



# Berringa Community News

## Winter 2020

*Photo . Bridge in fog by David Cottee*

*News and views from the residents of Bellbridge, Bethanga, Granya & Talgarno  
Circulation: 560 ABN: 96 071 800 843*

## **Covid 19 Edition**

Autumn 2020 on the Peninsula was planned to be a season of events and community activities that celebrated the end of a horrible summer of fires and drought and welcomed the cooler weather and rain.

At the beginning of March, the Berringa Community News Autumn edition advertised the upcoming events and recognised the beginning of a new school year. By the middle of March, the annual community events - the Annual Community Fundraiser, the Bethanga Gymkhana and Family Fun Day and Bethanga ANZAC Day Ceremony were cancelled. The

local schools closed and the children worked from home. Playgrounds, sporting clubs, the pubs and the shops also closed. For many farmers and the retired, life went on very much the same, but others sadly lost their jobs. A whole virtual world has opened - work, contact with friends and family and meetings are done online.

The Berringa Community News editors were concerned that we would have enough to fill a newsletter but life on the Peninsula has continued, differently maybe, and we are publishing our regular newsletter.

# 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](mailto:info@berringacommunitynews.com.au) or post/drop in to 341 Wisers Creek Road, Talgarno.

## We will be back .....

Our Annual Berringa Community Fundraiser morning tea for Albury Wodonga Regional Cancer Centre was postponed for this year because of the Coronavirus restrictions. Assuming we will be permitted to host events of over a few hundred people, we plan to run the fundraiser event next year. You will receive information about the scheduled date early next year and in the Berringa Newsletter.

The event will be held at Julie & Jim de Hennin's property again next year and the successful format of 2019 will be followed. The event will include a delicious morning tea; an auctioneer called auction of items including a 1 week holiday at 2 beach houses, hot air balloon flight, BBQ boat trip on Lake Hume, helicopter

flight over Albury-Wodonga area and lots more; a silent auction of magnificent hand crafted items, vouchers from local business houses, electrical goods; plant and cake stalls and a great opportunity to support our local Cancer Centre.

For a few weeks prior to the event and at the event, tickets in a raffle for a magnificent queen size bed quilt, elegant necklace and earring set and a load of firewood will be on sale.

For further information please call Julie de Hennin ph. 0412 433 499

*The Berringa Community Morning Tea Fundraiser Team*



## Talgarno Recreation Reserve Committee

The Committee has been continuing the process of seeking funding for the Hall and its surrounds. We currently have two applications awaiting consideration. One of these is to install solar panels on the Hall or the BBQ shelter when we get it. This is a very long shot because the opportunity we are following is under the Commonwealth's Stronger Regional Communities Program and there are only two grants that will be available across the entire electorate of Indi. Nonetheless, we think it is critically important that we get solar panels to offset one of our largest on-going expenses in keeping the Hall functioning. The second application is under the Foundation for Rural and

Regional Renewal (FRRR) with a program called the News Corp Bushfire Fund Grant Program. We have applied for \$25,000 (the maximum permitted) to help construct a shelter between the Hall and the Fire Shed. In addition to our own efforts to raise funds, Towong Shire has been active in preparing and applying for funding to improve the tennis courts and provide some funds towards a BBQ shelter.

*Greg Hayes  
Secretary, Talgarno Recreation Reserve Committee of Management*

# New Book, “Mudpoo and the Secret of the Rainforest”

Written by Peter Klein Illustrated by Leon de Montignie

My fourth book in the Mudpoo series, **Mudpoo and the Secret of the Rainforest**, contains beautiful illustrations by the amazing Leon de Montignie. It empowers young people in the climate change debate; ‘that the little things we do can change things for the better!’

Our story begins when Captain Pete, Mudpoo (a young adventurous boy) Harry (the talking dog) and Gus (the talking Kombi van) accidentally uncover a mysterious secret treasure chest, filled with interesting clues on their Bethanga property. It leads them on a journey of intrigue and adventure which is linked to a steamy rainforest in Sumatra. There the evil character ‘Sneaky’ and the greedy horrible pirates; Grot, Snot, Bones and Pong are up to no good. It’s left to a brave and endangered Storm’s stork, his faithful companion catbird, a new hero, a girl named Ember and an army of eagles, to try and rescue the protected rainforest and all its curious creatures.

The story includes real science that could prevent cows from burping methane! It also offers readers real solutions to weaken our link to Palm Oil with help from the Melbourne Zoo and even a letter sent by a former Prime Minister!

**Mudpoo and the Secret of the Rainforest** is aimed at young readers in the 7-12 age group but it’s also a book for everyone to enjoy. Just as we did with my last book, this one will become a ‘crazy and real’ school musical production. The kids at Talgarno Primary School have auditioned and are individually rehearsing their roles at home right now! More information to come

later.

There are now four great Mudpoo books and a Captain Pete CD that contains songs, bush-poetry and the audio story of book 1. All books encourage children’s creativity, reading, writing, resilience and research. To order the Mudpoo Adventure books go to [www.mudpoo.com.au](http://www.mudpoo.com.au) You can also catch me on **FACE BOOK at Mudpoo/1 Captain Pete** where I’m sharing some of my stories and songs for kids.

Please stay safe everyone! Peter Klein (*Captain Pete*)



## BETHANGA POST OFFICE

offering

### BANKING

withdrawals and deposits

### BILL PAYMENTS

### MONEY ORDERS

### LETTER AND PARCEL POST

### PO BOXES

### STAMPS AND ENVELOPES

### MAIL2DAY

Licensee

Felicity Conway

Ph. 6026 4214

Email [thebethangapostoffice@gmail.com](mailto:thebethangapostoffice@gmail.com)

## Talgarno Cemetery

Fees and services have recently been upgraded and gazetted and will soon be published online. The trust is currently seeking expressions of interest from community members who would be interested in becoming honorary trust members. Please contact one of the trust members below if you are interested.

*Melissa Nichol 6020 1290*

*Lea Casey, Secretary [lea.casey@gmail.com](mailto:lea.casey@gmail.com)*

## Bethanga General Store Update

As most people would already be aware, the Bethanga General Store has been closed during the COVID19 lockdown, due to Government directives as it being a non-essential service.

To clarify the situation and debunk some of the hearsay circulating, there is no intention to close the store permanently. It is proposed to re-open as soon as the situation changes and the rules allow it. Considering the Bellbridge store has already closed, this is good news for our Peninsula.



# Anzac Day Commemoration at Talgarno

The current restrictions in place with COVID19 meant finding a different way for most of us to celebrate and commemorate ANZAC Day this year. In Talgarno, thanks largely to the Pearson family, a workaround was developed.

Through social media, arrangements were made to gather in Vincent's Road prior to dawn. Each family group attending was instructed to park on the side of the road and wait for a short service, making sure to abide with social distancing protocols.

At 6am, 'The Ode' was read aloud by Defence Force Cadet Jennoah Wallace of Talgarno, as he stood tall, dressed in uniform and standing beside the Australian National Flag. Then unmistakable sounds of 'The Last Post' sounded across the valley through the fog in the pre-dawn darkness. It was both eerie and emotional for those gathered. The minute of silence that followed was so solemn, then the air was filled with another bugle call, 'The Rouse'. Thank you to Brendan Pearson for your wonderful renditions.



To complete the service, the solo voice of Kelly Gibbons then resounded through the valley singing the National Anthem with such grace and without accompanying instruments. Her voice was the only instrument required to fill the valley with pride.

It may not have been the service that we were used to, but it was something to remember the service of our soldiers and throughout the years and those lost in war. It was also something for those present to just remember and carry with them.



Thank you to those that attended the bitterly cold conditions of the morning and for those that organised and participated.

*David Cottee*



*'They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old; Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, We will remember them'*

# The Silent Soldiers of Naours

A story for ANZAC day by Peter Klein



In 2018 Bella, Narelle and I travelled to Northern France for a Rededication Ceremony for nine Australian soldiers killed during the WW1 Battle of Fromelles on the Western front. Their bodies had been identified using DNA testing. Captain Kenneth Mortimer was my wife Narelle's great Uncle and my daughter Isabella's great, great Uncle whose remains had been found in a mass grave at Pheasant Wood near Fromelles in 2009. Captain Mortimer disappeared during the Battle of Fromelles after bravely leading his men to the German front line; he grew up in Leneva and was only 20 years old.

Whilst in the area we explored the caves of Naours, an ancient underground city where village dwellers hid from invaders in the 1600's. *This massive cave system replicated the streets and houses above and was large enough to hide 2000 people and 100's of animals, where the villagers could live safely for months at a time.* The secret entrance to the caves was lost, until it was rediscovered in 1886. It became a place where WW1 soldiers went for respite from the battlefield and they often signed their names in the caves. It is believed that there are at least 731 Aussie WW1 diggers who signed their names in pencil on the walls. More might be



discovered as they continue to do archaeological work to explore this massive underground cave system.

In 2019 the caves had been closed to the public for renovations to modify the caves for visitors to help preserve the 'pencils on the wall'. This Anzac Day there was to be a special inauguration ceremony for the reopening of the caves. They currently have around 60,000+ visitors each year. Caroline Lebourgeois is the manager at the caves. She gave us a personalised tour and she asked me if I could write a song dedicated to the caves of Naours and the memory of the WW1 soldiers.

Bringing the memory of the 'silent soldiers of Naours' back to life is important as in many cases the signature they left on the wall was the last message they left before dying on the battlefield. Sometimes the soldier's stories end well and they make it back home. Leaving graffiti is such an Aussie thing to do, but it was done in such an orderly way. Often it was name, town, state, battalion and year. The higher ranked you were, the higher on the wall you left your signature! These caves gave the soldiers a chance for respite from the horrors of the Western front.

When I told my friends about the song I'd written they offered to help; Jack Jensen played harmonica, Rowan Brown played some squeeze box and some brass as we felt they were instruments the soldiers might have played in WW1. Bella (my daughter) sang harmony with me in honour of her great, great Uncle Captain Kenneth Mortimer. Liz Jensen and Brett Gilbee sang on the final chorus and Tony Boon played bass and assisted with the recording's production. Adam Boon did the recording work at Professional Audio Services in Wodonga. I played the mandolin, guitar, sang and focussed on the musical arrangement. I thank them all for getting behind this project.

I sent our song to Caroline Lebourgeois in February 2020. She loved the song and suggested it might be played daily at the entrance of the caves. She was keen for the song to be sung at their special ANZAC Ceremony to re-open the caves. The local Naours school children were learning the song to perform it for the ceremony and we had an invitation to be at the ceremony. Of course, this is now all postponed, possibly until 2021. After spending time exploring the caves I felt very strongly that this was a song I had to write. My song helps to bring the memories of 'the silent soldiers of Naours' back to life. After all they endured, at the very least, they deserve to be remembered in a song.

Macca who is the presenter for ABC radio's 'Australia All Over' offered to play it during their Anzac program.

See words to song on p 6



Pencil on the Wall © by Peter Klein (4/11/19)

**VERSE 1**

There's a time machine in France, deep in the darkest cave  
Where echoes whisper loudly, do not forget our names  
Silently we're writing, longing for our homes  
When we signed these walls in France we would never walk alone  
We all feel pains of war with weariness in our souls  
We dream of love and land, Australia is our home  
Though my judgement makes me wonder and my heartaches truly blue  
It's these signatures around me that bonds our time to you

**CHORUS 1**

*South Australia, Sydney, Tassie, Melbourne too  
Queensland, West Australia, every outback township true  
We are all united in these caves our voices call...  
The roll call of the diggers for the ANZACs on the wall*

**VERSE 2**

Fitzhenry and McCann, Mills, Banyard and Ross  
Tucker, Giles and Potter, Doyle and Murray count the cost  
We are the 14<sup>th</sup> we are the 10<sup>th</sup>, we are the 9<sup>th</sup> amongst the best  
Wearied from the battle in these caves our spirits rest  
Patterson of Moyhu we salute your name  
And for all the other diggers we pay homage in these caves  
For your names are more than memories lost for all of time  
Your pencil tells a story that these ancient caves unwind

**CHORUS 2**

*For freedom and for France we marched halfway around the world  
Through mud and blackened landscape, our battlefield unfurled  
In our signature's there's sadness, did we survive or did we fall...  
We are now part of your country with our pencil on the wall*

**VERSE 3**

And you'll never be forgotten in this time machine in France  
From the country of your birth to where the red poppies dance  
You lived the darkest hours and suffered silently in pain  
And found a light inside Naours in the deepest darkest caves  
And we thank you in this darkness as we discover who you are  
Brave and selfless soldiers who came from lands afar  
Your legacy is sacred in these caves, where poppies stand  
We listen for your, whispers light a flame to hold your hand

*South Australia, Sydney, Tassie, Melbourne too  
Queensland, West Australia, every outback township true  
We are all united in these caves our voices call...  
The roll call of the diggers for the ANZACs on the wall  
For freedom and for France we marched halfway around the world  
Through mud and blackened landscape, our battlefield unfurled  
In our signature's there's sadness, did we survive or did we fall...  
We are now part of your country with our pencil on the wall  
We are now part of your country with our pencil on the wall*

## Man and His Camels Visit Bethanga



John Elliot and his Camels cross the Bethanga Bridge photo Neil Galloway

After the fires and before the Covid-19 lock down, John Elliot with his four fully grown camels, a camel calf and his dog Buski visited Bethanga. John, originally a business executive from Perth, left Perth in April last year and had travelled 2500 km before arriving in Bethanga on 26 February.

Along the way he is raising money and awareness for Beard Season, a skin cancer charity, and hopes to inspire others to live a bit more adventurously.

After crossing the Bethanga Bridge under police escort, John and his team held a meet & greet with the students at Bethanga Primary School and the community at Bethanga Hotel. The event at the Hotel raised more than \$1000 and John said this is the highest amount raised in one place since he began his journey 2500km ago!

John and his animal companions expect to spend another year on the road.

# Prospects for the Season Ahead

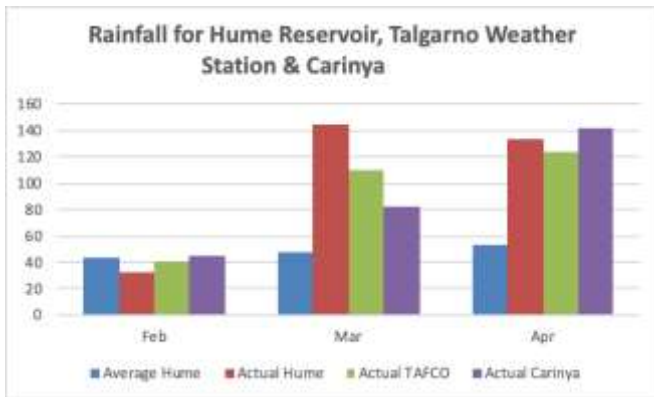
Thank you to Greg Hayes who has agreed to regularly contribute weather related articles for Berringa Community News readers.



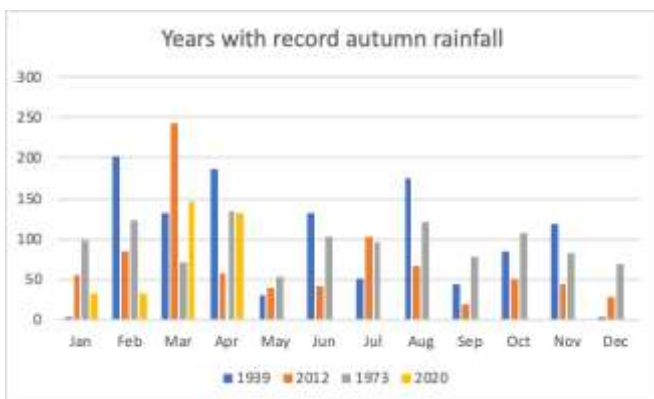
## Rainfall Round-up

Well, what a magnificent autumn it has been - one of the best for years.

In an average year the autumn rainfall (February to end April) would be 143 mm. This year it was more than twice that - 274 mm at TAFCO station (De Hennin's), 311 mm at Hume Reservoir and 268 mm at my place. The Hume reading was 217% of average.



February was close to average everywhere, but the March and April rainfall figures were exceptional. The total autumn rainfall of 311 mm was the fourth highest on record, with 1939 having 520 mm, 2012 having 384 mm 1973 having 329 mm. In all those years other than 2012 it kept on raining with the annual rainfall over 1100 mm. And in all of them the May rainfall was only average, so don't despair with the dry spell so far this May!



Once the waters off Australia's northwest coast started to warm up and the positive Indian Ocean Dipole consequently ended, the fronts started to bring in the rain. The warmer seas in the North and Northwest created moisture sources to feed the fronts. At the same time the air pressure in southern Australia

dropped from the unusually high level, while the ridge of high pressure moved further north than normal, allowing more fronts to reach us here. At present soil moisture levels are very good.

The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) autumn outlook suggested an average season was likely so it was a bit pessimistic as it turned out.

## Prospects for winter (May to end July).

Well it is not often that the BOM's outlook is as encouraging as the current one. Five out of 12 models suggest wetter than average, 2 suggest neutral to wetter, 4 are going for normal and just one suggesting it might be drier. The SOI is currently neutral but there are some early signs that it may turn into a La Nina. The Indian Ocean Dipole is also neutral but there are some indications that it may turn negative, which would likely result in above average rainfall. All the other climate influences are neutral or not important at this time of the year. And the overall level of accuracy for outlooks at this time of the year is high. Consequently, BOM is saying that there is a 58% chance that we will have better than 300 mm over winter, compared to a median of 227 mm.

And it is not just the winter that looks to be wetter than normal – the outlook for the next six months is extremely positive. Given the excellent start to the year and the high current levels of soil moisture and pasture growth, this really may turn out to be an exceptional year.

Greg Hayes

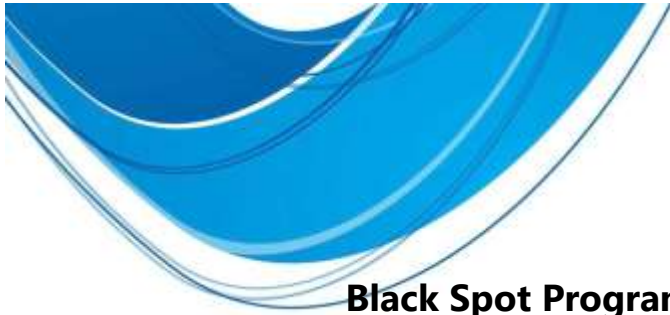
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## Black Spot Program, Lake Road Development - Bellbridge

The next stage of the Black Spot Program in Bellbridge will commence in May 2020.

The \$170,000 project was awarded to Towong Shire as part of the Federal Government's Black Spot Program. The commencement of the project is a welcome announcement following a period of Council advocating for the funding.

The safety improvements on Lake Road will start at the Bethanga side of the Bellbridge township and run for 6km towards Bethanga. The upgrades will include the widening of road shoulders, line-marking, installation of safety guards and new signage.

Mayor David Wortmann said he was pleased to see the commencement of the much needed upgrades on the Lake Hume Peninsula.

"This section of the road is a known safety risk, the improvements will make a big difference for Bellbridge and Bethanga residents who regularly travel the road, as well as visitors to the area" he said.

The project will involve a reduction in the speed limit from 100km to 80km for approximately 4 kilometers, a further measure to improve the safety of the area.

## Towong Shire Council – Bushfire Rates Relief Package

Towong Shire Council has received \$3.2M from Bushfire Recovery Victoria through the Victorian Government's Council Assistance Fund. The funding will support our communities in the wake of the Upper Murray 2020 Bushfires.

The funds will be used by Council to credit part of the 2019/20 and 2020/21 rates and business registration fees, as well as fees related to rebuilding of private assets in fire-affected areas.

The relief is intended to help alleviate some of the financial hardship experienced by Towong Shire Council residents and businesses who have been impacted by the Upper Murray Bushfires in January 2020. In determining the allocation of rate relief, Council has carefully considered the varying levels of impact resulting from the fires; from direct and severely impacted properties and lives, through to indirect social and economic impacts.

The following Bushfire Rates Relief Package is comprised of three components:

1. Relief for Residents
2. Relief for Businesses
3. Support for Rebuilding and Development

Council is confident the Bushfire Rates Relief Package will go a little way towards easing the financial pressures for Towong Shire residents and businesses.

Mayor Cr David Wortmann said "I would like to acknowledge the contribution from Bushfire Recovery Victoria and the State Government which has made the Bushfire Rates Relief Package possible."

"While some of our residents and businesses in the Upper Murray continue to rebuild their lives, the last thing they need to worry about is paying their Council rates and fees. We hope the Relief Package alleviates that immediate concern" he said.

"Council recognises that it is not just those in the direct impact zone who need a hand. Our entire Shire has been impacted and this package also gives those ratepayers some support" Mayor Wortmann said.

Within the next fortnight residents will begin to receive their rate instalment notices. Any eligible credits will be automatically applied and shown on the notice. Council has also extended the due date of instalments 3 and 4 to June 30, 2020.

Residents who are continuing to face financial hardship, are encouraged to contact Council's Property and Rates Team to discuss alternative arrangements, including interest free deferral of rates and instalment plans. If residents believe the extent of damage their property has sustained has been recorded incorrectly, please contact Council's Property and Rates Team on 02 6071 5100.

### Bushfire Rates Relief Package

#### 1. Relief for Residents

Accounts will be automatically credited with the qualifying amount, as reflected on individual rate notices. All credited amounts will be the equivalent of rates and fees in the 2019/20 Financial Year.

##### **Tier 1: Severe Direct Impact – Loss of Residence and/ or Infrastructure (burnt)**

□ Automatic once-off credit of rates for 12 months.

##### **Tier 2: Direct Impact – Properties within the Fire Zone (burnt)**

□ Automatic once-off credit of rates for 9 months.

##### **Tier 3: Indirectly Impacted - The Upper Murray**

□ Upper Murray properties that are not previously covered in Tier 1 and 2 will receive a once-off credit of \$350.

##### **Tier 4: Indirectly Impacted – Towong Shire**

□ Council will not be passing on the approved 5.55% rate cap increase to ratepayers in the 2020/21 Financial Year, thereby providing relief for 2020/21 for all ratepayers.



## 2. Relief for Businesses

### Business Rates

Automatic once-off credit of rates for 12 months.

### Business Registration Fees (Food, Accommodation and Health Act Premises)

Businesses that are classed as Food, Accommodation and Health Act Premises, will have their business registration renewal fees waived throughout 2020 and 2021. New businesses will also not pay a registration fee.

While the fees are waived, Businesses do still need to renew their registration.

## 3. Support for Rebuilding and Development

### Building, Planning and Septic Tank Permits

While permits are still required, all Building, Planning and Septic Tank Permit fees will be waived in bushfire-affected areas throughout 2020 and 2021.

## Council Recommendations to Bushfire Royal Commission

The Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements was established on 20 February 2020 in response to the extreme bushfire season of 2019-20 which resulted in loss of life, property and wildlife and environmental destruction. The Commission commenced this week with public hearings.

Mayor David Wortmann said he was optimistic that the Royal Commission would actively consider all thirteen recommendations put forward in Council's submission, together with those from community members and supporting agencies.

"The recommendations made by Council recognise that bushfires and other extreme weather events are increasing in frequency across our region, exacerbated by climate change. This ultimately means the window for proactive fire management is much tighter than it has previously been and the fire-fighting season is more prolonged" he said. "This means it is more important than ever that we have proactive fuel management, resources, plans and support to effectively manage any future events" Mayor Wortmann said.

The thirteen recommendations submitted by Council include;

1. Improved resources to support future Municipal Emergency Relief and Recovery
2. Implement a training program for Municipal Emergency Roles
3. Coordinated and specialised support and counselling for municipalities and local Councils
4. A more mature Emergency Response Model, including experienced and skilled 'flying squad' of emergency staff
5. Funding for infrastructure and services to convert the Upper Murray Events Centre into a scalable Relief Centre
6. Improve predictability for cross-border communities through reliable and compatible telecommunications, radio networks, information and services
7. Investment in 'mobile black spot' telecommunications infrastructure and expand wireless broadband network
8. Trial and introduce alternative models of fuel management
9. Increase the clearance area around boundary fencing to at least 8 metres
10. Increase investment in fire-fighting aircraft
11. Involve the ADF in Municipal Emergency Management Planning
12. Change the natural disaster assistance to allow financial assistance where secondary events post bushfire have resulted in damage to assets
13. Active support from Federal Government to support Council in developing, applying and evaluating a model of community led recovery

Read Council's full submission at [www.towong.vic.gov.au/bushfirerecovery](http://www.towong.vic.gov.au/bushfirerecovery), along with the submission to the Victorian Inspector-General of Emergency Management Fire Season Inquiry – Phase 1.



**TOWONG SHIRE  
COUNCIL**

Visit [www.towong.vic.gov.au](http://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](mailto:info@towong.vic.gov.au)



**Permits for Open Fires**

Residents are reminded that open fires require a permit. This includes the burning of green waste. The construction and/or use of incinerators is also illegal without a valid permit or licence.

For more information call 02 6071 5100 or visit [www.towong.vic.gov.au](http://www.towong.vic.gov.au)



**Pool and Spa Registration**

A reminder following new Victorian Government laws to make swimming pools and spas safer, register by 1 June 2020 and Council will pay the \$31.80 fee.

To register visit [www.towong.vic.gov.au](http://www.towong.vic.gov.au) or call Council on 02 6071 5100.



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# 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](mailto: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**

## 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*

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## Bethanga Soldiers Memorial Hall

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Competitive Rates

For more information and Hall bookings contact: Graham Maynard 6026  
4007, Ron Evans 6026 4301 or Robin Neilson 0400 472 247

## 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*

## 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

Kaye Guiliamese  
[kjfarm@gmail.com](mailto:kjfarm@gmail.com)  
6072 9598

**G**ranya Museum  
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pioneer families.

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6072 9540

**Winter is here, time to sit in front of the fire 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

### *In Memorium*

#### **McGrath- Pup (Peter Patrick) -Bethanga**

18/09/1950 - 12/05/2020

Died peacefully after a short illness at Albury Base Hospital

Much loved son of Bill and Laura McGrath, Bungil Granya (dec) and brother of Des, Laurence and Kerry.

A memorial service will be held at a later date to celebrate Pup's life.

### *Marriage*

**Cameron Sirl and Johanne Ollington** celebrated their surprise wedding at their property 'Scrubby Hill', Bethanga on 28th March 2020. The bridal party of four, enjoyed a small afternoon tea.

## 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

### **Our "new business as usual" with COVID-19**

As the State of Emergency in Victoria has now lifted, Tallangatta Health Service is working within COVID-19 restrictions and changed work processes in what is our new "business as usual", whilst still maintaining the quality of our services.

Whilst we are still delivering services and still caring for our patients and residents, staff practise social distancing wherever possible. We have restrictions on numbers at any one time into our public areas such as staff rooms and meeting rooms. Hand sanitiser remains available throughout the facility. We have a single point of entry at our main reception for staff and visitors, who are all screened and temperature checked upon arrival.

As a part of the Victorian "11 Day Blitz", COVID-19 testing was offered to all staff and residents last week who were asymptomatic (having no symptoms). Of the 112 tests undertaken, all results so far have returned negative.

Both of our aged care facilities, Lakeview and Bolga Court, are open to visitors. Each resident may have up

to two visitors per day during visiting hours of 12.30pm to 4.30pm. Visitors under the age of 16 are not encouraged.

Under new Legislative requirements, all visitors to aged care must provide evidence of their Influenza Immunisation for 2020. At Tallangatta Health Service, we will provide visitors with an identifying Immunisation program card once this evidence is supplied on the initial visit.

We remind visitors to follow the guidelines as set by the government as follows:

*No visitor should attend an aged care home if they are unwell or displaying any cold/flu, respiratory or COVID-19 related symptoms. Visitors must comply with the home's infection prevention and control measures. At a minimum, the entry requirements include being required to respond honestly to screening questions about COVID-19 risk factors, demonstrate an up to date influenza vaccination; and complying with visitor requirements which include mandatory hand*

hygiene, being temperature checked upon arrival, wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) if required, attending to social distancing requirements and remaining in a resident's room or designated visiting areas.

### COVID-19 Testing

Testing for COVID-19 is at the Albury Wodonga Health Clinic. If you have any symptoms you may call your General Practitioner, or call the clinic on 02 6058 4444 to arrange an appointment for a test.

Alternatively, you may call the COVID-19 Hotline on 1800 675 398

All individuals being tested for COVID-19 should home isolate until test results are available.

It is important to stay informed of the current COVID-19 situation. Make sure that the information you are receiving is from a reliable source. The Department of Health and Human Services website has current updates at <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>

### COVID-19 symptoms to be aware of are:

- Fever OR chills with no other known cause **OR**
- Cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose, loss of sense of smell **OR**
- New onset of headache, myalgia (muscle pain), nausea, vomiting and diarrhea **AND**
- who are close contacts of a confirmed case of COVID-19, or
- who have returned from overseas in the past 14 days, or
- are a Health Care or Aged Care Worker.

### **Residents**

A special Mother's Day menu was provided with beautifully decorated place mats and flowers on dining tables. All our residents were made to feel special, complete with chocolates and cupcakes. Some lovely feedback was received. Thanks to the caring staff who went out of their way to make this a memorable day.



*Flowers and Messages of Support from the Primary School; Extra Care on Mother's Day*

With decreased movements in and out of our facility recently, Tallangatta Primary School students kindly sent notecards wishing our residents well. These were

delivered to us, complete with flowers. The Tallangatta Girl Guides have also been exchanging letters with residents, which has created much excitement among them.

We thank our wonderful community who are very thoughtful and caring. Whilst COVID-19 has resulted in many restrictions, our staff, residents and family members have been very supportive and understanding over the last few weeks.

### **International Nurses Day**

Tuesday 12 May 2020 was the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale, known as the pioneer of modern nursing. The date is celebrated each year as International Nurses Day. To celebrate, Tallangatta



*Denise Parry showing memorabilia for International Nurses Day;*

Health Service held a BBQ lunch for staff members. The open space in our Activity Centre allowed us to socially distance over a staggered lunch period. Whilst not as crowded as our usual get togethers, the lunch was still enjoyed by many staff. Some even wore their nursing badges and brought along some memorabilia! All of our staff members have been doing a wonderful job over the recent weeks and we thank them immensely.

### **Social Worker Message** – Cathy Wallace, phone 02 6071 5200

As the days are getting cooler, many of us have started to use more heating, whether it's gas, electricity or wood. If you receive any payments through Centrelink, or you have a Pensioner or Health Care Card, you may be entitled to a number of rebates. Your energy supplier can be contacted and you can ask about your energy rebate supplement. Keeping receipts for wood purchase is important if applying for the rebate for wood heating.

Entitlements are listed on the DHHS website under Concession and Benefits at:

<https://services.dhhs.vic.gov.au/energy>

Centrelink (now known as Services Australia) may also have entitlements. Their website can be accessed at:

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/centrelink>

If you have a Case Manager, you may ask them to assist you to access rebates. I am also available to discuss these rebates further if you are needing support.

If you are seeking financial support, you may also contact Upper Murray Family Care who can be accessed by phoning 02 6055 8000.



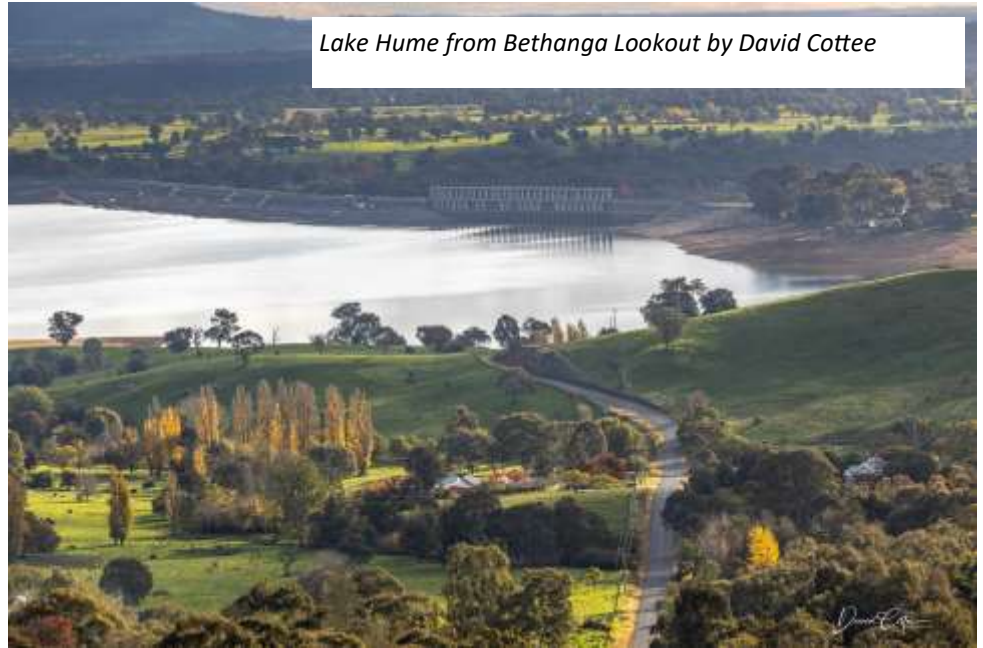
# Peninsula Arts

In future editions we will celebrate the work of local artists.

This edition we have photos by **David Cottee** of Talgarno and **Neil Galloway** of Bethanga. Both photographers capture our spectacular local scenery and fauna

David's photos also feature on the front and back page

Readers can follow David at [Poncho Dave@Facebook](#)





Berringa Community News is aware of many creative people on the Peninsula. Towong Shire wants to identify creatives in the Shire so they can provide better support. Please respond to their ad

If you want to feature in future editions please contact Julie Miller 6020 1107 or email



# Creative call-out

**CALLING ALL TOWONG CREATIVES**  
Painters, artists, musicians, sculptors, actors, writers, singers and more...

**We would like to hear from you so that we can better support you.**

Please complete a two minute survey by typing this link into your browser:  
[www.surveymonkey.com/r/NT7DSCF](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NT7DSCF)

Alternatively email:  
[Joe.Calvert@towong.vic.gov.au](mailto:Joe.Calvert@towong.vic.gov.au)

towongshire 



*Sunset over Bethanga by Neil Galloway*



**These photos are spectacular in colour. See them in colour on line at [www.berringacommunitynews.com.au](http://www.berringacommunitynews.com.au)**

# Bethanga Hotel

## COVID updates relating to reopening.

We are aiming to open mid - end of June however as you are aware a lot has changed and we will be guided by legislation and regulations as to how the operational side of business will run.

Please continue to follow us via our socials for updates. We endeavour to keep you all in the loop as we progress.

www.bethangahotel.com.au  
@bethangahotel  
#bethangahotel  
02 6026 14214  
0400 875 137



## Elizabeth Houston Piano Teacher



Beginner to Intermediate

AMEB Exams or Playing for Pleasure

Music Theory

Current Working with Children Check

Ages 4+ to Adult

Bethanga Studio

[www.docemusic.com.au](http://www.docemusic.com.au)

[info@docemusic.com.au](mailto:info@docemusic.com.au)

0429 382 102

## Bethanga General Store

7.30 am - 11.30am Monday to Thursday

7.30 am - 6 pm Friday & Saturday

10.30 am - 6pm Sunday

General provisions and Swap and Go gas

Enquiries 6026 4215.

## PLAYGROUP

Berringa Playgroup is up and running again!

When: Mondays 9.30am - 11.00 am  
Frequency: Fortnightly on each odd week of Victorian School Terms  
Where: Bethanga Primary School  
5 Beardmore Street, Bethanga  
Contact: Kate Singline on 0422 725 147

Starts 24 February - all welcome!



Come and  
join in the  
FUN!

The Playgroup is in recess due to the Covid-19 restrictions. We will recommence once the restrictions on schools are lifted

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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



### CERT in COVID 19 Times

Since the start of the Covid 19 pandemic the Berringa Emergency Response Team has continued to respond to Ambulance Victoria callouts to the Peninsula but we do not look the same. At all callouts we will, where possible, maintain social distancing, wear gloves, masks and safety glasses and if there are any Covid 19 symptoms we also don overalls or aprons. Although we may look like Darth Vader, we are still friendly faces and will be smiling behind our masks.

On the last night before the lock down the team had its last face to face training. I was notified a couple of days later that one of the team had been in contact with someone who had been tested for Covid 19. In the early days of the pandemic this put the team and Ambulance Victoria into a spin – ten members of the team and our paramedic trainer had since the training night been in contact maybe with 100 people. The person being tested had been at a local birthday party in the days before lockdown and we had used the Bethanga Primary School for training. How many people in our local community could have been in contact with the virus? Fortunately, within 2 days, the suspected case tested negative, but it was an eye opener as to how many people could be in contact with the virus without physical distancing and isolation.

As restrictions are lifted, please maintain

- Physical distancing
- Hand washing
- Self isolate and get tested if you have any symptoms or you are unwell
- Work from home if possible
- Only leave home for supplies, medical care, care-giving, exercise, work/study or visiting close friends and family while sticking to guidelines of allowed venues and activities.
- Download the Covid 19 app

### CERT Committee AGM

Subject to the Covid 19 restrictions in force at the time, the CERT Committee AGM is scheduled for Monday 24 August 7pm Bethanga Hall.

## Defibrillators



Reminder that Defibrillators are available 24/7 in a white box on the front walls of  
Bethanga Shop  
Bethanga Recreation Reserve pavilion  
Bellbridge Community Centre  
Granya Hall  
Talgarno Hall

*Keep well,*

*Julie Miller, Team Leader Berringa CERT  
juliemiller@skymesh.com.au*

*6020 1107*

*0419 339 679*

## BELLBRIDGE COMMUNITY GROUP

The Towong Council also needs to hear from our community, with any questions or concerns so they really know what's happening in our community and what we want or need. Contact can be made by phone 6071 5100 or info@towong.vic.gov.au. If you are not confident in contacting Council, our community group is happy to help put forward ideas or raise concerns with Council. Our aim is to increase communication with our council. To join our group please contact;

*Denise Anderson 0418 612 470*

## ROTARY CLUB OF BELLBRIDGE LAKE HUME INC.

### Senior Citizens Christmas in July Luncheon.

The Rotary club has deferred the Christmas in July function for the elderly residents of the peninsula probably towards Christmas. Similarly other activities are being reviewed because of the virus situation.

*Regards,*

*Andrew Christy 6026 4338*

## 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*

## BERRINGA SUPPORT

What a strange few months we've all had dealing with an unfamiliar COVID19 life! We trust that all those who've suffered and are still trying to recover from the onslaught of the drought and terrible fires have been able to navigate the current situation with some semblance of maintaining your sanity.

Prior to the onset of COVID19, representatives from KOH, a Sydney cleaning company, journeyed from Sydney to deliver a range of cleaning products for distribution to our local CFA groups. These will hopefully ease the pressure for them when coping with future emergencies.



*Donation made by Justin (far left) & Adam (far right) from Koh cleaning Sydney at the Corryong CFA with Melody Carmody.*

Berringa Support, though restricted as everyone, by the new rules and lockdown, have not forgotten those who may still be needing extra support. As with some of the local Foodshare groups, we are distributing some remaining boxes of non-perishables to aid those whose lives are still restricted due to being in a vulnerable group, including age, difficulty with travel, caring for ill partners, loss of employment, etc.

If you, or someone you know, falls within this range and would appreciate a little extra help, please contact Berringa Support at any of the following points of contact:

[info@berringasupport.com.au](mailto:info@berringasupport.com.au)

02 6046 9250

[www.berringasupport.com.au](http://www.berringasupport.com.au)

Privacy will be respected.

## HUME BOAT CLUB



### MEMBERSHIP NOW AVAILABLE

#### Members benefits

- \*Secure gate entrance (key access).
- \*Double width boat ramp.
- \*BBQ and shelters.
- \*Public toilets.
- \*Club rooms available for members' use.
- \*Club rooms available for function hire (members hire only).
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- \*Great location for all types of boating.

Membership forms available on website

Membership forms and keys available from Bell-bridge Lake Hume Store ph 6026 4001

Contact

Scott Coates 0457 464 647

Email: [Administrator@humeboatclub.com](mailto:Administrator@humeboatclub.com)

## BETHANGA CFA

Fire calls 000

Burn Notifications VICFIRE 1800 668 511

Victorian Bush Fire Information 1800 240 667

All Peninsula Fire Units - UHF 24

### INCIDENTS

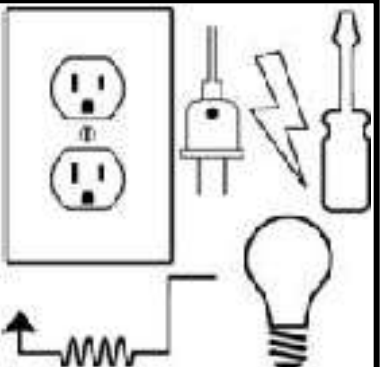
20 February 2020 3:18pm Column of smoke, corner of Talgarno Gap road and Cemetery lane. A stop message was received shortly after the call out, and trucks were returned to station.

### FIRE RESTRICTIONS

CFA fire restrictions ceased on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March this year in the Towong Shire.

A reminder that while CFA fire restrictions have ceased, the person lighting the fire is still responsible to ensure it

**Jamie Swinnerton Electrical Pty Ltd**  
461 Lake Road Bethanga  
Electrical Licence Numbers. Vic 13611 NSW 147315C  
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does not get out of control. Towong Shire residents are encouraged to contact Council's Fire Prevention Officer on 02 60715100 for advice before undertaking any burning activities. Township residents have more restrictions placed on them than farming areas. More detail, and permit applications can be found by searching "Fire Permits and Restrictions" on the Towong Shire website.

**COVID-19**

Due to the social distancing restrictions we are unable to conduct any brigade meetings or training and the bi-annual brigade elections have been postponed until further notice. Brigade turn outs to emergency events are still occurring as per normal.

**FOCUS ON: CHIMNEY FIRES**

Your chimney or flue is designed to carry dangerous gases from your fireplace, wood stove or heater safely out of your home.

As you relax in front of the warmth of your wood heater, the last thing you are likely to be thinking about is the condition of your chimney. However, if you don't give some thought to it before you light those winter fires your

enjoyment may be very short-lived. Our brigade has attended many chimney fires over the years so don't think it won't happen to you.

**Dirty chimneys can cause chimney fires, which damage structures, destroy homes and injure or kill people.**

Chimney fires can burn fiercely, loudly and dramatically enough to be detected by neighbours or people passing by. Flames or dense smoke may shoot from the top of the chimney. Homeowners report being startled by a low rumbling sound that reminds them of a freight train. However these dramatic chimney fires are only the ones you know about.

**The majority of chimney fires go undetected**

Slow-burning chimney fires don't get enough air or have fuel to be dramatic or visible and they often go undetected, but the temperatures they reach are very high and can cause damage to the chimney structure, and nearby combustible parts of the house.

**Creosote & chimney fires: What you must know**

Fireplaces and wood stoves are designed to safely contain wood-fuel fires, while providing heat for a home. The chimney's job is to expel the by-products of combustion which is produced when wood burns. These include smoke, water vapour, gases, unburned wood particles, hydrocarbon and assorted minerals. As these substances exit the fireplace or wood stove, and flow up into the relatively cooler chimney, condensation occurs. The resulting residue that sticks to the inner walls of the chimney is called creosote.

Creosote is a black or brown residue that can be crusty and flaky, tar like, drippy and sticky or shiny and hardened. All forms of Creosote are highly combustible. If it builds up in sufficient quantities and the internal flue

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**THURSDAY - BOX FIT 6.30PM**  
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**\$5 PER CLASS INCLUDING NUTRITION UPGRADE**  
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Bring your kids along if you want to as we are very child friendly.

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**0427 729 569**

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temperature is high enough, the result could be a chimney fire.

### Conditions that encourage the build-up of creosote

#### Restricted air supply:

Air supply is usually restricted by not opening the air control wide enough. The fire then smoulders and the lack of sufficient air flow to move heated smoke up the chimney rapidly encourages the formation of creosote. We usually do this just before we go to bed. Fill the fire box and set the air control to minimum to make sure the fire is still going in the morning.

*Some tips to help avoid this are: Before you dampen down your fire, let it burn on high for 15- 20min until it is burning well and hot. Also set the air flow control to allow a little more air but still burn all night. Set an early alarm (for the partner) so they can stoke the fire so it's nice and warm when you finally rise.*

#### Unseasoned wood:

Unseasoned wood, or green wood, is wood that hasn't had enough time to dry to a natural stable environment moisture level (around 20%). Split green wood usually takes a summer to be properly seasoned. If you use unseasoned wood, significant amounts of the fire's energy is used initially just to drive off the moisture trapped in the wood, resulting in a cooler burning fire. This lower heat and extra moisture encourages condensation within the chimney, and creosote build-up. Signs of burning unseasoned wood include extra visible smoke and having to open the air control more than normal to get the wood to burn.

*Unseasoned wood is a major cause of creosote deposit. Combine it with restricted air supply and you have perfect conditions for creosote build-up and chimney fire potential.*

### Signs that you have creosote build-up

As your fire and flue go through heating and cooling cycles some of the creosote can dislodge and fall back down the chimney. This often sounds like a light rattle coming down the chimney. Imagine Tinker Bell coming down the chimney, not Santa. When your chimney has significant creosote build-up it restricts the flue's ability to vent properly. When you open the fire box door smoke billows out into the room, often setting off the smoke alarm.

## George Stahl **ELECTRICAL P/L**

Registered Electrical Contractor  
Electronics Technician

Bethanga VIC 3691

Ph: **0405 03 25 03**

Email: [george@stahl.net.au](mailto:george@stahl.net.au)

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



### Preventing chimney fires

Clean chimneys don't catch fire. Clean and inspect your solid fuel chimney annually before winter and repair any faults.

Burn dry seasoned wood.

Allow adequate air supply so wood burns, not smoulders.

Be aware of, and investigate, changes to your wood fires performance or odours.

### What to do if you have a chimney fire

1. Call the fire brigade on **000** no matter what time of day or night. We will be able to extinguish your chimney fire and inspect the chimney and surrounding structure to make sure it is safe. Brigades also have access to thermal imaging cameras to detect heat in inaccessible spaces.

2. Ensure the safety of everyone in the house by exiting the premises and keeping a safe distance away until emergency services arrive.

Only if safe to do so, restrict the incoming air flow by closing the fire box door and setting the air control to minimum.

#### CONTACTS

Ben Mitchell, Captain 0411 080 277

[bethangacfacaptain@gmail.com](mailto:bethangacfacaptain@gmail.com)

Tracey Woodhouse, Secretary 0413 708 302

[bethangacfasecretary@gmail.com](mailto:bethangacfasecretary@gmail.com)

Ron Evans, Community Safety Liaison 02 6026 4301

## TALGARNO RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

Welcome to the autumn update in what has been a very welcome quiet time for us all on the fire front! But who would have thought that it would take a pandemic to quieten everything down!



## Antennas

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Bellbridge, Bethanga, Granya  
and Talgarno.**

**Phil Packer 0422 374 930**

email: [ppacker@pdinstallations.com.au](mailto:ppacker@pdinstallations.com.au)



## Termination of fire season and notifications

The termination of the 2019-20 fire season occurred early on 23 March 2020 after the wet late summer/early autumn period. This assured us that the risk of significant fires was over for this season. Despite this lower risk, we strongly encourage anyone lighting significant fires to call these in to Vicfire to avoid an unnecessary call out. This can be done by

1. Calling 1800 668 511 and provide the required information.
2. Complete the Burn off Notification Form from CFA website. Email the form to [burnoffs@esta.vic.gov.au](mailto:burnoffs@esta.vic.gov.au) or by fax: 1300 674 428.
3. Use the National Relay Service by ringing 1300 555 727 and ask for Information to be relayed to ESTA via 1800 668 511

## 2019/20 fires

Since the last Berringa News there has been somewhat of an outpouring of thanks and special offers to our members and those of emergency services in general. These were thanking us for our commitment during the monster fire season which now seems a distant memory now with COVID-19 taking its grip. Tickets to cruises, opera, Katy Perry and other unique offers have come from many businesses thanking CFA members for their volunteer service. These offers have been humbly accepted by some of our members, when reward is not why we volunteer our time and energy.

Talgarno Fire Brigade, like all that were involved in the Upper Murray fires, was involved in a debrief activity taking account of what worked well and not so well in the massive effort. It was clear that on the whole, the positives far outnumbered the negatives and everyone is to be applauded for the effort as there are bound to be things that don't go well in an event of this scale and duration.

## COVID-19 changes

As with many community activities our brigade training and meetings have been affected by COVID-19 and the need to physically distance ourselves. We have been staying in touch with each other over email and phone and recently applied for a 'Pick List' grant that was offered to all brigades and held our conversations with each other over email to make decisions. Our brigade has been given sanitising wipes for use when driving vehicles and using equipment and more recently all brigades including ours have been issued with thermometers to test temperature before turning out to an incident or attending the fire shed for essential vehicle or equipment maintenance.

Unfortunately, our 80-year anniversary and awards scheduled for May was a victim of COVID-19 and was forced to be postponed. We will inform you all when we are able to name the date, but this could be some time given the nature of the situation.

## Other news

We managed to sell our Slip-On vehicle in March and we were also very impressed to see the Bethanga Talgarno Juniors perform well again at this year's District 24 championships picking up a medal in one event and shield again for conduct. This was held just before the major restrictions came into force. Congratulations team!

## Fire brigade social club BBQs

These may be able to recommence around the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of June or July depending on the changes to social gathering rules in place. Please keep an eye out for the reminder signs on Murray River Road in the days leading up to the BBQ and on our Facebook page.

If there are any community members that would like to join our brigade, please contact Peter Star or Brendan Pearson or attend one of our monthly BBQs on the second Friday of each month.

*Peter Star, Captain, 0429 436 347  
Brendan Pearson, Secretary, 0439 881 440*

## BETHANGA TALGARNO JUNIOR BRIGADE

### RUNNING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Over the summer the Juniors have been concentrating their efforts on training for the running championships. These events are designed to simulate how the CFA volunteers would set up the fire truck on a real job to fight a fire, with junior and senior teams competing to do it the fastest.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of March, the Juniors participated in the District 24 Running Championships held at Gapsted. We had one 11-15yo team, who achieved the following awards:

3<sup>rd</sup> in the Low Down Pump event.



The Ron Leary Conduct and Discipline award. The Juniors also showed good sportsmanship and subbed for other teams who were short a member, in one case helping another team win a medal. Our Juniors were keen to compete at the District 22 event at



Strathmerton on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March, but unfortunately this was not able to go ahead due to the COVID-19 situation.

Overall this was a FANTASTIC effect for our Juniors and the Junior Leaders who trained, twice a week, for many weeks for these championships. Also well done to their families, who supported the Juniors and travelled with them to their events. We are very proud of our Juniors.

### AWARD FOR SERVICE

Bethanga Brigades very own Ron Evans was awarded a medal at the Gapsted Running Championships. Ron received a well-deserved Service Award from the Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria, for over 40 years of service to the District 24 Running Championships. Our Juniors were proud to stand beside Ron and congratulate him. A huge "THANK



YOU" to Ron for all his hard work and ongoing support over the years to the championships and to our Brigade.

### WINTER SESSIONS

At this stage, the Juniors sessions are on hold due to the COVID-19 situation and associated social

distancing regulations. As soon as we are able to resume we look forward to seeing all our Juniors again.

### 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 us using the details provided below.

*Brendan Pearson on 0439881440 or  
John Northey 0414931442  
[bethangatalgarnojuniors@gmail.com](mailto:bethangatalgarnojuniors@gmail.com)*

## TALGARNO TENNIS CLUB

With the advent of Covid-19 it really has been the season of what didn't happen. Section 1 bowed out of the Kiewa & Talgarno District Tennis Association in the semi-finals way back in late February. No wild celebrations, just a wonderful dinner at the Bethanga Pub followed.

Grand plans for a Fast Four night competition in April were given the Covid kybosh by late March. This was very frustrating given that we have been wanting to run a night competition for a couple of years and take advantage of the excellent lighting at the courts. Over 20 players had registered interest – many of them non-members or Saturday pennant players – so this was a real shame. Thanks to Brendan Pearson for putting in heaps of effort to no avail. Hopefully, we will have the opportunity to run a night competition in spring – stay tuned.

Also, any plans for a major

fundraiser, in lieu of the already cancelled Bushdance due to bushfires, have not been possible either.

The club does intend to once again run junior coaching from sometime in August/September. This has been very popular over the last few years and we expect to have at least 20 kids in our program again. More details to follow before then.

Club president Jarrod Stephenson and the committee have been canvassing possible grants to resurface and improve the tennis court facility. Fingers crossed on that one as the courts have deteriorated naturally over time and they are the most frequently used sports facility on the peninsula!

In the meantime, take advantage of this glorious autumn sunshine and get out and hit some balls!

*Club Secretary  
Adam Richardson 0412 560 833*

## TALGARNO CRAFT GROUP

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

*Joan Elliot 6020 1177*



## BETHANGA GOLF CLUB

Springdale Road Bethanga

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

The course will be re-opened next

**Kyle Lieschke**  
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*Morry Strelec 0400 036 635*



## BETHANGA ANGLERS CLUB

Just a reminder that members can weigh their fish in at the Bethanga Hotel at any time.

Anyone interested in joining the Club or any member who has any suggestions for future outings, please contact Brian Hunter 6026 4235

*Happy Fishing, CATCHYA soon  
Brian 6026 4235*

## BETHANGA RECREATION RESERVE

### Executive

President - Brett Martin  
Secretary - Andrew Hird  
Treasurer - Karen Pyle

### General committee

Matt Gill  
Terry Macartney  
David Elder

To contact us email  
[bethangareserve@gmail.com](mailto:bethangareserve@gmail.com) or SMS

## BETHANGA PONY CLUB AND ADULT RIDING GROUP

Rally days are held on the third Sunday of each month and riders receive instruction in horse riding and horse handling, with safety as the primary goal.

Although you would expect that horse ownership is a basic requisite to be a Pony Club member, the club is fortunate enough to have extra horses brought along by existing members and committee members to give those members without a horse an opportunity to participate.

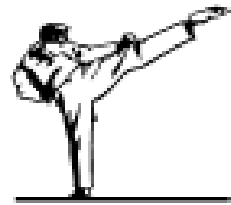
Horse activities to date have included a trail ride, ground skill lessons, riding at the walk, trot and canter, sporting (such as barrel racing) and obstacle courses. One rainy day, members even did some indoor class work and getting to understand their horses and how they move.

The Bethanga Gymkhana Committee has included two new events in its program for BPC members. The Bethanga Pony Club is a member of Pony Club Victoria.

The club has up to two "come and try days" before fees are due. Annual

## Learn Taekwondo

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fees include insurance through Pony Club Victoria which provides cover for members 24/7, not just at Pony Club rallies.

The Bethanga Pony Club has its own Facebook page, so check us out; friend us on Facebook at 'Bethanga Pony Club'.

If you have any old 44-gallon drums or long pine poles/posts or even remnants of still usable paint that you no longer have a need for, please consider donating them to the Pony Club - we can always use them.

For general information, registration and rally days, please contact Kelly Gibbon on 0414 612 918.

## 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.

*Contact Pam on 0401 545 583*

## 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



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*Joan Elliot 6020 1177*

## BETHANGA CRICKET CLUB

During the 2019/20 Season both teams had more wins than past seasons, thanks to Coach Brett Gilbee. The ground was kept in superb condition by curator Brad (Bristle) Taylor, with the club purchasing a smooth drum roller.

Luke Rafferty was a new recruit, who swooped the trophy pool by winning the Champion player and the leading batting award, with 498 runs (Av 27).

This year we introduced a Best on Ground memorial trophy - "The Laurie" in honour of the late Lawrence Packer who was a life member for over 40 years, was awarded to Best on Ground - Luke Rafferty

End of season accolades for A Grade went to:

K Salome - Bowling 25 wickets, including 7/7 vs Howlong  
B Sirl - Fielding  
T Sirl - Coaches award  
J Gilbee - Scored 115 runs against Mt Beauty  
M Vinnicombe - Duck award

B Grade Trophies

T Henderson - B grade bowling 12 wickets  
W Kirkwood - Batting 250 incl best average  
T Henderson - Bowling 12 wickets  
J McDonald - Fielding  
W Jahne - Captains award

Clubman of the year was awarded jointly to B Collins and C Sirl.

The club would like to extend thanks to Cricket Albury Wodonga for their support.

The club is always keen to see new ideas and members. Like our Facebook page, Bethanga CC, to keep up with regular updates.

*Johanne Sirl - Secretary  
Trent Sirl - President 0439 090 333  
Kristian Jahne - Treasurer*

## CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

**Anglican** - Holy Trinity Bethanga

Services held 4th Sunday of the month – 9:30am, followed by morning tea.

All visitors welcome.

Baptisms/Christenings - by appointment.

*Enquiries to Rev Sandra Temple 6026 4361 or 0467 259 722*

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# Bethanga Landcare Group

## 2020 Tree Giveaway

Rain has returned! A great time to plant on your property! Don't miss out on the annual Bethanga Landcare Tree Giveaway **Saturday 20th June.**

Pick up your tray of 20 to 40 trees for a song ( plus stakes and guards!) and for just a \$15 joining membership fee on the day!

**Saturday 20th June** 9 -11 am at Bethanga Community Hall. See you there!



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# Wises Creek Talgarno Landcare Group



Well of course our Landcare group has had to abandon its planned activities over the past few months in response to the Covid-19 situation. Like everyone else, we are not setting any dates for future activities until we get the green light to do so. We will certainly let you know as soon as we can.

While our group activities have been postponed, there has been quite a bit going on at the level of individual members. Simon Feillafe has been working with those members who had previously nominated projects and funding has been allocated to those activities. As always, we encourage you to get in touch with our project manager Simon Feillafe (0438 190 999) if you have any interest in Landcare activities. Alternatively, please contact Jim de Hennin (0408 978 847) or me (0419 609 042) if you would like to discuss future activities or if you want information about our group.

*Greg Hayes  
Secretary*

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There have been many changes at the centre over the past couple of months with the impact of COVID 19 and it truly is remarkable at how adaptable the children have been in the face of it all.

We also have a new Team Leader at the centre – Amanda Armstrong who grew up in South West NSW on a sheep and cattle station. She moved to Albury 15 years ago to study at Charles Sturt University. Since completing her degree in Early Childhood Education, Amanda has worked as an au pair, early childhood teacher, leader, trainer and assessor and is “excited about getting to know all the families and community members involved with Bellbridge”.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Loren for all her hard work and enthusiasm running the centre as the past team leader and for creating such a positive environment. We're so fortunate that Loren is still part of the team and heads up the 3-year-old kinder program!



The centre has remained open during the past couple of months with the introduction of new Corona social distancing and hygiene measures in place. For those who opted to keep their children at home during these uncertain times, the staff have been amazing. Not only have they provided easy activities to do at home (often based on general household items), but they have provided links to fun songs and dance moves, nature activities and have remained engaged and supportive. As numbers slowly return to normal, we thank them all for their unwavering dedication to the families of the centre.

There has been so much activity at the centre, but in summary, the children in the Long Day Care room have been focusing on their shapes and col-

ours creating a beautiful rainbow as part of the rainbow trail promotion through COVID 19. They have also begun learning basic sign language.

The Kindergarten children have also been focusing on shapes, colours, numbers and letters – incorporating these into fun songs, stories as well as making the most of the autumn weather outside.

All children worked really hard to make items to remember ANZAC day with items of the children's pieces used in a display in the front garden for the community to see and to pay their respects to all the past, present and future service men and women.



In terms of a roundup from the Friends of BEYLC (parents committee), all our fundraising efforts have ceased, like many other groups, but we continue to liaise with Council over centre improvements, including the installation of the dry creek bed and vegetable garden beds. These will be welcome additions to the outdoor play areas. Excitingly, the council are looking to create an overarching vision for the outdoor areas, so watch this space!

The committee have also been busy providing funds to the centre with the staff buying some much needed board-books and toys for the LDC!

The centre is planning to create a piece of artwork at the service entrance and would welcome the community's involvement. The request is for everyone to trace their footprint, colour/paint it, cut it out and drop it off at the centre.



For more information about the centre, which runs a 3 year old & 4 year old *Kinder* programme, 'long day care' and 'before & after school' program,

**Follow Berringa Community News on Facebook**





# Bethanga Primary School

## School Values

**R**APPORT - **R**espect **A**cceptance **P**ersistence  
**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.



Our Learning looked a bit different in week 1-6 of term 2 as we engaged in Flexible and Remote Learning from home... strange times that will become amazing memories!



This week we were 'bubbling' with excitement to welcome everyone back to onsite learning at school



For National Simultaneous Story time, we all enjoyed the story 'Whitney and Britney Chicken Divas' and created our own dancing chickens and diva masks! Lots of sparkles and glitter!



We acknowledged Reconciliation Week and the importance of all Australians coming together to repair past wrongs and create a stronger future. After learning about what the word 'Reconciliation' means, we read stories about the Stolen Generation and Equality. We enjoyed the sunshine reading a selection of Aboriginal stories and learnt to sing 'Ngaya Nana' a song about the importance of a family sung in Dharug Aboriginal language using clapping sticks.





## Coronavirus Life

Term two has certainly brought many new challenges to our students, parents and teaching staff with remote learning!

Firstly we'd like to thank our parents (teachers) for the work they have put in over the past term. Your positivity, perseverance, and willingness to continue to learn new things in order for your child to receive the best education they can during this incredibly difficult time has simply been inspiring to see.

Thank you also to our incredible staff. Mrs Toohey has been working around the clock to ensure students have tasks set that are just right for them and the platforms working without interruption. Mr K has also been very busy with online teaching and numerous online meetings. Captain Pete has set up zoom sessions, recorded songs in preparation for our performance and making sure the students are still receiving their MSL sessions. Cherie has set herself up for home online work to keep our school running and Anthea has been doing extra cleaning, maintaining the safety for all students, parents and staff that enter the building. The students have also done an amazing job adapting to remote learning. We can't wait to have you all back at school! Thank you everyone.

Keep an eye out for our new school fence and AFL footy goal posts!



### Welcome Cooper

Year 2

Where do you live: Granya

Where did you live: Brockelsby

Favourite colour: Blue

Favourite food: McDonalds

Favourite drink: fanta

I love school because: It's fun

When I grow up I want to be a:  
truck driver

Coronavirus has been hard for my family because we don't get along that well and we have to spend a lot of time together. Also my brothers are really loud and I am quiet, so it gets really frustrating.

Home schooling was fun for a while but then it wasn't. It was hard because sometimes mum didn't know how to help us.

I am looking forward for everyone being back at school and everyone to be happy again. By Brooke



Coronavirus during school was actually not as hard as I expected. Probably because I'm basically the only child because all my siblings have moved out. Also I'm pretty independent so Mum wasn't having that much of a hard time. I can cuddle my cat Larry too. The only downside is when there was no one to play with. I was very lonely. I have got Messenger for kids but I like talking to my friends in person. I also couldn't play with them. I tried playing with my Mum but she said she is too old. So it was very boring. By Sophie



Hi my name is Malakai and I lived through COVID 19 and it's a virus. That really made life hard. I had to home school which was really boring as I had no one to play with and all the skate parks were shut. Everyone had to stay 1.5m away from each other to slow the spread of the virus. Even when I could go back to school there were not that many people to play with. I also missed riding my bike up and down the hill.



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Talgarno - Lea Casey	0418 967 953	Talgarno - Anthea Redman	6020 1134
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# CLASSIFIEDS

Our local classifieds reach 560 households or about 2000 people – just pop \$2 (cash or stamps) and your details into an envelope, and send it to Berringa Community News, 341 Wisers Creek Rd, Talgarno 3691.

## 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 PO or Bethanga 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 Kat Cook, Rosemary McFarland, Bob Singline, 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](http://www.berringacommunitynews.com.au)

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If you have a story to tell or information to share with our community please contact one of the team. Alternatively you can email articles to [info@berringacommunitynews.com.au](mailto:info@berringacommunitynews.com.au) or post to 341 Wisers Creek Road, Talgarno.

Editorial Team- Julie Miller (6020 1107), Elizabeth Wood, Di Singline (6026 4248) Kerrie Stephenson, Julie de Hennin, 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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*Dancing Trees, Lake Hume—David Cottee*

