house on Maher's Road but never forgot where he was from, coming back to visit the town and attend celebrations and events.

Massey was a Bethanga man, through and through. He will be sadly missed by his family and many friends.

Babies

Bonnie Gormly and Corbin Smith would like to announce the safe arrival of Lane Clarence Smith little brother to Charlie Smith.

We are all very excited to get to know Lane. He is already a very relaxed boy who loves cuddles.



Towong Shire Council Invites everyone to Come for...

MOVIE NIGHT

FREE for Towong Shire Residents

Saturday, 1 April

Bethanga Soldier's Memorial Hall

From 5.30pm-9.30pm

Screening: "The BFG"

For more information and to secure your tickets visit <https://bit.ly/bethangamovienight>

tawonashire



Bethanga Hotel - getting back into their stride



Locals in Bethanga and surrounds couldn't be happier that their pub has reopened on Feb 8th after a difficult time, and with our fantastic General Store, the Bethanga "CBD" is again revitalised.

back, takeaway pizzas are flying out the door, the beer garden is buzzing and lunch and dinner sittings are already fully booked as word gets around the district and into Albury Wodonga. Danny, Mollie, Jaimie, Hayden, Dave, Bridget and all the local young people employed as runners and kitchen help are as welcoming and hard working as ever.



In the first few weeks the Cricket Club, Book Club, and various community groups are again holding their gatherings and meetings at the pub. The meat raffles are

There can sometimes be issues in finding places to regularly connect and meet others in small towns, especially if you don't have kids at the school or play a sport. Local community members identified the importance of having a place that was friendly and safe, to be able to drop in and connect with neighbours and friends – reducing isolation and getting people out of the house. Without the pub as a central point, they felt that some people had drifted away. They also said how great it was that there was the chance to once again share the local feel and vibe of the pub with visiting friends and family.

The community members at the pub over the last 2 weeks couldn't be happier that the Bethanga Hotel is back.

Jacki Eckert



Fortnightly Newsletter

Do you want to be the first to know the latest Council news, project updates, event details and more?

We're pleased to announce that we are launching a fortnightly e-newsletter that we can send straight to your inbox.

to sign up visit mailchi.mp/towong/subscribe

Our first edition will be reaching you on 27 January 2023 - stay tuned!



PLAYGROUP

Berringa Playgroup now includes a Mother Goose session run by Bec, our local MCHN. Please come along for some singing, socialising and outdoor play!

Hosted by Bethanga Primary School alternate Mondays (excl public holidays) during Victorian school terms.

Dates: Term 1 2023 - 6 February, 20 February, 6 March, 20 March, 3 April

Time: 9.30am to 11.00am

Contact: Bethanga P.S. on 02 6026 4263 or Kate Singline on 0422 725 147

Come and join in the FUN!

copyright - igachizy 2018 @ teardrop.com

POST•COFFEE•FOOD•SUPPLIES

BETHANGA GENERAL STORE

MON-FRI 9AM TO 4PM
SAT 9AM TO 2PM
SUN 9AM TO 12NOON
CLOSED PUB HOLS

OPEN 7 DAYS

Bethanga Hotel



Email: bethangahotel@outlook.com
www.bethangahotel.com
 02 6026 4214

WE ARE OPEN!

Thank you so much to everyone for hanging in there with us. We appreciate all the love and support we have received so far.

OPENING HOURS:

Mon + Tue: closed

Wed + Thur + Fri: 4pm till late

Sat + Sun: 11:30am till late

Thursday night dinner - pizza - 5pm till 8pm

Friday night dinner - full menu - 5pm till 8pm

Saturday and Sunday lunch - full menu - 12pm till 2pm

Saturday dinner - full menu - 5pm till 8pm

Please be patient with us while we figure out our groove! Bookings are essential as limited space is available.

Please call 6026 4142 to book!

BETHANGA

ART IN THE AFTERNOON

Join us once a month for a Sunday afternoon of creativity and company. All levels of skill wanted! Bring whatever project you want to work on, some food or drink to share, and some money to chip in for hall hire.

Join our Facebook group by scanning the QR code below or follow www.berringacommunity.com to receive updates.

Deconsecration of Holy Trinity Church, Bethanga

The Parish of Wodonga received notification on 17th January 2023 that Bishop's-in-Council resolved to declare Bethanga Church redundant, in response to a resolution from a meeting of Bethanga parishioners.

Holy Trinity Church, Bethanga will be deconsecrated on Saturday 1st April 2023 at 14.00 pm and the property will be put up for sale.

Extract from correspondence from Fr Jacques Jefferies, Vicar of the Parish of Wodonga

Sandy the War Horse

Sandy was one of 136 000 Australian horses sent abroad in World War I, He was donated by the O'Donnell family of Tallangatta.

He was the only horse to return home to Australian soil.

Sandy belonged to Major General Sir William Bridges, who was killed at Gallipoli and made a dying wish for Sandy to be taken back to Australia.

UNVEILING EVENT.

The unveiling of a statue of Sandy the War Horse will be held on the 20 May 2023 on the Tallangatta Triangles.

There will be a contingent of horse riders forming a guard of honor in front of the statue which will be spectacular, so don't miss this event. Put this date on your calendar.

Market stalls are available on the day of the unveiling. If you would like to have a market stall, please contact Denise Anderson at 0418 612 470 to book your site. Stall site fee is \$10.

Market Stalls will be placed in the triangles. All stallholders will have to have their own insurance.

**SANDY THE WAR HORSE STATUE
UNVEILING EVENT
20TH MAY 2023
SAVE THE DATE**



MUSIC

MARKET STALLS

HORSE RIDERS

BOOK LAUNCH

**FAMILY LAW
CONVEYANCING
WILLS & ESTATES**



**If you need legal assistance you will find us approachable
and willing to help in any way we can.**

Contact us to find out how we can help you.

Ph: 02 5005 7001

Email: admin@coombelawyers.com.au

www.coombelawyers.com.au

CLUBS AND GROUPS

BERRINGA CERT

MOTORCYCLE CRASH CARD

Motorcycle Crash Card

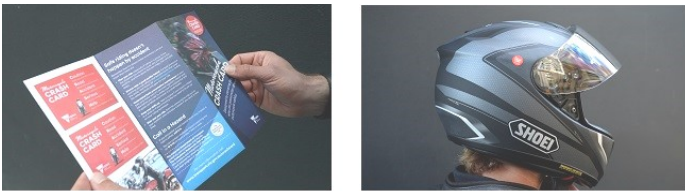
Motorcycle crashes can be high impact and cause serious injury. Fast and effective treatment is crucial to saving lives. That's where the Motorcycle Crash Card comes in.

The Motorcycle Crash Card is a self-laminated card that motorcyclists and passengers can place in their helmets.

The card provides emergency service personnel with important personal information that can guide first responders to a more effective and rapid response.

To use the card, the rider fills out the form with their personal details, emergency contact information and any health conditions and places it in the lining of their helmet.

A highly visible red sticker is placed on the outside of a helmet to indicate there is a Crash Card inside. In the event of a crash, properly trained first responders can safely remove the rider's helmet to access the card for vital details that could save their life.



The Crash Card scheme was created in the UK by paramedics who are also motorcycle riders and has since been adopted around the world. The Crash Card has been produced for Victorian motorcycle riders in collaboration with the Motorcycling Community Engagement Panel.

How to set up your Crash Card?

Setting up your Crash Card is easy. It is essential that you follow these steps:

1. Fill out your personal and medical information before removing the Crash Card from the brochure.
2. Gently peel the personal details layer of the card from the brochure, leaving the second layer in the brochure and exposing the adhesive surface.
3. Flip the card and carefully place it back on to the adhesive surface where the card was removed.
4. Pop the completed card out of the brochure by pushing carefully.
5. Place your Crash Card in your helmet under the lining.

Motorcycle Crash Card Distributors

Motorcycle Crash Card can be found at VicRoads Customer Service Centres



Name:	John Citizen
Date of Birth:	31/05/1966
Licence #:	78912345
Emergency Contact Name & Ph #:	Karen Citizen 0000 000 000
Allergies:	Morphine, Penicillin
Medications:	INSULIN, METFORMIN
Blood type:	AB+ (DIABETIC)

The Victorian Virtual Emergency Department

Have you heard of this free service offered by the Victorian Government?

It is a public health service run out of Northern Health in Melbourne for **non life-threatening emergencies**.

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

No referral is necessary. Ring 03 8405 8815 Option 3

Please have any relevant information ready - name, date of birth, (Northern Health UR number if applicable) clinical problem, recent test results, key psychosocial issues and current treatment.

Information is taken from the following website: nh.org.au/health-professionals/primary-care-liaison/emergency-department.

Defibrillators

The new defibrillator donated by the CERT committee has been installed in the bus shelter located on the foreshore at Bellbridge. After discussions with Towong Shire, we determined that the shelter next to the fish would give the best access to those visiting the foreshore or using the exercise equipment that will be installed soon. It is 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



CPR and Defibrillator Training

Cert will be conducting CPR and defibrillator training this year. We can run a session for your organisation or a group of your neighbours or friends.

Please contact Julie on 0419 339 679 or email juliemiller3691@gmail.com

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 & Post Office
Bethanga Recreation Reserve pavilion
Bellbridge Community Centre
Bellbridge Foreshore Bus stop (near fish)
Granya Hall
Talgarno Hall**

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

ROTARY CLUB OF BELLBRIDGE LAKE HUME INC.

Christmas Carols

The Christmas carols were held at the Hume Boat Club Bellbridge on Sunday 4 December. Over 100 people attended and enjoyed carols, food, singing, and an appearance by Santa. Weather was obliging and everyone enjoyed the evening.

Jayco Albury Wodonga Lake Hume Cycle Challenge

The Cycle Challenge will be held on Sunday 12 March. All rides have the same start/finish point at our new location, the Ebden Reserve on Lake Hume. The events are as follows:

- ◇ The 80km Bethanga Beast
- ◇ The 65km Tangam-Sandy Creek Leep
- ◇ The 40km Tallangatta Rail Trail Tour
- ◇ Kiewa River Family Ride

Entries are now being taken. Refreshments are available before during and after the event. Last years participants all enjoyed the new format and events. Online entries and more details on the event are available on the website www.lakehumechallenge.com.au.

All proceeds to the Albury Wodonga Regional Cancer Centre.

*Regards
Andrew Christy*

WEDDING AND CORPORATE CATERING

Servicing Albury Wodonga and Surrounds



W: cuisine-catering.com.au
E: cuisineconsultants@icloud.com
M: 0407 404 672



BETHANGA CRICKET CLUB

PRESIDENT: Jack Robinson 0488 995 256
SECRETARY: Jess Sirl 0427 401 849
TREASURER: Kristian Jahne 0419 021 901
COACH: Brett Gilbee 6026 4481

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, at the same time as being 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 just come along for a cuppa and a chat.

Member meetings are held at the shed on the first Wednesday of every month at 10.30 am

Phil Craig, President
0427 632 575

TALGARNO TENNIS CLUB

With the regular Saturday pennant season drawing to a close, Talgarno TC looks likely to once again feature in the finals in the Kiewa & Talgarno District Tennis Association. Our Section 4 team have finished the

season off in great form and should have an impact in the finals. Will G and Will L, Maddy, Riley, Bailey, Charlie, Harleigh and Shune have improved immensely this year and should be proud of their efforts.

Section 1 will also play finals, hoping to go one better than the runners' up in the previous season. As usual, the Talgarno ladies have been consistently strong with Anthea, Deb, Jill, Jess L playing and winning most weeks. Jarrod, Brendan, Dave and Adam have done well, but competition in the men's side of the pennant is very good this year and they'll have to find a bit more if Talgarno are to take out the finals.

Unfortunately, our Section 3&4 teams will not make the finals but they have played some great tennis. It is the first time in a number of years that we have fielded a team in Section 3 and the young guys and girls should be better for the experience and stronger players next year.

There is no doubt that NOT having any courts to play and practise on has restricted the development of young players in the club (and the wider peninsula for that matter) and affected the standard of our play in the senior grades. It has also reduced community interaction with no social hitting and night competitions and very limited junior coaching. With very few, if any, public facilities in the Talgarno region, the lack of tennis courts has achieved the opposite of 'bringing the community together.'

The ongoing saga of the Talgarno tennis courts – it is

FOR HIRE

Bobcat
Posthole Borer
Trencher
Tip Truck
6x1 bucket

Soil road base supplied, Grass slashing
and fuel reduction, Firebreaks

0429 686 323

Tallangatta & Kiewa
VETERINARY CLINICS

Bethanga district run
1st Wed of the month
Also the 3rd Wed of the month during Aug-Oct

Open 6 days &
24hour emergency service 7days
Surgeries, consultations
preventative health, nutrition and advice for
livestock, companions and pets

Tallangatta Veterinary Clinic 60712594
Kiewa Veterinary Clinic 60273221
e) tallangattavets@tpg.com.au
www.tallangattavets.com.au
or check us out on facebook!

almost 3 years since we were encouraged by council to apply for a grant to improve the facility. We have had a pile of unusable rubble for at least one season, substantial damage to fences and clubhouse directly due to works. This has taken its toll on the club and the community in general. The club had a useable self-funded facility and now we don't. Given the apparent lack of care given by the project managers involved, we fear that when the works are completed the courts and clubhouse may be in worse condition than prior to obtaining the grant. That would be such a waste! The Towong Shire clearly has ultimate responsibility here and, surely, they wouldn't let that happen. We wait in hope. Happy hitting....

Adam Richardson (Secretary)
0412 560 833

BETHANGA CFA



Fire calls 000

Burn Notifications VICFIRE 1800 668 511
Victorian Bush Fire Information 1800 240 667

All Peninsula Fire Units - UHF 24

CALL OUTS

22nd December 2022 Lake Rd, Bellbridge

Brigade was responded to assist with an accident near Bethanga Bridge. Bonegilla were already on scene so Bethanga Tankers were stood down.



24th December 2022 Lake Rd, Bethanga

Brigade responded to assist with a dog trapped in a culvert under the road.

30th December 2022 Springdale Rd, Bethanga

Brigade responded to a reported power pole fire at the Bethanga Golf Club. Fire self-extinguished and no action was needed by the Brigade.

12th January 2023 The Kurrajongs, Thologolong

Brigade responded Tanker 1 to assist with a Grass and Scrub Fire in Mt Lawson State Park.

8th February 2023 Merrels Reserve, Talgarno

Brigade responded both tankers to assist Talgarno extinguish a Grass and Scrub Fire.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Brigade has started visiting residents in Flagstaff Road giving advice on how to prepare properties, fire plans and just a general introduction. Our aim is to ensure our community has the tools to be prepared and make informed decisions on those occasions when our area is at heightened risk of fire.

NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACE

A 'Neighbourhood Safer Place' is a place of last resort when all other bushfire plans have failed.

These areas are:

- ◆ Locations that may provide some protection from direct flame and heat from a fire, but they do not guarantee safety.
- ◆ Not an alternative to planning to leave early or to stay and defend your property; they are a place of last resort if all other fire plans have failed.
- ◆ An existing location and not a purpose-built, fire-proof structure. It is important to know that many NSP are simply a clearing that provides separation distance from the bushfire hazard (e.g. forest).
- ◆ Not to be confused with Community Fire Refuges, Relief Centres, Recovery Centres or Assembly Areas, each of which have a different and specific purpose.
- ◆ Not an appropriate destination when leaving the area early.
- ◆ Not a place of shelter from other types of emergencies (e.g. to escape rising floodwaters or severe weather events).



It's important to note that there are currently NO NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACES (NSPs) within the Berringa Peninsula. The nearest areas are in Tallangatta, Wodonga and Albury. Please consider this when drafting your Bushfire Survival Plan.

BRIGADE TRAINING



A 12-month training calendar is being implemented to give our members opportunities for regular training. Training is tentatively scheduled for the 1st Thursday of the month but may be alternated to include weekends.

George Stahl **ELECTRICAL P/L**
Registered Electrical Contractor

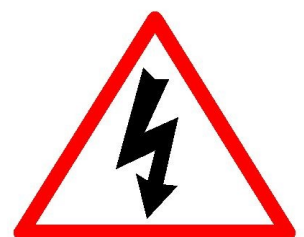
Bethanga VIC 3691

Daniel 0428 027 552

George 0405 03 25 03

Email: electrical@stahl.net.au

ABN 73 151 688863 Licence: VIC 19111 / NSW 241395 C



DISTRICT 24 CHAMPIONSHIPS

Bethanga and Talgarno will once again be hosting the D24 Brigade Championships at the Bethanga Recreation Reserve on Sunday, 26th February 2023.

Like last year, these will be a great time showcasing Brigade skills in a fun, entertaining environment. Please keep this day free in your schedule and come down to cheer on your teams.

Training has begun. It'd be great to see the community support our teams.



VIC EMERGENCY APP AND WEBSITE



We encourage everyone to install the Vic Emergency App on your smart phone if you have one. This is the fastest way to get up to date information about fires in your area. You can set a watch zone and choose which types of emergency's you would like to be notified about in that zone. For those without a smart phone you can access that Vic Emergency website at www.emergency.vic.gov.au or if there is an emergency warning in your area you can listen to your local ABC radio for updates.

CONTACTS

Shane Bracegirdle, Captain 0459 362 395

bethangacfacaptain@gmail.com

Jess Ellison, Secretary

bethangacfasecretary@gmail.com

Mel Naismith, Community Safety Liaison 0428 191 283

BETHANGA-TALGARNO JUNIOR CFA BRIGADE

JOINING THE JUNIOR BRIGADE

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

CONTACTS

John Northey

0414 931 442

bethangatalgarnojuniors@gmail.com

TALGARNO RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

Unseasonable cool and wet weather has delayed a normal dry summer in January and February

A reminder that the fire season has a way to go with the bushfire at Flowerdale which has burnt more than 800 ha in remote country.

The Brigade has had some callouts to small grass fires and a MVA

2 Grass and scrub fires in the Thologolong area
2 grass and scrub fires at Merkel's Reserve

1 Motor Vehicle Accident Murray River Road

Members performed a community safety event in Wises Creek Road providing information on property protection and an understanding of the risks in our community. Big thanks to Max Merkel, Leo Klausen and the Bethanga Community Safety team.

Our Training Officer Brendan Pearson has been busy getting new recruits through the General Firefighter Course.

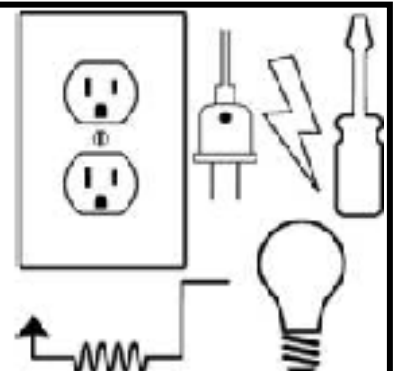
Jamie Swinnerton Electrical Pty Ltd

461 Lake Road Bethanga

Electrical Licence Numbers. Vic 13611 NSW 147315C

Specialising in domestic, commercial, industrial, rural and safety switches etc.

Give Jamie a call on 0419 419 048





Max Merkel & Leo Klausen

BETHANGA RECREATION RESERVE

How lovely are the grounds at the Bethanga Recreation Reserve looking! A big shout out to all volunteers who attend to the grounds to keep it this way.

Camping

New flyers and maps are now in place to assist the campers with permitted camping areas.

Weather

Further flooding has not been kind to the landscape and as a result further creek erosion has been detected. We have erected safety tape to ensure pedestrians are aware not to enter the restricted area. DELWP and NECMA have also been informed of the damage to neighbouring boundary properties.

New bore pump

With the success of a grant secured by the previous committee works have been completed with the installation of a new hybrid solar bore pump. This would not have been possible without funding from the Towong Shire Recovery Grant.

A huge thank you to the volunteers that assisted with this project and the improved water supply.

Change Smoke Alarm batteries

Daylight Savings ends on 2nd April this year. It is suggested that when we change the time on our non-internet connected clocks and devices, we should be changing the batteries in those older homes that have removeable batteries in their smoke alarms. And that type of smoke alarm should be replaced every 10 years, preferably with a 10 year long life lithium battery smoke alarm. For those homes built or renovated after 1 August 1997 the smoke alarms are required to be connected to 240 volts and have a battery back up. Check if the battery needs to be replaced. In any case all smoke alarms should be tested monthly. The message being "Working Smoke Alarms saves lives".

Any community members interested in joining the CFA please contact the Brigade

The Murray Hub of Bethanga, Talgarno, and Granya Brigades held a meeting with Tallangatta Group members. Topics of Discussion were:

- Appliance suitability
- Volunteer recruitment
- Private Appliances
- Quick fill deployment
- Incident Management

There were some good outcomes from working with our neighbouring brigades to streamline service to our communities.

A reminder that the Brigades monthly BBQ is held on the second Friday of each month, all welcome

Michael Elliot, Captain, 0407 201 169
Jess Lieschke Secretary
talgarfbsecretary@gmail.com,



Pedestrian Area

Due to the increase in community ground usage, particularly on weekends, we kindly request that no vehicles park in the grounds between the tennis courts and the kiosk, which is a designated pedestrian area. A sign has been placed on the fence in this area.

Shipping container

We have a new shared storage area, placed along the creek boundary on the southern side of the pavilion. Thanks to all involved who made this happen, we look forward to more space within the Pavilion.

Plumbing works

As previously mentioned, the smaller Elm tree closest to the kiosk wall has caused major damage to plumbing which has incurred high unexpected earthworks and plumbing expenses to replace all the pipework. We have approval from DELWP to remove the tree in conjunction with a qualified arborist.

Cleaning

Thank you to Robin Neilson who has been our cleaner for the past 12 months.

Calendar of events

The pavilion is available for public hire. For availability and bookings please email:

Bethangareserve@gmail.com.

Key planned events

Saturday 8th April: Bethanga Gymkhana and Family Fun Day, hosted by the Gymkhana Committee

Regards

Bethanga Recreation Reserve Committee

Email: Bethangareserve@gmail.com

President – Ross Mitchell

Treasurer – Jo Sirl

Secretary – Robyn Weddall

PALMS

PENINSULA ACTIVITY, LAUGHTER, MOVEMENT & SOCIABLE

Run by Tallangatta Health Service this group provides a range of activities with a chance to meet new people and make new friends, a great avenue for companionship and keeping 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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Joan Elliot 6020 1177

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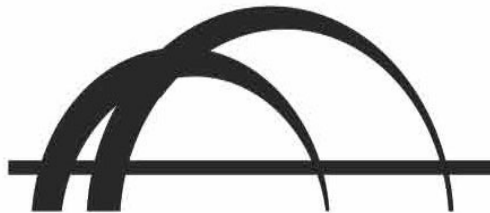
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Wises Creek Talgarno Landcare Group

What changeable weather one day hot and the next very easy to take.

It is great to see a lot of green grass still around even now at the end of summer and our dams are full, so it all looks good.

We probably didn't get the invasion of pest plants such as Bathurst burr, etc that we thought we would and being able to keep good ground cover has let us manage other weeds as well. Caltrop is a weed we should watch out for as it has the propensity to spread very quickly and can stick to tyres, clothes, etc. and can completely dominate an area.

Dung beetles have been very busy and doing a great job. It is so good to have these tireless unpaid but very rewarding workers doing their job.

Mitta to Murray Landcare Inc has a dung beetle breeding program going to try to establish some new varieties. We have a breeding tent at our place and there are quite a few others across the wider Mitta to Murray area.

We still have some ongoing projects and more to come but we have been relatively quiet.

As we get into autumn, I expect more projects to emerge so if you have any suggestions, please let us know.

Make sure newly planted areas don't become overgrown with grasses because as the summer comes there will be competition for moisture.

Keep in mind we are still wanting to carry out new projects for Wises Creek Talgarno Landcare so if you are wanting something done let us so we can discuss them because it is better to aggregate projects then get the funding, rather than the other way around. Call Simon 0438190999

We have seen an increase in new members which is fantastic so please keep in touch and if you know of anyone else who may be interested, please let us know

Mitta to Murray Landcare Inc has managed to obtain some funding through NECMA to do some governance training and obtain some promotional material for all our interested Landcare Groups across our network.

The governance training will be very helpful as sometimes taking on volunteer roles can be a little tricky.

The promotional material will be in the form of banners etc. for each Landcare Group so there is a golden opportunity for us to be part of this program.

AGM

We are holding our AGM at the Talgarno Hall on **Wednesday, March 29** so please mark this date in your calendar and come along. The AGM will be held and then after our guest speaker, there will be a supper and some socializing.

Our guest speaker is Karen Retra who is the Co-Founder of Wild Pollinator Count. Wild Pollinator Count is a national project encouraging awareness of pollinator insects. Karen's insect photographs have been included in field guides books and information sheets. She is a fantastic speaker so come along and enjoy.

Please RSVP for catering purposes.

Please make the effort to attend and make yourself available to take on a role as we need new ideas and a fresh approach for the future. This is a great Landcare group that has achieved many things over the years so please consider being part of it.

*Jim de Hennin 0408 978 847
Hugh Dunchue 0488 257 177
Simon Feillafe 0438 190 999*

Bethanga Landcare Group.

Another successful year has concluded for Bethanga Landcare Group. Thanks to our wonderful volunteers we were able to make progress on a number of our goals including:

- Education sessions
- Field days
- Weed control
- Pest control
- Tree and shrub planting

A brief summary of our recent activities:

Erosion and soil health field day

The erosion and soil health field day was presented by Brad Costin, from the Department of Agriculture. We had an informative talk, hands on demonstrations, a walk along the Bethanga Creek, and followed this with an excellent luncheon provided by Bethanga Store. Brad provided expert advice on erosion, resilience for drought

and soil protection. We were fortunate to view a fresh erosion site resulting from the large rainfall last spring (see photo). As well we examined remediation sites involving rock work and tree planting over past years and how this has stood up to recent flooding.





Tree and shrub planting

The tree and shrub giveaway in June was very popular and 800 trees/shrubs were provided to members. In addition another 200 were planted for National Tree Day, this planting was held on a Sunday morning on the South Common and a BBQ lunch provided for volunteers. Another 100 plants were provided by Landcare to Bethanga Primary School for the school planting at the recreation reserve.



Native pollinators

An evening presentation on native pollinators was held. A local expert in this area, Karen Retra, gave an

enthusiastic and informative talk about pollinators, the familiar ones – native and European bees – but also many other native species.

Weed control

The way ahead seems to be biological controls as spraying with herbicide is not providing a long-term solution - it is expensive and not good for the environment. We are endeavouring to introduce proven biological controls into our area. A success story has been the dramatic reduction in Patterson's Curse over the last decade.

Landowner information

We are assisted by a very knowledgeable facilitator, Simon Feillafe, who has made visits with follow-ups to many local properties to assess and support weed control and other landowner issues.

Rabbit control

We put in a grant application for a Rabbit Management Grant. A lot of work went into this submission but unfortunately we were unsuccessful. We will be trying again, however, and expect to be more successful next time. If you want to be on board for this next application there is still time to get involved. Initial works (ripping warrens and fumigation) are proposed for the Flagstaff Road area that unfortunately has quite a large rabbit population.

Join us

If you are interested in any of these activities, or if you have ideas for an information event or want something done please let us know by contacting BLG via this email address - bethangalandcaregroup@gmail.com



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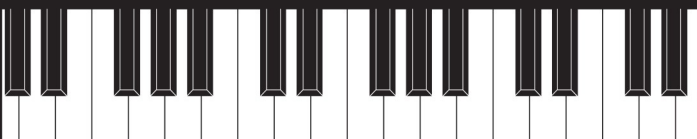
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*"When Local Knowledge Really
Counts"*

A big welcome to all the new families using the centre for the first time, and to those families who are returning

The centre has started the year with a real buzz including many new enrolments. We are excited to report that Brad has returned to the centre after completing his Bachelor of Education and hiking the South Island of New Zealand. Brad is a wonderful addition to the centre and the children love to play/ read/ learn and climb all over him!

There has been a lot of craft taking place over the past few weeks with the long day care group exploring drawing, cutting, pasting and painting. The kindergarten children have been more focused on playdough, clay sculpting and exploring simple machines, along with lots of outdoor play while the weather is nice.



The children have explored some of the celebrations and traditions which have taken place throughout the Chinese New Year and also made some flags to support the local Australia Day Celebrations.



'Bluearth' our outdoor activity, has commenced again this year and the Responsible Pet Ownership Program will be visiting the centre shortly. The children will also be busy making pancakes on Shrove Tuesday and getting into the Irish spirit by dressing in green for St. Patrick's Day.

Lots more fun activities and incursions are being planned for the coming weeks and months.

The centre provides the following services:

- ◆ Long Day Care - Monday to Friday (7.30am to 6.00pm) for ages 0 to 5 years (limited spaces available)
- ◆ 4-year old kindergarten - Wednesdays and Fridays (9.00am to 4.30pm)- fully funded
- ◆ 3-year old kindergarten - Tuesdays and Thursdays (9.00am to 4.30pm)- fully funded
- ◆ Before school care for school age children - Monday to Friday from 7.30am

For more info contact Amanda: Amanda.armstrong@towong.vic.gov.au or 026026 4373.

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.



We have had a wonderful start to 2023 at Bethanga! Everyone has settled straight into the new year – eager to be back with friends and enthusiastic about learning!

We continue to enhance our strong relationships between home and school with our Welcome BBQ. It was wonderful to see so many parents in attendance, meeting new families and catching up with old friends. It was also an opportunity to meet Miss Sutton who joined us this year teaching in Millewa (3-6).

Students in F-2 have been exploring family and communities along with our school values. Students in 3-6 have literally 'dived right in' with the NERSSA Swimming Carnival held at Tallangatta pool with students competing against 8 other schools!

This year we deepen our Student Voice Leadership Initiative with the implementation of a Wellbeing Program that includes leadership mentoring and whole school student forums... so many opportunities for our students to thrive in and out of the classroom – we anticipate a fabulous year ahead!

Rachel Saunders



SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Our 3-6 students attended the NERSSA swimming carnival at Tallangatta Swimming pool last Friday. It was a superb day weather wise with lots of our senior students putting up their hand to have a go at most events. Every student who attended the day put their hand up to swim in their events. The support shown to each other whether they are strong swimmers or not was simply beautiful. The teachers even shared a tear of joy when watching some highlights of how hard all of the students tried on the day. It was a great day had by all and we are waiting to see if any students move on to the next level.



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The beginning of each year brings on new excitement with existing students moving up a grade and new students providing plenty of energy! This year we have seven new Foundation students to match last years cohort who entered. They are: Joshua, Sophie, Maggie, Xavier, Paddy, Mac and Robby. We are certainly looking forward to continuing to develop our success inside and outside of the classroom by adding a couple of new dimensions to what we have already put in place. This year captain Pete will lead the team through MSL within the classroom setting especially with the students in years 3-6 and Cathryn Gordon and Belinda will focus on Hegarty's (phonics program) for the F-2 students. Kim Roebuck will again be focusing her attention on intervention within the classroom in reading and writing. We have a superb group of teachers who are very passionate and skilled in their areas. Erin will again be the business manager if you have any queries then please contact her in the office. We are sad to say goodbye to Jess Lieschke who took a position in at St Augustine's, however we are hoping she will be back before long! We are looking forward to the progress we can make this year as a consolidated team. The specialist teachers will be MACC Van (art) Ms Lucy Turner, MARC Van (Library) Amy Musgrove, Science Mrs Rankin (Term 2 or 3), Bluearth (sport and well-being) Teigan Pearson.

FROM THE MOUTHS OF THE BABES

Joshua: I love playing with my friends at school!

Robby: My favourite thing is playing with Joshua at school and everyone!

Sophie: My favourite thing at school is EVERYTHING!

Maggie: I love school because I get to hop on the bus!

Paddy: I love playing down ball at school.

Xavier: I love school because I get to play handball!

Mac: I love school because I love learning new stuff!

THE NEW AND THE OLD



To the left we have our SEVEN new Foundation students who have been a joy to teach in their first few weeks of school. From left to right: Mac, Joshua, Paddy, Xavier, Maggie, Sophie and Robby. Our fab year 6's rocking their new year 6 shirts with Shune, Will, Elsie and Archer all excited to be the new leaders of the school.



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Berringa Community News is a community initiative. Published articles and advertisements are submitted by members of the community and as such are not necessarily the work or views of the editors.

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 Eckhert
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The newsletter is distributed by volunteers to mail boxes where they are available. Copies will be placed in PO boxes for residents in Bethanga township or they can be picked up at the General store. For those in Granya with PO boxes copies are available in the community mailbox at the Granya Hall.

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

The newsletter is also available in colour on line at www.berringacommunitynews.com.au

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