

Berringa Community News

Autumn 2022



News and views from the residents of Bellbridge,
Bethanga, Granya & Talgarno
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\$564,851 Grant for 3 Berringa Peninsula Halls

The Berringa Peninsula Community Network worked with Bushfire Recovery Victoria, the Committees of Bethanga, Talgarno and Granya Halls and Towong Shire to apply for a grant to upgrade the halls in Bethanga, Granya and Talgarno. An application for \$564,851, made through the National Recovery and Resilience Agency's Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants Program, has been successful.

Each hall has developed a list of works to be undertaken. The Berringa Peninsula Community Network will partner with Bethanga Landcare and representatives from each hall to oversee the project. The goal is to have each hall complete their works by the end of the year.

The project will invest in external and internal improvements to the Bethanga, Granya, and Talgarno Halls. The Bethanga and Granya Halls built in the 1900s, and the Talgarno Hall in the 1890s, will be preserved and upgraded, with improvements including roof repairs, installation of solar and internet connectivity, external and

internal works, electrical upgrades and setting up water tanks and pumps for improved fire preparedness.

These renovations will ensure that Bethanga, Granya and Talgarno Halls support our communities in times of disaster and create facilities that are better resourced. The project will future proof the Halls and create places of celebration, so the community can host activities and events that encourage recovery, resilience and social connection

The 3 Halls project grant is one of the 26 grants that were successful across the Towong Shire. The grants are through the National Recovery and Resilience Agency's *Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants Program* and are worth over \$22 million is across Towong Shire Council.

Julie Miller

COMMUNITY REPORTS

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

Australia Day under the Gum Trees

This year the local Australia Day ceremony was held at Lake Hume Boat Club. Most of those that attended loved the change of venue. It was very fitting that the flags fluttered and the National Anthem was sung under the gum trees.



The Lake Hume Boat Club members served the free breakfast and Towong Shire paid for face painting for the kids and Kombi Canteen to provide coffee



Australia Day Community Award Winners 2022

Citizen of the Year Award: Julie Miller

Julie is involved with several community organisations and has been an active volunteer in the community for many years. She is the Team Leader for Berringa CERT, an Editor for the Berringa Community News, the Communications Officer for the Berringa Community Network, a former Secretary and current committee member for the Wises Creek Talgarno Landcare Group, an active committee member on the Talgarno Hall Committee and the Albury/Wodonga Regional Cancer Centre Morning Tea Committee.

Julie invests hours of her time to make sure the community is informed, safe and connected and is always one of the first people to put her hand up to help out.



Photos courtesy of Rachel Cooper

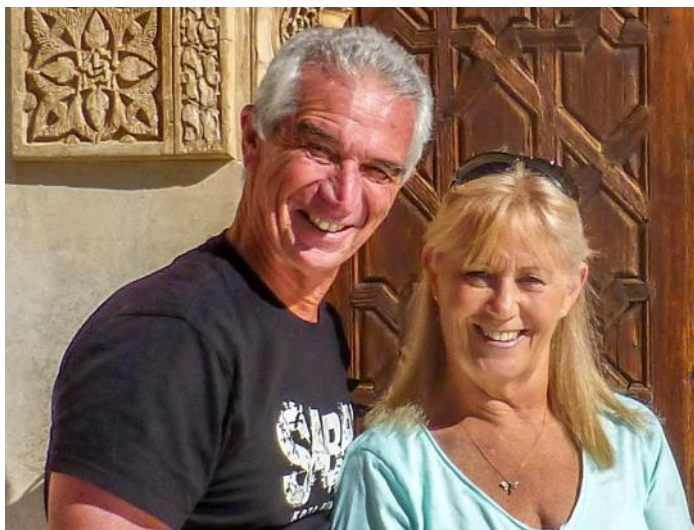
Event of the Year Award: The Peninsula Seasonal Markets

The Peninsula Seasonal Markets provided an incredible opportunity for local residents to come together and support local businesses in what was another incredibly difficult year due to COVID-19 border closures and lockdowns.

Despite the challenges, the markets have become an important social event, as well as highlighting the wealth of talent right here on our doorstep. The rotation of locations around the Peninsula has proven a great way to provide variation and equity across the small communities to help the local economy flourish.

Congratulations to the entire committee, volunteers and supporters of the Peninsula Seasonal Markets.

Talgarno couple awarded OAM



Vicki and David Cottee of Talgarno have been awarded an OAM for their services to community of Talgarno.

David has provided the following in response to the nomination for the award

Firstly, we would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we live, the Dhudhuroa nation and pay our respects to elders past and present.

Vicki and I moved to Talgarno in 2000. What we found was a small rural community with a primary school, a community hall, tennis courts and a CFA shed (which has now been moved from our property to the Area next to the hall. There are no shops. We soon found it to be a very welcoming community and were soon invited to join the tennis club.

It is an amazing community that thrives on community involvement and volunteer service. We have been extremely fortunate to have been so warmly welcomed into that community without reservation since moving here.

With Vicki's support and at the insistence of some of the younger people of Talgarno back in 2002 I started teaching taekwondo to local adults and kids. This was an ongoing training using the local hall for 18 years, until the beginning of COVID. Along the way Vicki and I started additional fitness training for students progressing to black belt level and this expanded in facilitation of an exercise group. Some of the core members of that group still meet at the hall for exercise several times a week.

In 2006 Vicki and I were conscripted to become volunteer first responders with the Community Emergency Response Team based locally and referred to as 'Berringa CERT'. We have been undertaking that role for over 15 years and now also function as volunteer Ambulance Community Officers at Tallangatta Ambulance station. I am proud to say that Vicki has added to her own personal development since retiring by successfully completing her Diploma in Paramedicine and is part way through a degree in Paramedicine, not with the view to gaining permanent employment, but to increase her professionalism.

Given our strong association with the local hall, we both became committee members of the Recreation Reserve Committee of Management which stewards management of the DEWLP land given over for the Talgarno Hall, the tennis courts and the CFA site. I have been the 'President' for a number of years now, but it is Secretary Greg Hayes who must take the credit as the driving force behind the committee as we serve the community.

Vicki and I breed Australian Stock Horses, something we started shortly after moving to the area. My wife became a qualified stockhorse judge and has donated her time at many events while I generally steward. We particularly love our two local shows, the Tallangatta Show and the Bethanga Gymkhana.

Through our involvement with horses we became members of the Upper Murray Horseman's Association. It wasn't long before we both found ourselves on the committee with Vicki at one point being Treasurer. I took on an additional role as Safety Coordinator. Together we have provided First Aid at many of our UMHA events as well as at events for the Goulburn Murray branch of the Australian Stock Horse Society. We both have committee roles on the latter with me as branch Vice President for a number of years.

Given our involvement with First Aid at these horse events, we were approached to provide First Aid at a campdraft event. We were not comfortable with receiving payment, so Vicki suggested that we donate the fees to CERT in order to provide automatic external defibrillators into the community. This was supported by Ambulance Victoria and has now expanded to providing First Aid from as far north as Jugiong in NSW down to Mansfield in Victoria. Inevitably we end up committing to other supporting roles while there, such as working in the canteen, on the front gates of the campdraft arena, in the back yards with the cattle, or taking presentation photographs. We have been supported in this role by Ambulance Victoria and all the money we have raised from the service has been returned to community through CERT. We are very proud of the equipment that has been purchased for the community through these donations. Vicki has been the driving force behind this initiative.

An interest in horses has also seen us managing the Equine Education Arena as volunteers at the annual "Man from Snowy River Bush Festival" at Corryong in Victoria's high country each year for the past six years. I have also been a presenter at the last two shows demonstrating ground-work for horsemanship.

Our involvement with horses has also seen us involved in the re-establishment of the Bethanga Pony Club. The club ran for several years, but unfortunately was again disbanded a couple of years ago, but in the meantime Vicki and I both undertook training roles for members and hosted most rally days at our home.

Since retiring from my former career, I have undertaken photography. I am particularly keen to promote the beautiful area in which we live and work and uncover some of the amazing individuals and locations we have in this area.

For almost the last 12 months life has again expanded its horizons for us as we mentor a "Senior's Class" at a local gymnasium in Wodonga.

We are proud to live in a community that offers so much and is rich in giving to support others. We have all seen the contribution of our men and women during the fires and the rehabilitation efforts that followed for example. There are people still giving up valuable time and resources to re-build fences throughout the region and support those recovering both physically and mentally. This is a community grounded by 'volunteering'. We are both honoured, humbled and a little embarrassed that we have been singled out for such the prestigious honour of 'Order of Australia' knowing how much everyone in our community gives back. We would like to thank those who nominated us as recipients and supporters of the nomination and cannot tell you how much we have appreciated your support.

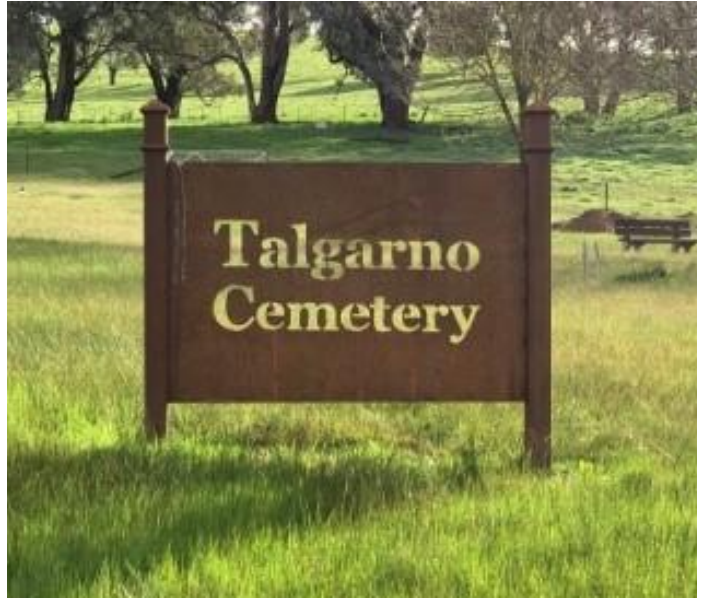
Talgarno Cemetery Trust

Welcome to 2022 from the Talgarno Cemetery Trust.

The Talgarno Cemetery Trust is a group of Ministerial appointed community people who volunteer their time to maintain the Talgarno Cemetery. The Cemetery has provision for in-the-ground burials and niche wall spaces for the placing of cremated ashes. Families and/or individuals are encouraged to purchase pre-need burial sites or niches. You are welcome to respectfully walk around the cemetery or give us a call and we can show you around our beautiful tranquil place.

The Talgarno Cemetery Trust currently has three (3) vacancies. Interested applicants would be made most welcome. Please give some thought to contributing a small amount of time to this worthy community facility. The trust in particular would appreciate some help with physical tasks such as fencing, controlling weeds etc. which might only be required annually. Annually the Trust meet four (4) times a year for an hour or two and has two or three working bees.

As a means of keeping the community informed and involved in the cemetery consideration is being given to establishing a **'Friends of the Talgarno Cemetery'**. The aims would broadly be to: Raise public awareness of the social, cultural and historical aspects Talgarno Cemetery. Attract Individuals to become a Trust member. Support the strategic direction of the Cemetery Trust. Undertake maintenance as agreed to by the Cemetery Trust. Promote an ethic of respect for the history of Talgarno Cemetery. Assist the Trust in digitizing the historical and current documents. Promote the conservation and appreciation of the Cemetery as a place of local, state and national significance. Collate, share and publish stories of persons interred in the Talgarno Cemetery at the approval of family descendants. Facilitate the



restoration of monuments through fundraising activities and the establishment of ongoing links with descendants etc. If you are interested in this voluntary 'come when you can' group we would like to hear from you.

This year a major project for the Trust is to obtain funding from the Department of Health (Cemeteries and Crematoria Department) for the geophysical surveying of some of the site to detect unmarked graves.

At a recent Trust meeting it was agreed a Fire Proof Safe/Cabinet could be a community asset that could be shared by community groups such as the Cemetery Trust, Landcare, School, Hall, CFA, Tennis Club etc. The community groups could be invited to contribute to the cost along with any local residents.

Julie de Hennin, Talgarno Cemetery Trust Chair.

ANZAC Day Service

The Bethanga Soldiers Memorial Hall Committee of Management has cancelled the ANZAC Day Ceremony at the Bethanga Soldiers Memorial Hall on 25 April 2022. This cancellation is due to Covid and the restriction uncertainties. Thank you for your past support and hope to see you all back in 2023.

Graham Maynard
Chairperson
Bethanga Soldiers Memorial Hall CoM
02 6026 4007

The Bethanga Gymkhana is Back

We are back up and running this year with a brand-new committee! Our event date will be Saturday 16 April, 2022.

We are running all horse events, with two completely local events – Peninsula Area Best Presented Horse and Rider, and Towong Shire Hack. There are lots of kids events running (including the ever-popular rocket launch), and the dog jump sponsored by PetFocus VetCare in Albury!

Entry is still \$6 per adult, and free for children, so it makes for a fantastic, affordable family fun day out this Easter.

We are also on the lookout for any volunteers for gate shifts – shifts are only 2 hours each. Please get in contact if you are interested in helping to be a part of the first post-COVID Gymkhana.

We look forward to seeing you all in April.

Jess Grossrieder

*Secretary - Bethanga Gymkhana Inc.
0404 200 288*



Did your property have a hill-topping event in 2021?

Every year, in November through to mid December, since we moved into the district we have had an influx of butterflies - Common Brown Butterflies. Some years more than others; we drive through clouds of butterflies; we go outside and clap our hands and the trees erupt with thousands of butterflies. This year was spectacular, more butterflies than any previous year. This year I finally did something about the phenomenon. I rang the Albury-Wodonga Field Naturalist Club and Jan Heywood came and explained "hill-topping" to us. This also occurs in other insect species (dragonflies, wasps, beetles, flies).

The Common Brown Butterfly does not use pheromones to attract a female. In this case, the male Common Brown Butterflies congregate around a high isolated hill

and wait for females to fly up to mate. On our place it seems to coincide with the flowering of the Amaryllis Melaleuca. These white blossomed trees turn brown with so many butterflies attached to the leaves and twigs.

Once the females have mated they search for a quiet, cool or damp place where they go into a state of aestivation (a type of summer dormancy). This could be in caves, old mine shafts or dense scrub. They stay in this state until late March - April depending on conditions, when they come out and lay their eggs on the grass in the surrounding pastures. Here, the caterpillars develop and eventually pupate. Once again their life cycle slows until they come out as butterflies ready to hill-top once again. Each November we await this wonder of nature to see how many butterflies will appear.

Jenni Manguy

Peninsula Seasonal Market

The Autumn Seasonal market will be held on
Sunday May 1 at the Hume Boat Club.
Any inquiries please email
peninsulaseasonalmarkets@gmail.com



Local Enterprises

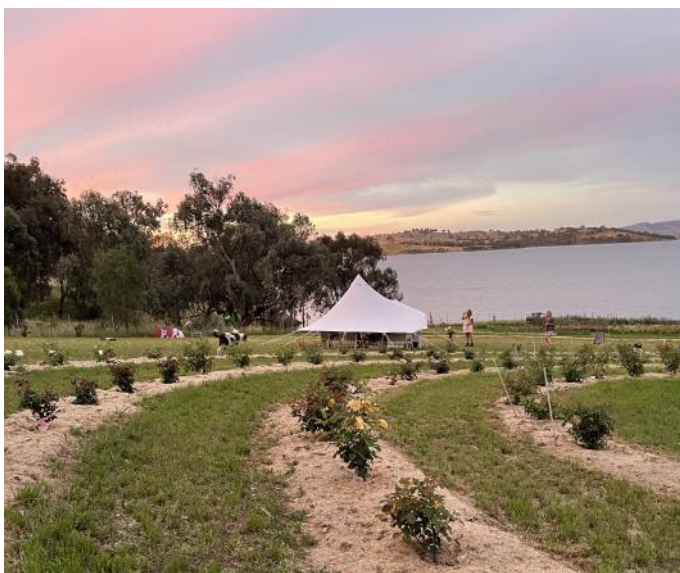
Posie Farm

The creation of Posie Farm, located along Murray River Road (aka The Great River Road) 5 km from Bellbridge has been watched with much interest it seems. We, Bron Modra and Daniela Driussi often see you stopping along the road side to check out the growth of the flower farm, the beautiful views or maybe it's something else !

This was simply another 'cow paddock' along the lake last Easter. We have grown quickly, thanks to an amazing year of abundant rain - how wonderful has it been to enjoy a full lake so far into Summer ? Another reason for our growth has been the wonderful support of this community.

We first welcomed local visitors some months ago to a 'sip and see', an 'open gate event' where we shared the beautiful wines from Websters Estate and enjoyed each other's company, the wonderful views and a love for flowers. Grateful thanks also to Shane and Cheryl from Glamping Company NE Victoria, who set up one of their stunning 'day tents' for the evening. This shows how you can enjoy and celebrate something special at Posie Farm. A lovely way to host a celebration.

Our flowers are available direct to you, arranged into bouquet or Posie Jar. They are also available as a 'bucketful' of complimentary foliage and blooms which you can arrange into your own vases as you wish.



We are also regularly hosting PYO (Pick your own) evenings where you can bring your own picnic, etc and wander about to pick your own flowers. Buy a jar or bucket and we loan you the snips and off you go. It's been well enjoyed by all ages and all generations . It's a beautiful way to spend a summer's evening.

Wholesale to retail florists is where you will also find Posie Farm flowers. Jannoel Florist in Wodonga and The Real Florist in Albury. It is exciting and much needed that there are quite a few locally grown flower



farmers popping up all over Australia , and quite a few right here in our community.

We all welcome your support, we encourage you to buy locally grown flowers, leave the supermarket flowers where they are ... they are typically grown overseas, are weeks old and dipped in glysophate. Not the best way to enjoy and support nature!

Find us on Instagram at [posiefarm](#), Facebook. Posie Farm. Or phone us 0427 264 229

Happy to welcome you into the flower paddock for a chat and share flower love,

Big thank you for all your support,

Bron Modra



Glamping Co

Located right here in Bellbridge is another wonderful business willing to partner with other local businesses to showcase what our region has to offer.

Glamping Co NE Victoria offer luxurious pop-up fully furnished and styled glamping tents for accommodation at events such as weddings, festivals, bridal showers and birthday parties, romantic getaways, garden picnics, or any occasion you can think of!



Forget everything you know about camping!

You get to sit back, relax and simply enjoy sleeping under the stars in the most luxurious tents on the market. Glamping Co's dedicated staff will set up and present to perfection, the beautifully styled tents in a picturesque location of your choice across NE Victoria or right in the heart of festival activities.

With multiple tents you can even create your own glamping village!

Combining the luxuries of hotel accommodation, alongside the escapism and adventure of the great outdoors, this is truly where nature meets luxury!



The Tents

Crisp white 5 metre diameter waterproof canvas tents
Zipped mesh windows and doors for ventilation
Spacious inside

Queen size 5 star quality hotel bed and linen (including towels)
Bedside tables with lamp
Small table & chairs
Jute floor rugs
Plants
Exterior entrance lighting



Glamping Co NE Victoria also offer **Day Glamping tents** which provide a sheltered comfortable space for up to 10 guests to sit and relax while still being able to take in the surrounding environment and festivities. These are perfect for picnics by the lake, wine tastings at local wineries or even in your own backyard to celebrate with friends.

For further information, contact Cheryl on 0435 345 267.



Berringa Peninsula Community Network (BPCN)



The Network aims to support and encourage advancement of the Berringa Peninsula and ensure that in the event of another disaster like the summer of 2019-20, the Berringa community will be in a more prepared and a resilient place with the best chance of safety and a positive outcomes for all.

Business Meet & Greet



The BPCN identified that there were many businesses and business owners resident on the Berringa Peninsula and there may be opportunities for these people to work together to grow their businesses. The BPCN organised an event for Monday 29th November 2021 at the Hume Boat Club to enable the local business people to meet each other

There were about 50 attendees with 23 businesses represented. There were many who did not know about each other.



We are aware, that as a result of meeting at the event, Posie Farm from Talgarno, Glamping Co from Bellbridge and Websters Estate winery, Bethanga discovered an opportunity for a joint promotion .

There was also some talk about a “Chamber of Commerce” emerging from the evening and an offer of someone with business experience to mentor people setting up their own small businesses

These are among the opportunities that we will explore at another session at Lake Hume Boat Club on Monday 2 May. Details are being finalised. Keep an eye on Facebook and the website for details

Great River Road Project

We are waiting to meet with the Towong Shire Council to discuss the statue and signage at the roadside stops.

Lake Hume Branding

BPCN representatives have been involved in meetings with Towong Shire and Us and Us Agency, who are developing a brand for the Lake Hume tourism. A recommendation is close to being finalised.

The Berringa Peninsula Community Network—3 Halls Project Grant

The BPCN is thrilled that the Berringa Community has been successful in obtaining a grant for \$564,851 through The Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants Program for the Berringa Peninsula 3 Halls Project.

We congratulate the Bethanga, Granya and Talgarno Hall Committees for their efforts in identifying and prioritising the improvements required for their facility.

We want to thank Bushfire Recovery Victoria and Towong Shire for their assistance in putting the application together but our undying gratitude to Bethanga Landcare , who at the 11th hour agreed to auspice the project. If they had not offered we would not have been able to submit an application.

We will be establishing a “steering committee” of representatives from the three halls, BPCN and Bethanga Landcare.

We look forward to keeping you updated on this unique opportunity to upgrade and update our halls to meet the future needs of our communities

BPCN Website

Berringa Community now has its own website. It has been built by community volunteers for the community. It is a place to find information ranging from upcoming events, local businesses, community groups, helpful links to emergency information and more.

Go to www.berringacommunity.com to see what the site has to offer. If you have an event coming up that you would like to share, or a community group you would like to have listed, please use the webforms on the webpage.

*Julie Miller
Communications
berringapcn@gmail.com*

Bethanga General Store

What an interesting start to the year. Since opening our doors in November 2021, the new Bethanga General Store has gone from strength to strength. We are learning as we go and are grateful for all the support and encouragement we have received.

We continue to focus on sourcing and selling great local products and produce and have some exciting things on the horizon.

We are excited to announce that we will soon be selling Gundowring Ice Cream. This delicious ice cream is produced on a dairy farm not 50kms from us. With an awesome range of flavours these little pots of happiness are sure to be very popular.

The Bethanga General Store has become the first HUB for people to order online and collect the fabulous Acres and Acres weekly veggie boxes. Freshly picked on the day and delivered straight to the store for collection. Jump on their website to place your order for one of these boxes of fresh goodness. <https://acresandacreshop.myshopify.com/>

We will soon be selling Eskdale Cafe sausage rolls made by Toni on site at her café, using beef from her family farm. These beauties already have a following in the Eskdale area as they are a quality product and are delish.

Our book swap library has been moved across the road and is now situated in front of the store. Feel free to browse for something that interests you.

As you may have noticed in the old post office shop front our lovely local Hairdresser Bec Brown is creating a gorgeous hair salon. It will be such a treat to be able to visit Bec locally and spend some time being pampered.

We are still selling all the lovely locally made gift wares, quality Platform 9 coffee and fresh local flowers and plants by Bethanga Blooms. We have fresh sourdough loaves in store from The Bicycle Baker on Fridays and frozen loaves available the rest of the week.

If you haven't already, why not stop in for one of our famous bacon and egg rolls and a cuppa.



A colorful poster for Berringa Playgroup. The poster has a red and white dotted border. At the top, the word 'PLAYGROUP' is written in large, bold, red letters. To the right of the text is a red snake. Below the text, there is a white box with a red border containing the following information: 'Berringa Playgroup is up and running again! Hosted by Bethanga Primary School alternate Mondays (excl public holidays) during Victorian school terms.', 'Dates: 28 February, 28 March, 2 May, 16 May, 30 May, 18 July, 1 August, 15 August, 29 August, 12 September, 10 October, 24 October, 7 November, 21 November, 5 December (COVIDSafe settings apply)', 'Time: 9.30am to 11.00am', 'Contact: Kate Singline on 0422 725 147 or Chantal Gardner on 0417 412 471'. At the bottom of the poster, there is a red lizard and a red turtle. To the right of the lizard and turtle, the text reads 'Come and join in the FUN!'.

Felicity

Thanks to the Berringa Peninsula community from the AWRCC

For two years the Berringa Peninsula community fundraising morning tea, hosted for the Albury Wodonga Regional Cancer Centre has not been able to be held due to Corona Virus restrictions. We were generously offered the opportunity to hold a fundraising stall at a Berringa Peninsula Seasonal Market. The committee was most grateful for this offer and agreed this would be a

great opportunity to raise money for AWRCC because we still had the electrical, woodwork, handcraft etc donated items. However, after two cancellations of the market due to weather and Corona restrictions, a stall at the Granya Seasonal Market event was held and raised almost \$9,000.00 which included the raffle and sale of donated items.

The decision re future events has not been made at this stage. The AWRCC and the fundraising committee would sincerely like to thank the Berringa Peninsula Community for their generous support and will keep the community informed of future plans.

*Julie de Hennin
on behalf of the AWRCC fundraising
committee*

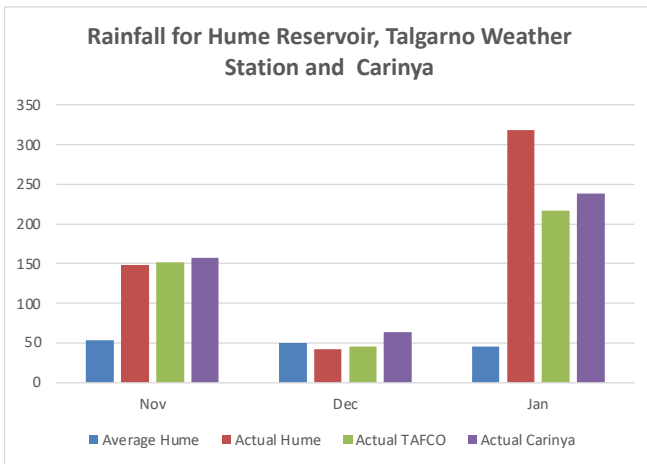
Prospects for the Season Ahead

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

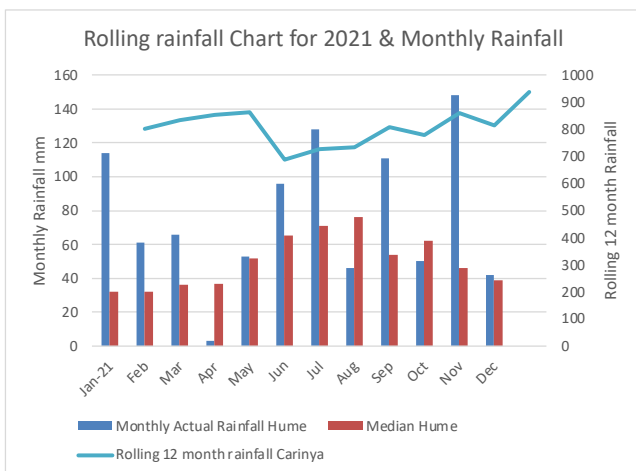


Rainfall Round-up

Well BOM was spot on in their suggestion that we were likely to have an unusually wet summer. The historical average rainfall for November to end January is 149 mm and Hume Reservoir had 508 mm this year, I had 459 mm and Jim & Julie (TAFCO) had 415 mm. This huge total was the result of the wettest January on record for Hume Reservoir – 318 mm and November rainfall of 150 mm which is three times the average.



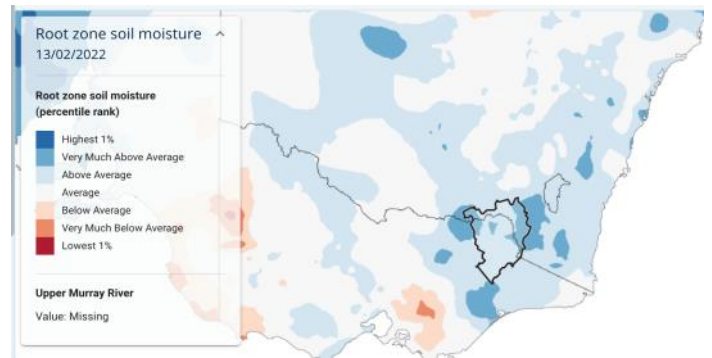
For the 2021 calendar year we had a total of 918 mm at Hume Reservoir compared to an average of 694 mm meaning that it was wetter than 90% of all years on record. The rolling 12-month rainfall shows that the wetter than average pattern has persisted since November 2020. As of February 2022, our 12-month rolling rainfall is 1082 mm compared with the average rainfall of 700 mm. No wonder we have been so blessed with feed (and inundated with summer grasses and weeds).



The higher rainfall over summer came about because it was as if we had become part of the tropics. The La Niña, coupled with a positive phase of the SAM (weather

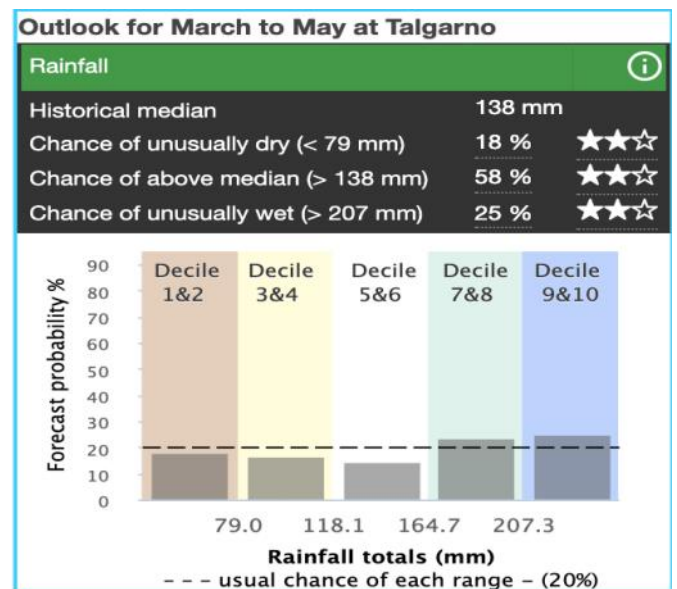
systems in the Southern Ocean), meant that the Sub tropical ridge of high pressure moved much further south than normal and the lower pressures allowed better linkages with sources of moisture in northern and eastern oceans.

Soil moisture conditions are still wetter than average at this time of year and are projected to remain so at least until April. The Bureau of Meteorology has an excellent new tool the Australian Water Outlook which not only gives the current soil moisture but the forecast future up to three months ahead.



Prospects for Early Autumn (February to end April)

The La Niña pattern is expected to persist through February and March and begin to decay in April. The BOM forecast is that rainfall is slightly likely to be above the median over the March to May period.



Dale Grey reports that 5 of the 12 models he follows suggest wetter than average rainfall, 4 suggest wetter to neutral and 3 neutral. This suggests that we will have pretty good start to autumn.

Greg Hayes



Becs Banter

I think I speak for just about everybody when I say this year's spring and summer has been bizarre.

I've had plants doing strange things, flowering when they're not supposed to, NOT flowering when they are supposed to. One of the main issues I've had is waterlogging of the soil. Some of my main flower beds at the bottom of my garden were completely inundated with the couple of large storms and wet periods. Plants are rotting at the base and just becoming too wet for too long.

I already spend a tonne of time building up my soil and ensuring there is plenty of organic matter and garden beds are always well mulched. But it wasn't enough in the storms we experienced. All the mulch and silt from the very top of the garden ended up down the very bottom, so anything a bit meaty like my sedums and bulbs rotted in that section.

I guess we are going to be expecting more of these unusual types of weather events and will need to accommodate lots of different plants with their needs. Good drainage is usually a prerequisite for most plants, but there are some like avocados, leucadendrons, proteas, most vegies and most annuals that require excellent drainage.

Building up our garden beds, mulching and adding more organic matter will help with encouraging micro biological activity, also helping with soil health and drainage. Using raised garden beds, wicking beds, large containers or old water tanks might be more of the go from now on.



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-ND](#)

I will be spending a bit of time re-designing and organising the "bottom" corner this autumn.

Remember to text – 0410 594 282 or message me if you would like some flowers delivered locally and check out the new gorgeous bits and pieces always being updated and added to Bethanga Blooms at the Bethanga General Store



Some exciting news for our area is the introduction of seasonal vegie boxes and assorted goodies being delivered locally every Friday at the Bethanga general Store (BGS) from Acres and Acres in Corryong.

All food and added goodies are locally grown and sourced. Check them out on Facebook. Bethanga and surrounds were chosen as the first hub for this project. Jump on board and go to the Acres and Acres website to order yours if you'd love to receive freshly picked vegies

delivered to the BGS every Friday.

<https://acresandacres.com.au/>

Interesting to see what sort of autumn we have.

*Cheers Bec
Bethanga Blooms*

Bethanga Blooms is growing and has joined Felicity in the new Bethanga General Store.

Make sure to pop in and see all the exciting new gift ideas, plants and flowers that will now be available.

See you all at the next Peninsula Seasonal market





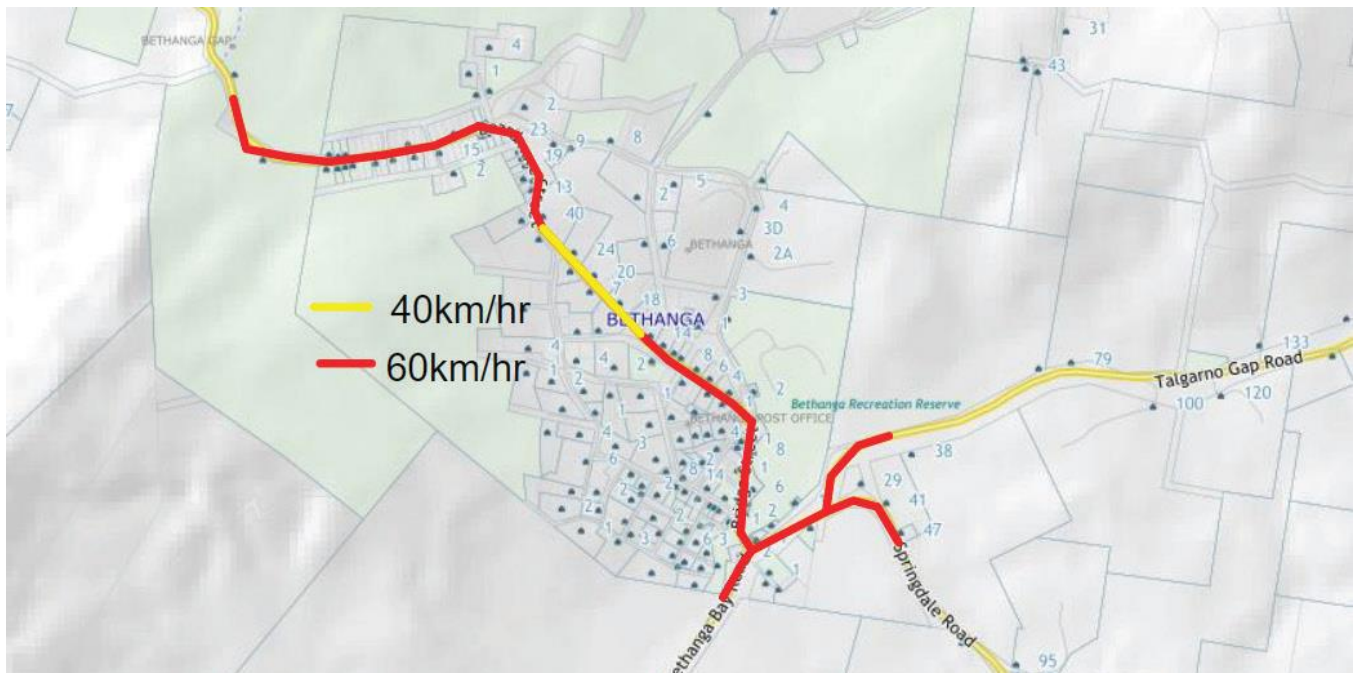
Bethanga Speed Reduction Proposal

Have your say on a speed reduction proposal for Bethanga

In response to community road safety requests Towong Shire Council is seeking broader community feedback on a proposal to reduce the speed limit within the Bethanga township.

The proposal includes:

- The reduction of the speed limits on sections of Beardmore Street, Springdale Road, Talgarno Gap Road and Bethanga Bay Road to 50km/hr.
- The extension of a 40km/hr section in front of Bethanga Primary School.



Towong Shire Council Mayor Andrew Whitehead said it is important to hear from the wider community on this issue.

“Roads in the town are enjoyed by pedestrians and cyclists as well as vehicles, and we want to improve safety for all community members and visitors.”

“But before we take action, we want to ensure that the proposal reflects the views of the wider Bethanga community,” he said.

How to have your say

To have your say, fill in a short survey by 31 March 2022:
surveymonkey.com/r/bethanga-speed-reduction-proposal.

or visit

towong.vic.gov.au

Works on the Great River Road Project move ahead

Infrastructure works on the Great River Road project are forging ahead – securing the Upper Murray as a premier destination for drivers, motorcyclists, cyclists, bushwalkers and campers.

The project involves the delivery of eight key elements including town trails, wayside stops and a marketing campaign. Many elements of the project have been identified by the Shire's Community Recovery Committees to assist in the ongoing recovery process.

The installation of four large scale artworks along with interpretive signage and furniture will be delivered as the final stages of the project. Planning, including public consultation for these elements is scheduled to commence in April.

Towong Council Mayor Andrew Whitehead has identified the project as a priority for Council.

"Delivering this project is an essential element of our ongoing commitment to recovery and is a priority in our extensive capital works program for this year. It's exciting to see construction forging ahead after the summer break – and seeing these important projects being brought to life" he said.

This project is funded by a \$5 million grant from the Victorian Government's Bushfire Recovery Regional Economic Stimulus and Resilience Fund. For more information about the project, including the project schedule, visit towong.vic.gov.au

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

towongshire 

Storms in Bethanga

This summer has been marked by the storms and the damage they have caused. A storm tore through Bethanga on Friday 14 January bringing a torrent of water down the Bethanga Creek ripping out trees and eroding banks that combined with the raging water to tear out fences and damage creek crossings along its length.

Water washed over the bridge near the Bethanga Hotel & rushed through mechanic Mick Child's shed, flooding his workshop, inundating his customer's cars, the local pubs courtesy bus & destroying all his tools that he's accumulated over the years.



On 1 February a violent storm tore out trees and brought torrents of water down the streams along a strip of land through Springdale Road, Sirls Road and Lake Road Bethanga and Jarvis Creek. There is no report of major damage to buildings but it caused extensive damage to creeks, trees, creek crossings and fencing. Farmers in the area are confronted by large clean up and repair bills.

The Federal government, in partnership with the Victorian Government, has declared the Towong Shire a natural disaster area for the floods and storms that occurred from 26 January 2022. At the time of going to print the detail of what funding is available or how to apply for it has not been provided. The Towong Shire has not been given any information yet but recommends that you take photos of any damage and keep receipts for any work that has already been carried out.

The Berringa Peninsula Community Network is looking at ways to support the recovery and preparedness. If you have any ideas or requests, please contact berringapcn@gmail.com or Julie Miller 0419 339 679

COMMUNITY NOTICES

This section is for community members to give notice about local happenings, 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).

Use of pizza oven free - but booking essential
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 the sun with a good book from the Talgarno Street Library

Open all hours for everyone at the Talgarno Hall.

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

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



Tallangatta Health Service News

COVID-19

With the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, we have seen an increase of positive cases throughout the community. Whilst many restrictions have eased and rules change frequently, it is still very important to remember the steps we can take to help keep us all safe:

Get vaccinated, including your booster shot

Maintain hand hygiene: use hand sanitiser frequently and wash hands when dirty

Wear your mask to **cover both your nose and mouth**

If you need support to make the decision to have a vaccination please contact your GP and seek advice. Being vaccinated helps keep us all safe and minimises your risk of serious illness if you contract COVID-19.

Medical Centre - COVID-19 Vaccinations

COVID-19 vaccinations are available through the Tallangatta Medical Centre including vaccination boosters for those who are eligible. Vaccinations for children aged 5 – 12 years have also commenced. Please book appointments by phoning on 02 6071 5270. Clinics are being held each week.

If you have any concerns about the vaccines, please discuss these with your doctor or visit:

<https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines>

<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19-victoria>

Launch of Home Care Package Program

The My Community and Home Care (MCHC) department has launched the Home Care Package Program in 2022. A Home Care Package (HCP) is a Government subsidised program designed for individuals aged 65 and over with more complex and higher care needs than is delivered by the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP). If eligible, an assessment will be carried out by the Aged Care Assessment Team and individuals will be notified of the outcome.

If you are the recipient of a HCP, our HCP Coordinator can support you. Our program is designed to provide you with a comprehensive care plan, case management, regular reviews of your package, an individualized budget and price transparency. Our qualified staff work with you to provide coordinated services and support in your home and the community to enhance your independence and wellbeing.

If you would like to know more, or are already eligible for a package and considering Tallangatta Health Service as your provider, please contact the MCHC office on 02 6071 5238 and speak to Nicole Butler, Home Care Package Coordinator.

In Memorium

Bob Price 1931-2021



Bob was born at Cootamundra in 1931, the youngest of 4 children, living there until moving to Bethanga in the mid 1980s. Bob had an active childhood and his teenage years, during World War 2 included rabbiting in the bush with his brother. Each had painted a different coloured mark on their traps as the skins were going to be sold to get pocket money! Bob and his brother also collected

rubber products for the war effort, which resulted in a third prize of 6 months free picture theatre tickets.

Playing cricket in a local team was a favourite weekend pastime. He also developed an interest in breeding chooks and associated egg production. Bob became a member of the local rifle shooting club and it was there that he met his future wife, Betty, who was also a member.

Bob's first job was as a 'telegram boy' at the Post Office. His father was a cabinetmaker and, following in his father's footsteps, Bob decided to take on an apprenticeship as a carpenter/joiner. This career in the local building industry continued, with a later move to the

Public Works Department where he was involved in repair work of Government buildings. Bob and Betty, now with their family of a son and 3 daughters, continued their life in Cootamundra.

It was during the 1960s that Bob developed his interest in space and astronomy. Sputnik 1, the first artificial satellite had been launched in 1957, ushering in the 'space age'. After moving to Bethanga and eventually retiring, Bob's passion really developed. He built a wonderful observatory on their block and spent many, many hours exploring space, the moon/s, stars and planets.

Bob was a member of the Albury/Wodonga Astronomical Society, where he often gave talks and reports on current phenomena happenings – eclipses, meteors, etc. Bob also welcomed the Bethanga Primary School students up to his observatory and was always so keen to share his knowledge and enthusiasm with the children and staff - a wonderful experience for all.

Bob was the first person in the Southern Hemisphere to capture on film (plotted over a 12 month period at the same time each day), an analemma – the figure of 8 path, created by the sun as the earth completes its elliptical orbit around it.

Bob was also very involved with the Bethanga Men's Shed, again sharing his expertise and experience with members.

He is sadly missed by his family and our community.

Rest in peace, Bob.

Di Singline

Max Mitchell 12 July 1934 - 10 Dec 2022



Maxwell James Mitchell was born on the 12 July 1934, at Albury – the second son of John (known as Jack Mitchell), and Hazel Mitchell (Nee Hunt), younger brother to John.

He was raised in the family home known as Knowel, the red roof house by Bethanga Bay. He spent all his early years at Bethanga Primary School, where he and John would either ride horses or push bikes to school.

Max spent his high school years at the Albury Grammar School (now the Scots School), where he would board during the week.

Max got his first job working for Dairy Farmers, driving a milk truck around picking up cream cans from all the dairies: back breaking work at the best of times.

He also did National Service training, and began playing football for Wodonga Bulldogs, where he played on a wing.

His footy career eventually saw him play in 4 premierships for the seconds. Max played a season for a combined Granya/Bethanga Team in 1958, coming runner up in the league medal.

He was selected to run the Olympic Torch through Wodonga for the 1956 Melbourne Olympics. Between this training, football training and National Service Training, he said "I was so fit, I shouldn't have been running with the torch. I should've been down there competing". Max had the honour of running the torch for the Sydney 2000 Olympics also.

Max eventually met up with a young girl from Yarrawonga, Judy Neville. They got married in Yarrawonga on the 13 February 1965.

Max and Judy moved into their new home on the hill along Springdale Road. The farm was known as "Kamaringi". In 1966, Bruce was born, followed by Jan, Doug and finally Tina.

Max worked all his life on the farm, breeding weaner calves and fat lambs. Max said his stock were always quiet. He said they would know him as he drove up the back lane. Max wasn't that much into genetics, "95% of breeding is through the mouth", Max would say. The farm was covered with trees he planted.

Max loved his family foremost, especially his nine grandchildren. He also loved his sport. Whether it was footy when he was younger, golf on Sundays, lawn bowls in later years, or golf putting on the carpet at home. The gymkhana putting comp was his own.

In the Bethanga community, Max had positions on the Bethanga Golf Club, Springdale Recreation Reserve, Bethanga Primary School, Bethanga Cemetery Trust, and in the Bethanga CFA, where he was awarded a 60-year service medal.

Max will be sadly missed by his family, friends, and the Bethanga Community.

Bruce Mitchell

Bethanga Hotel



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

What's happening at the pub...

Friday night meat raffles for the Bethanga Cricket Club. Four raffles are drawn every Friday at 7.30pm. Come on down, have a cold beer or bubbles, and try your luck.

CLOSED MONDAY
Open 4pm Tuesday to Thursday
Open 11am Friday to Sunday

Meals available from 5 pm Wednesday night - Dine in or Take Away
Lunch served from 12 midday Friday till Sunday and dinner from 5pm.

Please abide by the COVID restrictions, Double vaccination required

Again, thank you for your ongoing support and I look forward to seeing you

Kate Middleton

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CLUBS AND GROUPS

Berringa Community News does not have the current status under Covid 19 regulations of all the Clubs and Groups in this section. We suggest you contact them or their social media pages for further information.

BERRINGA CERT



Defibrillators

Due to the Bethanga shop renovations the defibrillator has temporarily been moved to the front of the Bethanga Hotel. Now the shop renovations have been completed the CERT committee will review where it will be located

The Granya Hall defibrillator has been beeping. The defibrillator is working but the batteries in the alarmed cabinet are flat. I have removed the battery and will replace it next time I check the defibrillator. The same occurred recently at the Bethanga Recreation reserve.



The defibrillators are working if there is a green tick in the window of the defibrillator. If there is a cross in the window and/or the defibrillator is beeping please tell a member of CERT or contact me.

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

- Bethanga Hotel
- Bethanga Recreation Reserve pavilion
- Bellbridge Community Centre
- Granya Hall
- Talgarno Hall

*Keep well,
Julie Miller,
Team Leader Berringa CERT
juliemiller@skymesh.com.au
0419 339 679*

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

ROTARY CLUB OF BELLBRIDGE LAKE HUME INC.

It was disappointing that the club could not do Australia day ceremony this year because many of the members had partners with health concerns.

The Lake Hume Cycle Challenge

To enter www.lakehumechallenge.com.au

lake hume **Cycle Challenge**
Sunday 13th March 2022

enter now

Pick a ride that suits you:

- 80km / 988m Bethanga Beast*
- 65km / 870m Sandy Creek Loop
- 40km Tallangatta Trail Tour
- 15km Kiewa River Family Ride

Remember post-ride to rest and refresh.



Locals, please watch out for riders. between 7.30 and 12.30 and allow for delays on the road.

The Bethanga Beast ride leaves Ebden Reserve on the rail trail to Old Tallangatta. The ride then goes on Lake Road, through Bethanga and over Kurrajong Gap, over the Bridge and return to Ebden. Rider refreshments will be at Old Tallangatta and the Hume Boat Club area.

*Keep safe and happy
Andrew Christy*

For more info visit the clubs facebook page Bellbridge Lake Hume Rotary Club

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 9am until 6pm (depending on attendance). You are welcome to come along and get involved in Men's Shed projects or create your own, or even get the men at the shed to 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 Tuesday of every month at 7pm.

Phil Craig, President

TALGARNO TENNIS CLUB

Plenty happening at the Talgarno Tennis Club: in-form teams poised to challenge in Saturday pennant; big numbers at kid's coaching; Fast Four night tennis on again; and, most excitingly, holes being drilled in courts!

Our four teams competing in the Kiewa & Talgarno District Tennis Association have done very well. Section 1 and are lock-ins for the final series due to commence in mid-March and Section 2 are an outside chance of making it. In the Section 4 junior division, the Talgarno Stars (Ella and Will Lewis, Belle and Ruby Pearson and Will Green the mainstays) are likely to finish on top of the

ladder, whilst the developing Thunder (Chloe, Zack, Shune, Charli, Holly and Riley) will just miss out. Monday afternoon junior coaching has been given a financial boost this term with a generous grant of \$1000 from the Rotary Club of Bellbridge Lake Hume to encourage community participation in sport. All the funds have been used to reduce the cost of coaching for every single junior and has resulted in a larger group of participants (30+) - so the grant has clearly achieved its aim. If you or your children are interested in tennis, the coaching program run by Paul Sykes at the Talgarno courts is ideal for beginners or experienced alike. Contact Jill Pearson (0412042090) if you would like to be involved.

Fast Four is currently in full swing with four teams of five players competing on Thursday nights. The Fast Four format with quirky rules is ideal for players at different stages on their respective tennis journeys and is fun and highly social. Contact FF director Brendan Pearson (0439881440) if you would like to get involved. It seems the only thing that could disrupt Fast Four continuing through autumn into early winter would be the long-awaited construction of new courts. Anticipation is high amongst club members as random paint markers on surrounds and holes drilled through concrete courts, have randomly appeared in the past few weeks. I'm sure the club would be happy to abandon any autumn/winter activity if it meant a new tennis facility by spring. Fingers crossed.

Thanks to the sponsors for their continued support of our club – Lieschke Plumbing, Albury Sportpower,

WEDDING AND CORPORATE CATERING

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



Johnsons MME, Cadmac, the Bethanga Hotel and Monumental Ice Creamery.

See you on court!

Adam Richardson (Secretary)
0412 560 833
Jarrod Stephenson (President)
0417 228 445

BETHANGA CFA

Fire calls 000

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

THE FIRE SEASON IN REVIEW

This summer has seen the wettest year on record, especially for January. Despite this we've had a few callouts, including assisting SES with storm damage in our area.

Whilst it's been wet, we mustn't get complacent. Our fuel load is high and it will only take a string of hot weather to dry it out – so we must always be careful. Please continue to follow all the guidelines and restrictions and monitor the conditions, forecast and Fire Danger Ratings.

PRE-RESPONSE PLANS

The Brigade has visited and produced Pre-response plans for some of our community's strategic venues. Examples are: the Bethanga General Store, Bethanga School, Bethanga Pub, Bellbridge Pre-School. These plans help the Brigade in their initial response in the unlikely event of an incident. We thank those who gave us their time to let us visit.

LOCAL INCIDENTS

8th January 2022 7:46 PM

Murray River Road, Talgarno

Small grass fire at Merkels Reserve, Talgarno. All Bethanga vehicles responded. Fire extinguished by Talgarno and Bethanga called off en-route.

15th January 2022 12:44 PM

Cnr Georges Creek Road/Murray River Road, Talgarno
The brigade was called to assist Talgarno and SES with clean up after a landslide from a rain event the night before. Bethanga Tanker 1 and Bethanga Ultralight attended as assist with cleaning mud and debris from the road.

20th January 2022 3:27 PM

Eucalypt Drive, Bellbridge

Brigade responded to a Grass and Scrub fire. Suspected malfunction on a water pump ignited grass. All Bethanga appliances responded, along with Talgarno and Bonegilla.

Fire was contained to about 20m² with no damage to structures.

1st February 2022 5:08 PM

Springdale Road, Bethanga

Extreme weather event brought down trees and flooded and damaged bridges in Springdale Road and Sirls Road. All Bethanga appliances responded and helped residents clear the roads of debris and mud. Decision was made to close the roads until they could be assessed by Council.

Brigade was later joined by SES and Towong Shire who had been dealing with widespread damage throughout the Shire. They were very thankful for the job we had done.

HIGH COUNTRY PEST CONTROL

Inc. Leo Rafferty Pest Control

Servicing Tallangatta, Corryong,
Wodonga & surrounding districts



Brendon & Kerrie Attree

Lic. No' L005309L

Mobile: 0418 570194

Email: attree33@bigpond.com

Ph/Fax: 02 60725347



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!

TURN OUTS DURING COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

Brigade turn outs during emergencies will continue to occur as per normal.

CFA FIRE RESTRICTIONS

In Towong Shire, the Fire restrictions are set to end on the 1st of May. This may change depending on conditions, so make sure you check on the CFA website before lighting a fire.

We often attend fires out of control after the fire restrictions have ended.

A reminder that the person lighting the fire is still responsible to ensure it does not get out of control, so please assess the conditions and have adequate firefighting equipment and capable personnel to ensure it stays under control.

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 emergencies 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.

BRIGADE TRAINING

Over the last 12 months, the Bethanga brigade has been unable to train on a regular basis due to COVID-19. We were still able to participate in preseason training to maintain fire fighter competency in November last year. In December we had a training session with a simulated grass and scrub fire plus practicing draughting on all units, plus the quick fill, at Bethanga Bay.

With life getting back to normal and restrictions easing for CFA we are planning for regular monthly trainings. Two of our Lieutenants also completed the Crew Leader course in November. Well done to them.

DISTRICT 24 CHAMPIONSHIPS

We are still very excited to be hosting the District 24 Championships on the 27th of February at the Bethanga Recreation Reserve with Talgarno.

These championships see brigades from all around

District 24 and beyond come together to compete against each other. Brigades demonstrate their skills in working together in teams to complete tasks commonly performed on the fire ground with speed and agility.

The Bethanga-Talgarno brigade joint teams will be showcasing both our Juniors (12-15yo) and Seniors (16+) members skills on the day, and we hope to make our brigades proud.

We'd love to have the community's support on the day.

CONTACTS

Ben Mitchell, Captain 0411 080 277
bethangacfacaptain@gmail.com
Tracey Woodhouse, Secretary 0413 708 302
bethangacfasecretary@gmail.com
Ron Evans, Community Safety Liaison 02 6026 4301



Rural Asset Maintenance

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Mechanic

0438 564 428

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& agricultural machinery
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Talgarno and surrounds
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chriscvine@live.com.au



JOHN O'DONOGHUE BUILDING

Carpentry Renovations Maintenance

0419 566 226

Murray River Road Talgarno

johnodonoghuebuilding@gmail.com

ABN 59 345 871 375

TALGARNO RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

What a Summer we have had! It seems there have been more callouts for assistance with floods than fires! We have had another quiet fire season with only 5 callouts since the last Berringa News.

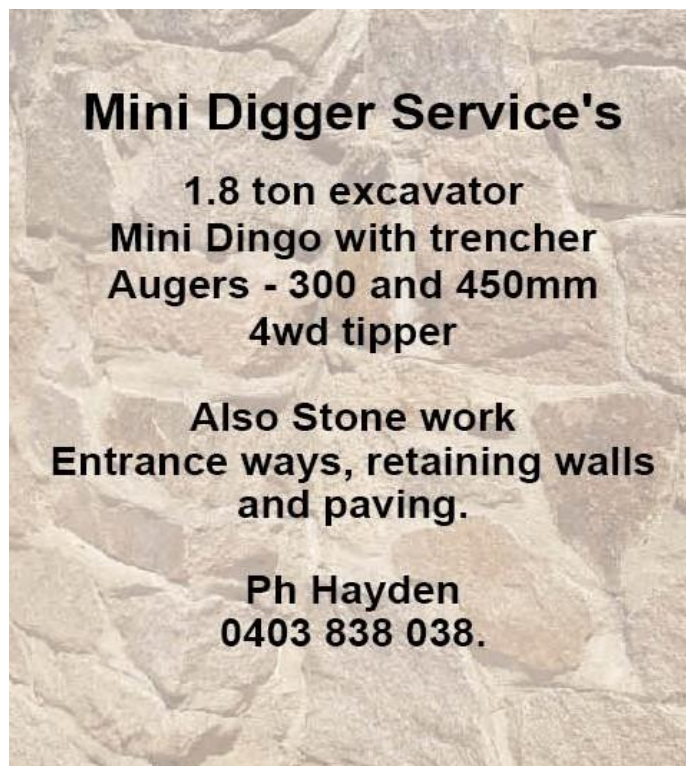
We are expecting the declaration of the end of the fire season any week now, given the threat of significant fires is over for this season. In the meantime, please do not burn off as we do not want unnecessary call outs for fires.

Winter fire prep

As we are experiencing mild weather, now is an opportunity to do some winter fire prevention. This could include cleaning chimneys, fireplaces, laundry dryers and preparing greenwaste for burning after the fire season if necessary.

District 24 Championships

The Bethanga-Talgarno running team along with the District 24 Championships committee is hosting this year's District 24 Championships. These will be held at Bethanga Recreation Reserve on Sunday 27 Feb from 830am to 400pm. Our brigade has several members in the senior and junior running team and we wish them luck in competing. We will also be helping with catering for the event and have called out to all members to lend a hand if possible. We encourage the wider the community to come down for a look, enjoy the spectacle and cheer on the locals!



Mini Digger Service's
1.8 ton excavator
Mini Dingo with trencher
Augers - 300 and 450mm
4wd tipper

Also Stone work
Entrance ways, retaining walls
and paving.

Ph Hayden
0403 838 038.

New shed extension

The Brigade has had discussions about future proofing our facilities and have come up with some rather grand plans that we'll work towards over the coming years. We are in the design phase of our shed extension and meeting room at present. Then we will send those designs around for feedback and turn to obtaining consent from the Talgarno Hall and Recreation Reserve Committee and CFA District 24. To realise the project, we will then focus on fundraising and grant applications. We encourage any of the community and our members to provide feedback on the design and any ideas you may have for the facility.

Bathroom upgrade

Our bathroom upgrade project received funds from the Towong Shire Council Community Recovery grants. In the coming months we will start the project, which will see a new hot water service and sensor taps installed along with new tiles on the floor and walls.

Assisting Bethanga Gymkhana

The news is that the Bethanga Gymkhana is making a return after 2 years in hiatus, which will be great for the community. We will be running the BBQ for the day and have started approaching members to help on this day. If you can help, please contact us.

Increasing standpipe tank capacity

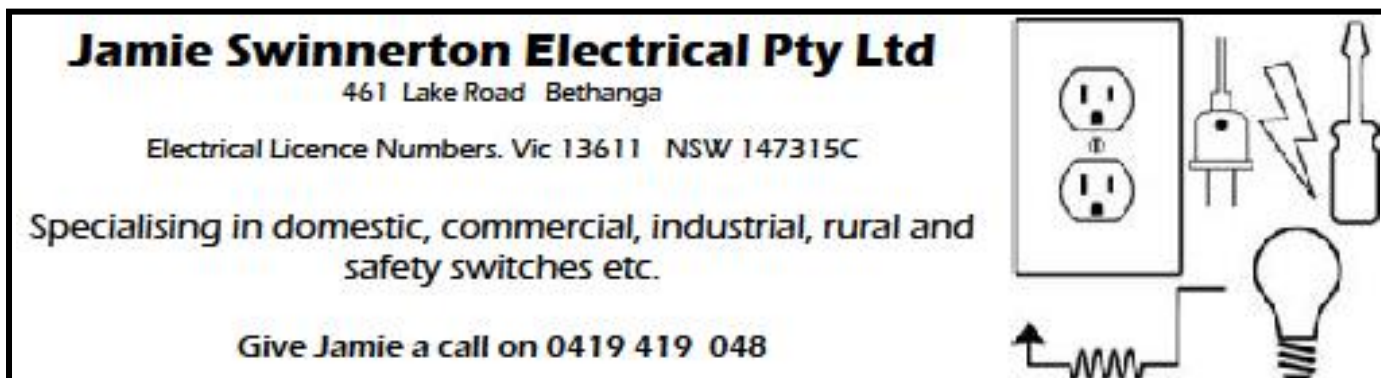
After a recent meeting we resolved to increase the tank capacity for the standpipe outside our shed. This will provide a decent water supply and fill point in the area. We will aim to complete this over the next 6 months.

New members

If there are any community members that would like to join our brigade, please contact Michael Elliot or Brendan Pearson. We encourage any members of our community; female, male, old, and young to join in a range of roles from:

- Asset or equipment maintenance
- Brigade recruitment
- Communications
- Fundraising
- Community education re fire preparedness
- Bushfire survival planning
- Junior leaders
- Catering
- And operational firefighting.

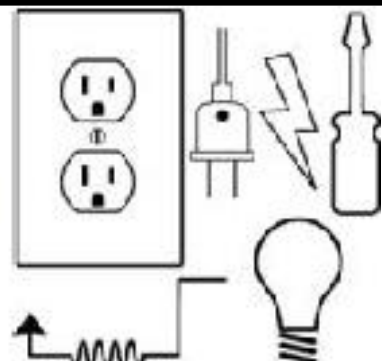
Michael Elliot, Captain 0407 201 169
Brendan Pearson, Secretary, 0439 881 440



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BETHANGA-TALGARNO JUNIOR CFA BRIGADE

JUNIOR SESSIONS

With Covid restrictions easing we hope we can be back running junior sessions regularly.

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

BETHANGA RECREATION RESERVE

Hi All,

“Rain and Grass”!!! with the season being as great as it has been for the Reserve, it has also raised its challenges. Quite extensive storm damage particularly around our bridge crossings and creek waterways. We are still trying to ascertain the full extent of the damage and will work with the relevant authorities to keep everything in order and look at what we can do for restoration and repairs.

A big thank you and acknowledgement goes out to the Bethanga Cricket Club, for their tireless efforts in

maintaining the oval, pitch, surrounding pavilion and kiosk area. They have been able to achieve a high standard, making the oval one of the best in the region that is sort after by Cricket Victoria for certain events. So well done to the volunteer participants that put in days and days of work, week in and week out throughout the year.

There is lots of works to be done and we are endeavouring to produce lists of things to do and a management plan, so as we can prioritise, source funds and volunteers to help the community maintain and improve our grounds, Infrastructure, and facilities.

The Covid Restrictions over the last couple of years did not make it easy to have user groups who would normally utilise the Reserve and facilities. Thankfully, restrictions are easing, and we are starting to build up our momentum to get our important and necessary events operating again. Once again, the cricketers have shown leadership and been able to conduct games and special events. We also have the district 24 (D24) Fire Brigades Championships, hosted by Bethanga Rural Fire Brigade on Sunday 27 February 2022. Arrangements and preparations are well underway by the Gymkhana Committee to hold this year's Bethanga Gymkhana on Easter Saturday, 16 April 2022. The Rec Reserve Committee does whatever we can do to assist these great functions. Please put your hand up to assist as

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there is quite a lot of work that goes into organising these events and we know that all the user groups can use all the help they can get.

Tennis Court. Surfaces have had their first recondition in a while, at this stage, we haven't heard any negative feedback so we assume they are operating as they should. A huge thankyou goes out to Anna Barwick. Anna grabbed our older tennis nets and made the repairs to keep the nets we have operational. We had ordered 2 new nets months prior to the repairs hoping they would arrive prior to Christmas, however covid and transport delays did not help us. Anna has done such a great job that we will be keeping the current nets in use, but for all to note, we have two brand new nets available should we need to replace our current nets at some stage.

Trees. You will notice a lot of our beautiful trees have branches coming down due to weather events and some of the older trees could well be coming to the end of their life over the next few years. We must highlight that we will never cut a tree down unless we absolutely must. We get professional arborist advice so we save and maintain every tree for as long as we can so . Be vigilant -we are considering the safety factors around the trees. The last thing anyone wants is for people, animals or property be hurt or damaged, so please keep this in the back of your mind as you move around the reserve.

Other Matters and Things to do.– grants, tree

maintenance, grounds maintenance, facilities maintenance, walking tracks, fencing, horse agistment, mowing, herb garden, upcoming events, master plans, Bush Fire Recovery Victoria, licences, walking bridge. dog poop and signs, cleaning up after your animals, hiring the facilities, bore water, solar power, SR500, roads and tracks upgrade and maintenance, seats at front of the pavilion, equipment and storage sheds, cleaning contracts, volunteer registrations and inductions, covid requirements, safety plans, public feedback, red back spiders and cobwebs. The list goes on. What we have listed here is by no means an exhaustive list. Should you wish to add to the list please email us.

Finally, it has been a pleasure to get involved and really see how our community utilises the Bethanga Recreation Reserve. It is a great facility. It is a larger job than most of us anticipated to continually maintain and upgrade. We really appreciate any positive feedback anyone has. We particularly appreciate if someone sees a problem or has a request that they can help the committee resolve. We ask that everyone be kind to each other and happy in their ventures and participations around the reserve. Remember we are all volunteer's and members of the community; we all have busy lives. So, if you can provide any time, sponsorship, financial support, equipment and

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or specialist support please do so. It will always be appreciated by everyone.

All the best of health to everyone,

Bethanga Recreation Reserve Committee.

Chairperson - Ross Mitchell

Treasurer - Jo Sirl

Secretary - Robyn Weddall,

Committee - David Elder, Brett Gilbee, John Northey, Madelaine Northey, Chris Weddall, Tracey Woodhouse.

For all communications please email: bethangareserve@gmail.com

Any urgent enquiries please phone Ross Mitchell on 0418 215 076.

Ross Mitchell

BETHANGA GOLF CLUB

Springdale Road Bethanga



Due to the Covid 19 restrictions, the golf course is closed. Although some of the restrictions on the golf courses are to be lifted, the Bethanga Golf course committee has made the regrettable decision that it will not reopen the course this season; due to the work required to make it usable for what would be a very short period. The course will be reopened early 2022

Hire the club house for your next celebration or fundraiser.

Contact either

Peter Star 0429 436 347
Morry Strelec 0400 036 635

POLE WALKERS

On Wednesdays at 10:00 am during winter (9:00am in summer), a group of locals meet to walk with poles

around the scenic spots of our Peninsula. Pole walking uses up approx. 20% more calories than just ordinary walking and you use approx. 80% more of your body muscles. You feel terrific at the end of an hour, not only from the exercise but the friendly company. If you wish to become a pole walker, give us a call.

Joan Elliot 6020 1177

PENINSULA ACTIVITY, LAUGHTER, MOVEMENT & SOCIABLE (P.A.L.M.S)

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 to keep 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](tel:60715238) for further details

BONEGILLA HALL CRAFT GROUP

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

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

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Bethanga Landcare Group

Rabbit's on the menu!

Following last year's successful Field Day on rabbit control, Bethanga Landcare is looking at developing a community project to secure funding in order to reduce the rabbit population in the area. The idea will be discussed at this year's Bethanga Landcare first gathering at **Bethanga Hall on Tuesday 8 March at 7pm**. All landholders, large and small are welcome to contribute their thoughts and register their interest to benefit from the project. This will be a great opportunity to share views with others and discuss other activities for 2022. Supper provided. See you all on **Tuesday 8 March, 7 pm**.

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Julian Hill BSc PhD MAIAST MAICD MAIFS
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We are offering 2 Sessions

Talgarno Hall — March 15th 6.00pm
Eskdale Recreation Reserve — March 16th 6.00pm

Please book your seat at Eventbrite

Talgarno Hall March 15th 2022 at 6.00pm
<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/making-sense-of-soil-carbon-and-agriculture-talgarno-tickets-250067377237>

Eskdale Recreation Reserve March 16th 2022 at 6 PM
<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/making-sense-of-soil-carbon-and-agriculture-session-eskdale-tickets-251830189877>

Or Phone

Irene Lewis 0400 775 919

A meal will be provided from 6pm

**Help us run COVID safe events by not attending if you have symptoms'
and bring Double Vaccination Certificate.**

Wises Creek Talgarno Landcare Group

What an amazing season with record rainfall for January, very severe storms causing untold damage, strong winds and floods, to a dry mild February. The great thing is we are enjoying the mild temperature. While it has been humid we have not had heat.

Sadly, many of our trees have been lost either blown over or washed away and when they blow over quite often it is over a fence line.

We have not been meeting due to covid restrictions but have managed to make a few things happen

The dung beetle breeding program is progressing quite well which is a great initiative over a couple of Landcare networks. The idea of this is to fill the gaps in the season where dung beetles have been lacking. Thanks to Irene and Judy from Mitta Mitta LCG and Simon Feillafe who have been managing the program. The breeding tents must be managed properly so it is not just a matter of setting up and hoping it will happen.

There will be a new dung beetle (Spinigar) released in March so if you are interested please call us.

We have been trying to organize a soil interpretation day at the Talgarno hall which has had to be postponed, but we will make it happen in the near future. Watch this space.

Keep a look out as we will not only have some new soil tests interpreted by Sue Briggs from CSBP but also bring you old ones to make comparisons and look at where to from here.

We have just held the first of two Bird Identification Field Days one at Greg Hayes Place looking at birds in native

trees as distinct to the second which will be held at Hugh Dunchue's 128 Murray River Road Talgarno Friday March 4 8.30am to 12 noon looking at birds in plantations. Dave Watson from Charles Sturt Uni lead the session at Greg's place, and he will also be at Hugh Dunchue's. Please bring binoculars, cameras and appropriate shoes. Dave is an expert on the subject and is a great speaker. Lunch provided. Please RSVP for catering 0438 199 999

Mitta to Murray Landcare Inc is offering two carbon days." Making Sense of Carbon and Agriculture" presenter Julian Hill from Ternes Scientific

This is a golden opportunity to put it all in perspective.

The first is at the Talgarno Hall, Murray River Road Talgarno on March 15 commencing at 6pm, meal provided and the second at Eskdale Recreation Reserve on March 16 commencing at 6pm, meal provided

Please book in on eventbrite or phone Irene Lewis 0400 775 919 to register

Keep in mind we are still looking to carry out new projects for Wises Creek Talgarno LCG, but if you want something done let us know because we will aggregate projects then get the money rather than the other way around

Any ideas either call Simon Feillafe, Julie Birch or Jim de Hennin

Jim de Hennin President 0408 978 847
Julie Birch Secretary 0404 984 012
Simon Feillafe Facilitator 0438 190 999



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

It has been a crazy start to the year with lots of changes but the centre now has a full complement of staff. We welcome Jarrod as the new 3-year old kindergarten teacher and Millie as a new trainee, who will support Cathy, Amanda, Melanie, Jazz and Janet at the centre.

We sadly farewell Bridgette who has accepted a post working with her cousin Sharni once more, but would like to thank her for all her energy, enthusiasm and care she has provided to the children, staff and parents in the Long Day Care room. Good luck with your next adventure Bridgette!

Highlights from the year so far:

- ◆ The children have been busy harvesting and eating all of the vegetables and fruits grown over the holidays – sweet corn, strawberries, peas, snow peas and carrots.
- ◆ The kindergarten children have shown a great interest in the weir and their surrounds, making their own weirs in the sandpit and construction activities with floating boats and going camping.
- ◆ The Long Day Care children are loving their singing and dancing, making play dough creations and stacking activities – building tall towers to knock over and delighting in the crashing sounds!
- ◆ The Bluearth program has commenced again but this time with Tegan as the new coach. This is a fantastic program which supports well-being, movement and self-regulation, while providing lots of fun activities.



Tuesday 1st March – 6.30pm – Friends of Bellbridge Early Years Learning Centre meeting at the centre.

We will be having our first meeting for the year and would love to see some new faces. We work together to make the centre the best it can be – so if you have some ideas and thoughts about improvements, please come along. Everyone is very welcome to attend.

As a reminder, the centre provides a Long Day Care program from Monday to Friday (7.30am to 6.00pm) for ages 0 to 5 years. The 3-year old kindergarten sessions are on Tuesday and Thursdays (9.00am to 4.30pm) and 4-year old kindergarten sessions are on Wednesdays and Fridays (9.00am to 4.30pm). The centre has had a lot of enrolments and places are filling very quickly. They are currently booked out on a Monday and have limited spaces available in both rooms for the rest of the week. If you would like to have a look around, please call Amanda Armstrong on 02 6026 4373.

School Values

RAPPORT – **R**espect **A**cceptance
Persistence **P**ride **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.



'Mudgee' F-2



'Millewa' 3-6



We have had a wonderful start to the 2022 school year at Bethanga. We have welcomed 6 new Foundation students who have settled in beautifully. We have also welcomed a new student in Millewa (3-6) boosting our school community to 31 students (22 families)!

We have been utilising our new outdoor learning space daily for lots of outdoor lessons - Students have been motivated learners from day 1 getting straight into challenging themselves and persisting when things get tough.

Students in Millewa have been participating in a 6 week Mental Wellbeing/Music program called 'Rhythm to Recovery'. This is facilitated by Leah Tylee (a social worker) who involves students in drumming games and fun whilst upskilling them with strategies and language to increase their resilience and willingness to have a growth mindset and try hard things!

Our physical education program is in full swing with our 3-6 students participating in the NERSSA Swimming Carnival in week 2. This was a wonderful day having students from 10 schools together – Miles and Annie progressed to the Division Swimming Event which was a great achievement.

Bluearth continues this year – a program that links emotional intelligence and mental wellbeing concepts and explicit teaching with physical activity encouraging active bodies and healthy minds!

In art students have been focusing on identity and 'what makes me, me?' Students created gorgeous self-portraits (Mudgee) and Personality Paintings (Millewa).



In addition to everything else we do at Bethanga, this year we have added lunchtime activities and Before and After School Care – so many opportunities for students to learn and grow... 2022 is bound to be amazing!

MRS RACHEL SAUNDERS

STAFFING NEWS

We are extremely fortunate to maintain the staffing structure for 2022. There will be three to four teachers in the classroom for reading, writing and math conferencing - Mrs Kim Roebuck (Tues and Wed mornings), Mrs Belinda Toohey, Mr Jayden Kotzur, Mrs Jessica Lieschke (Mon and Tue), Mrs Cathryn Gordon (Wed-Fri). Kim will also provide intervention in small groups. Mrs Erin Albon is our business manager who works Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Captain Pete will be continuing MSL lessons with students one-on-one and also delivering a whole school lesson on a Monday morning. He will also be running the music program every second Tuesday. Pete is our schools nominated tutor who will be in the position for 2022.

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.

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. As if the butterfly stroke isn't painful enough we even had students participate in the individual medley in which we were seriously impressed! 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 Ollie, Frankie, Riley, Billy, Grace, Eden and Moby. To add to the mix we also have two other new students in Harrison (year 2) and Archer (year 5).

We are certainly looking forward to continuing to develop our success within the classroom over from the last couple of years and to add a couple of new dimensions to what we have already put in place. This year Jess Lieschke and 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. We are looking forward to the progress we can make this year with an even stronger team.

The Resilience Project the staff attended last night was extremely beneficial. It provided some clarity around what mental health triggers can be, as well as ways to support our own mental health and look after those around us. The students, staff and parents will all have access to this brilliant resource which has been provided by the Towong Shire.

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: Ollie, Frankie, Riley, Billy, Grace, Eden and Moby. Our fab year 6's rocking their new year 6 shirts with Ruby, Lawson and Izzy all excited to be the new leaders of the school.



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Berringa Community News Distribution

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 on-going 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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Lea Casey

Treasurer- Kerrie Stephenson 6020 1146

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.

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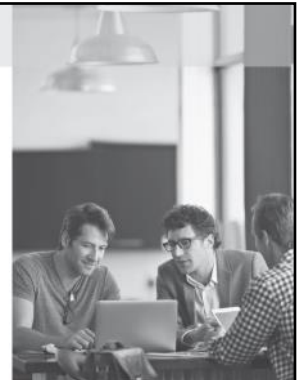
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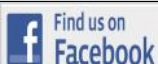
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