

Bethanga Festival of Small Halls

Bethanga Memorial Hall and surrounds were draped in colourful bunting, creating an exciting and welcoming vibe for the performers and concert-goers attending the inaugural Festival of Small Halls on Sunday, 16th March. The Victorian tour of 17 venues brought performers from afar to small community halls - a privilege for our community.

A BBQ, bar and tickets for the popular raffle were available near the entrance, which helped raise funds for the participating groups. Peter Klein, compered the evening, explaining the festival's background and introducing the performers to the 130+ in attendance.

Our support act, local publican Dan O'Connell, opened the evening with crowd-pleasing and well-known songs which had the audience singing along.

Lucy Farrell, renowned UK composer and singer, based in Canada and winner of the 2017 BBC Radio Folk Award, didn't disappoint with her beautiful lyrics and ethereal voice.

Hat Fitz and Cara, from the Australian Blues and soul scene were a lively and entertaining duo, their act peppered with comic moments.

All four performers wowed the enthusiastic and appreciative audience with their varied styles and

great vocal and musical accompaniments.

Home cooked goodies, tea & coffee were served at the break and were appreciated by everyone.

The foot stamping & clapping for encores and the final act with all four musicians performing together was quite a moving conclusion to the evening.

The organising committee was thrilled with the positive feedback and very grateful for the support of Towong Shire Council and all those who helped make the event such a success. The committee is hopeful of being selected for a future FoSH.

Di Singline



COMMUNITY REPORTS

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

ANZAC Day 2025

On a sunny but cool morning, it was a pleasure to welcome 150 plus members of the community and surrounds to attend our ANZAC Day service at our Hall.

The service opened with a moving rendition of Eric Bogle's "The Band Played Waltzing Matilda", performed by Peter Klein.

A beautiful array of wreaths was laid, representing the Australian Defence Force, Victoria Police, Towong Shire and 10 community groups and schools from Bethanga, Bellbridge and Talgarno.

The military support, by way of the Catafalque Party, was supplied by the Army School of Health at Latchford Barracks.

The Lords Prayer was read by Mr Ron Evans.

Following the prayer, our guest speaker, Major John Lodge, a local resident, spoke of members of the local area who gave their all in the earlier conflicts.

The normal sequence of an ANZAC service followed, with the Ode, Last Post, minute's silence and Rouse. The Last Post and Rouse were beautifully performed by Brendan Pearson. The National Anthem followed, performed by the Bethanga and Talgarno school children and supported by Peter and members of the crowd.

Thanks were extended to Major Lodge, Sergeant David Ries, the Catafalque Party from Army School of Health at Latchford Barracks and all the volunteers who helped make the day a success.

Following the guard's dismount, morning tea was enjoyed in the hall, completing the annual commemoration ceremony.

It was so pleasing to see so many members of the community come together to help commemorate, remember and respect this solemn occasion.

Graham Maynard Chairperson Bethanga Soldiers Memorial Hall CoM



Update on Power Outages on the Peninsula

The Autumn 2025 edition of the Berringa News incorporated an article reflecting the extreme frustration of the community following the large number of power outages that we experienced across the previous summer. The article also provided information regarding actions taken by the community, Towong Shire, and local Members of Parliament on our behalf. In the meantime, Helen Haines, Independent Member for Indi, met with concerned community members at the Bethanga Hotel in late February regarding this issue. She then made representations to AusNet on our behalf, seeking explanations for the outages, as well as details of their proposed remedial actions. Below is an excerpt of their response, including replies to questions posed:

"AusNet apologises to our customers in Bethanga for the number of power outages they have experienced over summer which we understand are impactful and frustrating."



Helen Haines meets with local residents at Bethanga Hotel

Question: Why does Bethanga experience more outages than other communities and why usually at the end of the day?

"The outages have been influenced by the recent installation of a Rapid Earth Fault Current Limiters (REFCL) in Wodonga on feeder WOTS13 which is the line that provides electricity to towns including Bethanga.

REFCLs have been installed in high bushfire-risk areas across the electricity distribution network, as part of the Victorian Government's Powerline Bushfire Safety Program. Whilst REFCLs provide critical infrastructure to reduce the risk of fire in the most severe conditions (e.g. total fire ban days), they make the network more sensitive to faults and it can take longer to restore them.

There are several reasons for this, including reduced visibility of fault locations and safety requirements to physically inspect the line before power can be switched back on.

There has also been an increase in load over time in this part of the network which is contributing to the sensitivity of the REFCLs."

Question: What can AusNet do to ensure power certainty and/or measures to help the town be energy self-sufficient?

"Following feedback from the community, in late January, the team made some short-term adjustments within our network to try to minimise the number of load-related outages without compromising the important role that the REFCLs play in protecting against bushfires. These short

-term fixes appear to have helped improve the reliability of the network.

The team have also commenced upgrades and replacement of network switching equipment and fuses in Bethanga and Bellbridge aimed at improving the reliability of supply to Bethanga, Bellbridge and Talgarno communities.

In the longer term, AusNet is deploying new fault location, isolation, and service restoration (FLISR) technology that aims to restore electricity to as many customers as possible, as quickly as possible, in the event of a network fault. We anticipate the FLISR technology will be deployed in your area in 2026."

Further: AusNet is also funding the installation of energy resilience systems including solar panels, batteries and generators through the Energy Resilience Community Fund (ERCF) to which any interested parties can apply."

Towong Shire continue to pursue the matter with AusNet and the Energy and Water Ombudsman Victoria. As yet, there has been no response to this action.

We have had a couple of planned outages in March and April, and at least one unplanned outage in March. This is a significant improvement on the previous few months, so AusNet's actions seem to have resolved the issue. Multiple parties will certainly continue to monitor the power reliability in our towns and further updates will be provided when there is something to report. In the meantime, please continue to keep your own records.

Maree Daly Bethanga

Soul of her Family, Core of the Community

Remembering Aunt Beat Sirl

People may notice a nice large rock mounted in the gardens of the Bethanga Soldiers Memorial Hall.

On Wednesday 9th April 2025, 16 members of the Sirl family gathered at the hall to unveil a garden stone and plaque in memory of their great aunt, Beatrice Emily Sirl (1903-1985), fondly known to generations of Sirls simply as 'Aunt Beat'.

Sirls have been in Bethanga since 1875, when William and Alice Sirl selected land here. Their granddaughter Beatrice Emily lived much of her life with her parents, John Goldsworthy and Emily Sirl, and her elder sister Alice, in the house next to the hall, at the centre of the town. Beatrice nursed all three in their later years. When Bill Sirl's wife, Jessie, died in 1932, Beatrice Emily took over the care of his young daughters, 'little Beat' and Peg. In the 1950s and 60's we, 'little Beat' and Peg's children, came to Bethanga on school holidays and stayed with 'Aunt Beat'. For city kids, these were magical holidays: the train to Albury or the long drive, being greeted by Aunt Beat's beaming smile and open arms when we arrived at Bethanga, the smell of her pantry and the wood stove, and (in earliest memory) the kero table lamp (no electricity until 1960), the chip heater over the bath and the water tank, trooping up to the old post office and Costello's bakery to collect mail and bread for 'Miss Sirl', or down to Heron's general store. And Aunt Beat's memorable apple pies, with sugar on the crust, and cream produced in the whining separator each morning after milking. Then there was the thrill of driving out to the farm in the back of Aunt Beat's old ute, jumping out to open and close the gates between the farms up (what is now called) Sirls Road, the smell of sheep and shearing shed and hay in the barn, and bottle-feeding poddy lambs and calves. At the Easter gymkhanas we ring-ins were identified as 'one of little Beat's', or 'one of Peg's'.

'Aunt Beat' was something of a matriarch in the town. She was involved in the local branches of the CWA and the Red Cross and every town gathering. Being close to the

Bethanga school, she provided board and friendship, and local intelligence, to decades of the school's young women teachers, and kept in touch with them when they married and moved on; on occasion, children from outlying farms also boarded with 'the aunts' in school terms. Cups of tea and cakes were laid on when locals dropped in as they frequently did, just for a chat or to consult with Beatrice on matters of town business. She never stood for council, but she was recognised as 'the power behind the throne', and around the time she turned 80, she was awarded a new, red, radio by 2AY in Albury, to which was attached a banner declaring her to be 'Aunt Beat, the Mayor of Bethanga'.

And so, on 9th April, we came from Canberra, Geelong, Wollongong, Ballarat and Hobart, to remember our 'Aunt Beat', 'soul of her family, core of the community'. Thanks to Cameron, Jo, Trent, Emma and Brodie Sirl, (5th and 6th generation of Sirls to farm at 'Scrubby Hill') for selecting and setting the stone and plaque in its garden setting at the Memorial Hall and for welcoming us all *Back to Bethanga*. Also, thanks to the Bethanga Hotel for hosting a convivial family dinner for us.

Jo Sirl



Bethanga Soldiers Memorial Hall CoM

We currently have 3 vacancies on our committee we are hoping to fill.

We meet once a month, conduct the ANZAC Day Service, run a few fundraising raffles, Federal and State election BBQs and general maintenance jobs around the hall.

Interested?

Our next meeting is May 27 at 6.00PM in the supper room.

Please "come on down", you will be made welcome

Enquiries?

Graham Maynard

m: 0474 381 775

THEN AND NOW

Opening of Soldiers Memorial Hall at Bethanga

Excerpt from Upper Murray and Mitta Herald, Thursday 15 February 1923

"It was fitting that the Bethanga district, which sent such a large number of fine fellows to the war, should perpetuate the memory of those who never returned. This has been done in the erection of a fine hall at Bethanga.

The hall is erected in a central position, on a double-fronted corner allotment. purchased from Mr. J. T. Park. The building is of weatherboard, and hardwood, with a fine jarrah floor. The dimensions of the hall are 72 feet by 31 feet. The stage, which was attractively decorated for the occasion, is 21 feet, with a depth of 15 feet. There are two dressing-rooms, each 15 feet by 10 feet. The builder was Mr. C. Sommer, a local man. The contract price was £745, and extras approximate £75. A splendid piano has been purchased at a cost of £120. The furnishings for seating 400 people, cost another £130. The Victory lighting system has been satisfactorily installed.

The opening ceremony took place on Wednesday evening last week in the presence of a very large public gathering, visitors being present from a radius of 40 miles. The hall was gaily decorated with bunting and a large banner, bearing the word," Welcome," floated near the entrance.

Mr. James Lobban, Towong Shire, President, had charge of the proceedings. He remarked that Bethanga people had worked hard during the war period and they were determined not to be behind hand in marking their appreciation of the boys who had gone to the front to serve their country in its greatest hour of trial. He formally introduced the district Parliamentary representatives, Messrs. Robert Cook and Henry Beardmore. Representative Cook complimented the Bethanga people on the erection of a fine hall, which was a conspicuous memorial of their loyalty. The edifice they were about to open excelled what had been done in many larger centers. He referred to the magnificent war work done by Australians, of whom 60,000 had laid down their lives in the cause of King and country. He remarked that "the diggers" had been promised " a fair deal" and it was up to the people and the powers that be to see that the promise was fulfilled. (Applause.)

The Federal Government had expended £12,000,000 on settling soldiers on the land and, as far as the speaker was concerned, no man will be taken off if he could help it. The "trier" would have behind him a true and patriotic people, who would see that he gets a fair deal. After eulogising the Bethanga district people for their successful efforts in erecting such a magnificent memorial, he referred to the generosity of Mr. John Harris, who had loaned £500 free of interest to the hall committee, and to the untiring efforts of Mrs Harris, who was an ardent war worker. He felt sure that the remainder of the debt would soon be wiped-off, and that it would not be long before they would be in a position to open the supper-room.

Mr. Beardmore, M.L.A., said he was exceedingly pleased to have the privilege of taking part in this function, which was an earnest of the patriotism of the district. After the wonderful work the Bethanga people had done during the war period, it was particularly pleasing to see them erect such a fine hall. Many bigger towns had not done a quarter as well. People were ready to pledge their word to the boys when they were going away, and we should see that it is carried out as far as possible.

Referring to the many advantages to be derived from such a hall, he instanced an experience he had when he first settled at Leneva as a young man. A movement was started to hold weekly meetings of an Improvement Society. He trusted that the Bethanga Soldiers' Memorial Hall would be used for the betterment of the town and district. The experience he gained at

Leneva had enabled him to enter municipal life, and, later on, Parliament. It had been helpful to him in many ways.

Cr. Lobban than called upon Mrs. Lobban, who was entrusted with the official opening of the hall. After opening the doors and severing the tricoloured ribbons stretched across the doorway, Mrs. Lobban declared the hall opened. (Cheers.),

The ceremonial portion of

the function being over, a successful entertainment took place, a concert party from Albury presenting an excellent program, which was as follows:

Song. "My Old Shako," Mr. Angel; song, "Humming,"- Mrs. Angel; club swinging, Professor Stagpoole; song, "Love's a Merchant," Miss Vera Holson; duet," Wonderful Girl, Wonderful Boy," Mrs. Angel and Mr. Tredrea; comic song, "The Bolshevic," Mr. Tom Cook; song, "You'll Never Learn the Art of Kissing!" Mr. G Tredrea, trio, "Waiters," Messrs. G. Tredrea, H Angel and T. Cook.; clog dance, Mr E Kelton; concerted piece, "The Tree in the Hole," Mrs. Angel, Miss Holson, and Messrs. Cook, Angel and Tredrea.

The program ended, the artists were accorded an acclamatory vote of thanks, on the call of Cr Ryan, (Wodonga), seconded by Cr Lobban

An enjoyable dance followed, for which music was supplied by Messrs Jarvis, Bolger and Laughton, while the duties of MC were performed by Mr. Meredith.

A tasty supper was provided by the ladies committee.

Everything connected with the function passed off well, redounding to the credit of the management. The hall committee consists of Messrs M. Bohun, W Smith and H. Michel? who have a live? secretary, in Mr A J Dudley.

Proceeds of the concert, dance and sale of soft drinks etc., amounted to about £112 - a most gratifying result. "





Tallangatta Health Service News

Visitors to Aged Care

We are expanding our visiting hours to enable family and friends greater opportunity to keep in touch with our residents. **New visiting hours will be from 10am to 6pm each day.**

Please remember that COVID-19, influenza and RSV are easily transmitted within the community and it remains important to practise good hand hygiene and stay home if unwell. We ask that anyone who has tested positive to COVID-19 within the last 7 days should not enter the facility. Equally, if you are experiencing cold and flu like symptoms, please avoid visiting your loved ones.

COVID-19 Outbreak

We have experienced our worst COVID-19 outbreak to date, with several residents and acute patients testing positive. It is a reminder that COVID-19 continues to be a risk to vulnerable cohorts.

Japanese Encephalitis

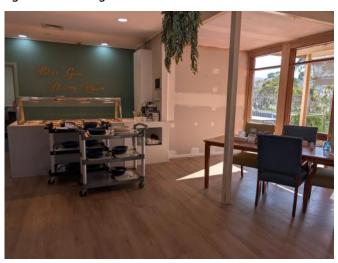
Japanese encephalitis (JE) is a rare but potentially serious viral infection of the brain, transmitted to humans through mosquito bites, and can cause encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) with symptoms like fever, headache, and in severe cases, seizures, coma, and even death. A small number of cases of Japanese Encephalitis have been reported in Victoria and we recommend that people take steps such as:

- wear light-coloured, long-sleeved shirts and long trousers if spending time in areas with mosquitoes
- apply mosquito repellent and take special care during peak mosquito biting hours
- remove stagnant water around the home
- use mosquito nets and screen windows and doors.

Vaccination for Japanese Encephalitis is available and may be free for certain high-risk cohorts. Please talk to your doctor for more information.

Renovations to Lakeview and Bolga Court Dining Rooms

We have installed new Bain-Maries into each Residential Aged Care Dining Room and undertaken renovations to





expand and decorate these spaces to improve the dining experience.

Garden by the Lakeside

A new committee has been formed to manage the Garden by the Lakeside, and they are seeking interested and passionate community members to join them in revitalising the garden. They wish to provide a space that will nourish the health, wellbeing, and social connections of Tallangatta and surrounding localities. The space will be open for all community members, groups, organisations, and businesses. The possibilities are endless. Planning is currently underway for a Winter Solstice event.

If you are interested in working together to create a vibrant community space, please phone Daniela on 0423 595 178, or Lucy-Anne on 0488 712 616.

Mother's Day

We celebrated Mother's Day with plenty of smiles, shared stories and special moments. From crafts to afternoon tea, it was a beautiful way to honor the incredible women in our community.



Home and Community Programs – What can we offer you?

Tallangatta Health Service (THS) offers a wide range of services, both in-home and onsite. Depending on your age, needs and circumstances, services can be offered under a number of funding streams. Call the office for more information on 6071 5238.

Commonwealth Home Support (CHSP)

This service is available for people aged 65 years and over, or 50 years and over for Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander clients.

In-home services include domestic assistance, property maintenance, social support individual (assistance to appointments/shopping), personal care, meal preparation, meals on wheels, flexible in-home respite, home modifications and district nursing. This program runs regular bus outings to places of interest in the local area.

Home and Community Care Program for Younger People (HACC PYP)

This service is available for eligible people aged under 65 years, or under 50 years for Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander clients.

HACC PYP services can be ongoing, short term or one off, depending on your circumstances.

Services offered under this funding include domestic assistance, social support individual (assistance to appointments/shopping), meal preparation, property maintenance and district nursing.

Home Care Packages

Do you have a Home Care Package? At Tallangatta Health Service we have a very caring Home Care Package Coordinator, who can assist you to manage your funds to access the services and equipment that you need most. Give Lisa a call to discuss further on 02 6071 5238.

Brokerage

Do you have a Home Care Package that is managed externally to Tallangatta Health Service? Your package manager can broker services from Tallangatta Health Service to best meet your needs. Speak to your manager today and ask them to give Tallangatta Health Service a call.

Veterans Home Care (VHC) / Department Veteran's Affairs (DVA)

We provide services to members of the community who qualify for Veteran's Home Care or services under the Department of Veteran's Affairs. These services may in-

clude domestic assistance, property maintenance (ongoing or one off), personal care and district nursing. Referrals are received at THS from VHC and DVA.

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

Do you qualify for NDIS funding? We can help you. Contact us directly, or ask your support coordinator to contact us to discuss what services you are eligible for and how we can help provide these services. We can help with personal activities, transport, nursing care, life skills, household tasks, community participation, therapeutic support and group/centre activities.

Albury Wodonga Health (AWH) funded services

Tallangatta Health Service in partnership with Albury Wodonga Health can provide short term services in your home to eligible consumers. This may include (but not limited to) short term assistance with domestic tasks or district nursing care in your home following a hospital stay or palliative care support in your home. AWH and Tallangatta Health Service work closely together to ensure your care needs are met.

Allied Health Services

The Allied Health Team offer a wide range of services to assist with your well-being.

Whether it be a physio, a dietitian or a chat with a social worker, the Allied Health Team can help you. Why not come along and join in one of the exercise groups or walking groups – the Allied Health Team can ensure you join in the group which best meets your needs. Did you know that exercise groups are run in many of our outlying centres – Tallangatta Valley, Bellbridge/Bethanga, Dartmouth, Eskdale and Tallangatta.

International Nurses Day



International Council of Nurses

Caring for nurses strengthens economies

Every year on the 12th May the world celebrates International Nurses Day, which honours the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale (1820 – 1910). On this day, we say 'thank-you' to nurses for their care and dedication. The theme for 2025 is "Our Nurses. Our Future. Caring for Nurses strengthens economies".





THE HAIR NOOK
BY BEC BROWN

0438 903 772

1 Jobling Street, Bethanga

Your community needs you or someone you know!



To ensure our community is well supported in times of storm, flooding, earthquake and most importantly road accidents, we need your support!

The volunteers of Tallangatta SES invite you to join us, or encourage someone you know to join. Tallangatta SES volunteers are local people who need your help to keep our community safe during storms and floods, as well as providing a vital Road Crash Rescue service. Some of our members are operational (they respond to emergencies), others are in important roles like administration, communications, community engagement and training – just to name a few.

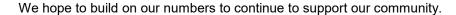


Right now, we are very interested to hear from local people who may be able to volunteer with us (this might be you or could be someone you know). When you join, we'll provide you with training and the appropriate personal protective clothing and equipment required for your role. People choose to join us for many reasons. Some want to protect their families, their friends, their property, and their way of life.

It's also a chance to form friendships and meet other people who live in our community. For many it is about being

part of a wonderful tradition and an organisation with a very proud history. Volunteering with Tallangatta SES will offer you the opportunity to learn new skills that will assist you in day-to-day life and maybe even your workplace. Whatever your reason, when you join us, you are joining a team of hard-working, professional, and dedicated volunteers who are committed to giving back to our local community.

If you would like more information about volunteering with us, please scan the QR code, or call into the Unit headquarters at 7 Wagara Street, or call Deb on 0405 753 882



Zachary West Unit Controller Tallangatta SES Unit



On-Farm Drought Infrastructure Grants

Towong Shire has been added to the list of local government areas that are now eligible for the State Government On-Farm Drought Infrastructure Grants. The support package includes on-farm infrastructure grants for farmers with further information at www.ruralfinance.com.au/grants/

Towong Shire is continuing to work with local farmers to gather information and data to increase its advocacy through state and Federal Government for further assistance whilst also working closely with its Agriculture partner Riverine Plains on other initiatives.

Fire Restrictions Extended into Winter

CFA has further extended the Fire Danger Period (FDP) Towong Shire as underlying dryness continues to elevate fire risk. With an average rainfall of 41mm and only 2mm reaching the far northeast in April, the area is susceptible to fire ignition which could be challenging for firefighters to control.

As a result, the fire restriction has been extended for Towong Shire Council until 1:00am on 23 June 2025.

All other Victorian municipalities fire restrictions have been lifted.

Local Artists Works on Show

You may have noticed a new addition in the Bethanga town square.

The building that was The Store next door is now housing a lovely collection of art work for sale by local area artists.

Opened to coincide with the Festival of Small Halls weekend in March. The Art Show is now opened on Saturdays and during the week upon demand.

Using funds from a Unlocked Grant from Murray Arts we commissioned the local Men's Shed to build some free standing art display stands on wheels.

The store lends it's self beautifully as a gallery space and if there are any other artists who would like to display some art, please contact thevillageartscollective@gmail.com

New Local JP

I am pleased to advise that the Berringa Peninsula once again has access to a local (Victorian) Honorary Justice, or Justice of the Peace (JP).

I took the Oath of Office at the Wodonga Court House this month and am now available to assist the community with certification of copies of original documents as well as witnessing Statutory Declarations and Affidavits.

I can be contacted as follows: Email: chris.weddall@hotmail.com

Phone: 0418 681 400



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Community News
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Hard and Green Waste Collection

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Hard and green waste collection stockpile sites are coming to the Peninsula.

Bethanga

Talgarno Gap Rd (east of CFA Shed) Saturday, 4 October 2025

Granya

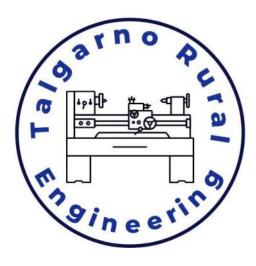
South of Murray River - Granya Rd Sunday, 5 October 2025

Time for all locations: 8.00am - 11.00am

Bookings are essential and can be made by calling us on 1300 365 222.

Please visit our website for full details.

towong.vic.gov.au



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News from Talgarno Recreation Reserve Committee of Management (CoM)

As the weather cools, things are heating up in our community with a number of exciting developments and upcoming events! We have some important community events coming up.

Mark your calendars for Friday 13th June when we'll be celebrating the completion of the community fire pit with a BBQ and live music from Peter Klien & the Platypus Jam band. It's a chance to come together, enjoy the new space and toast the efforts that made it happen. Our next community meeting will be held on Sunday 29th June at 10am. This will include a Public Meeting to elect a new committee. (See the official notice below.) Your participation matters – consider putting your name forward or nominating someone you believe will make a great contribution.

We've seen some great engagements recently, with the kid's disco events proving to be a big hit – thank you to all who helped organise and attend.

On the facilities front, we've made significant progress:

- The concrete plinth on the tennis courts is now complete, and the fencing has been restored. Work on the new clubhouse is expected to begin shortly.
- Car park improvements will soon commence, with modifications including restricted entry points from River Road to enhance safety.
- The fire pit project is officially completed! However, we kindly remind all parents to ensure children do

not climb or walk on top of the gabions as this could pose a safety risk.

Sales of our commemorative plaques are going strong, but there are still opportunities to purchase one and be part of local history. For details, please contact Anthea Redman or refer to our Facebook page for the details on how to purchase a plaque for \$75.

We have started a few upgrades to our facilities.

- The first stage of the toilet upgrade in the hall has been completed.
- Designs for the new public toilets have been finalised, and a Memorandum of Understanding with Towong Shire Council about their management has been agreed. Construction will begin soon.
- A grant from Towong Shire (Resilient Buildings) has enabled the purchase of a commercial refrigerator, enhancing our emergency catering capacity. We hope this will be followed by further support, including water storage and a standby generator.

Thank you to everyone contributing to these improvements and initiatives. Together, we're building a stronger, safer, and more vibrant community!

Mari Jones & Greg Hayes On behalf of the Talgarno Recreation Reserve.

TALGARNO RECREATION RESERVE

Notice is given of a **PUBLIC MEETING** to be held at the Talgarno Hall on Sunday June 29 commencing at 11.30 AM.

The purpose of the meeting is to nominate no less than three (3) or more than nine (9) persons as the Committee of Management for the Talgarno Hall and Recreation Reserve for a term of three years.

The current committee's term will expire on July 9, 2025. All positions will be declared open and nominations will be accepted prior to or on the day.

Nominations from women, Aboriginal people, people with disabilities, young people and people from culturally diverse backgrounds are encouraged.

Further information, nomination forms and nominee declaration forms may be obtained at the meeting.

For further enquiries please contact the Secretary, Mari Jones on 0418 693 535.



DATE: 27th August 2025
TIME: 6.30pm
VENUE: Bethanga Rec Reserve
ALL WELCOME



Bethanga Gymkhana Shines Again

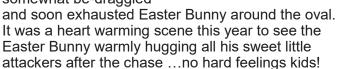
In the cool of early Easter Saturday morning the aroma of sizzling bacon wove its way gently through the valley. The echo of hammers striking tent pegs could be heard over a volunteer's voice calling out 'where do you want these?' You could hear the quick slap of a stirrup iron being pulled down by a rider as she prepared to mount up for the showjumping. Horses gently snickered and munched on hay as their owners fussed about with buckets, brushes and tack. The 2025 Bethanga Gymkhana and Family Fun Day had begun and yet again, it lived up to its long-standing reputation, providing a beautiful sunny day of healthy, good-spirited competition in a community always ready to smile.

Over a thousand people walked through the gates this year to join in the fun. The food was excellent, the coffee was hot and the Easter eggs were bountiful!

As the day progressed you could feel the tension mounting in the children's games of egg and spoon and potato sack! Cheers of encouragement from hopeful parents and grandparents as their toddlers neared the finish line were mingled with cries of despair as another two year old dropped his egg or face-planted into the soft grass.

As always the local singers surprised and delighted us with their unique renditions of songs, old and new, at Pete's busking tent. As always we ooooed and aaahed as the horses deftly darted around Graham and Tracey's well-designed showjumping course. As always we squealed with excitement every time an earnest and determined dog just

managed to scrape their way over John's amazing high jump! As always, we laughed and smiled at the throngs of eager children chasing a somewhat be-draggled



We couldn't have been more pleased with how the day turned out this year and we would like to recognise that all these joyful experiences would not exist without the support of local businesses and volunteers. This year you may have noticed our shiny new red and white tent in the middle of the oval ... a direct result of donations from our generous community! So "Thank You" for supporting this gorgeous day! Thank you to all the volunteers who answered our call out for help...you were a bunch of smiling troopers and we are truly grateful for your time and effort.

And finally, a huge thank you to the Bethanga Gymkhana Organising Committee who are a dedicated bunch of good-humoured humans who make organising the day an absolute pleasure and privilege! Plans for next year have already begun.

We know we'll see you all again in 2026, keeping up this wonderful tradition for a wonderful community!

The Bethanga Gymkhana 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.

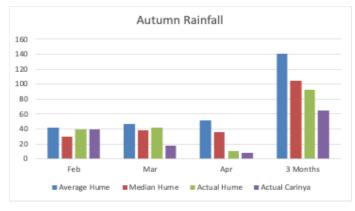


Rainfall Round-up

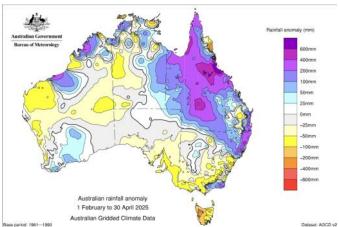
Here's a summary to save you some time. Autumn has been as almost as bad as it gets because we have been sitting under a big high pressure. BOM and others say winter rainfall might be average. There's a prospect for a good Spring. We might get 30 mm before the end of May.

Well, what can I say other than BOM got it completely wrong in its forecast for an average Autumn. Instead, we have had a shocker. April and May rainfall was the lowest in 50 years (lower than 1976, 1991 and 2005).

The historical average rainfall for Autumn (February through April) is 140 mm. The weather station at Lake Hume didn't report the February rainfall so I have assumed it was 40mm which is what I got. This would give 92 mm for Hume Reservoir or 66% of average. Carinya had only 65 mm.

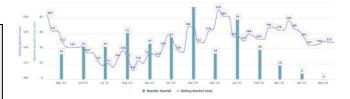


The map of Australia shows just how dry it has been in southern Australia while the north was flooded.



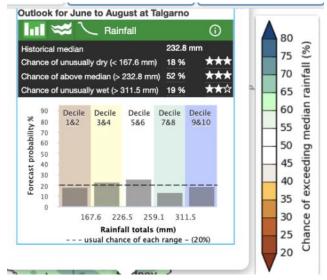
This was all down to persistent high pressure across southern Australia stopping all the moisture from the warm seas to the north from reaching us. Compared to South Australia and western Victoria we have been lucky.

The rolling 12- month rainfall to May 21 at Carinya has dropped to 553 mm which is 21% below average (700 mm).



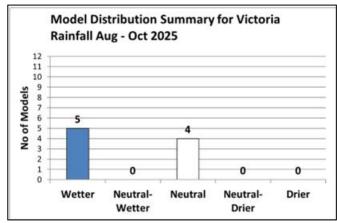
Prospects for Winter (June through August)

I'm sorry to say that the rain gurus are suggesting we will have to wait till Spring to get a wetter than average forecast. For the winter, BOM forecasts an even chance of above median rainfall, but this means that it could be drier or wetter than average. Again, not very helpful.



The key climate drivers show no clear signs for rainfall one way or the other but suggest warmer than average.

Dale Grey reports that 10 of 12 the models he monitors expect average rainfalls for May to July while 2 expect drier. The models do suggest a wetter spring. Fingers crossed!



Greg Hayes



NEW CAFÉ PROJECT IN BELLBRIDGE

Bellbridge is about to get a new, exciting addition for residents and visitors alike – a container café! Thanks to government funding, the new café will be located in the public carpark area outside the gates of the Hume Boat Club, providing the perfect spot to grab a brew or bite to eat while enjoying the scenic beauty of Lake Hume. The container café will be thoughtfully designed with landscaping, tables and umbrellas and an artistic mural that complements the surrounding environment. The café is set to be a vibrant new space for both locals and tourists to relax and enjoy.



Council released an Expression of Interest (EOI) for the operation of the café in early May, with the expectation that the café will be operational by September 2025.

Road Closure

Springdale Road, Bethanga will be closed from Monday 28 April to Sunday 14 June (subject to weather) to replace a flood damaged bridge.

Talgarno Gap Road and Sirls Road will be closed to Sprindale Road.

Non-local traffic will need to detour via Bethanga Bay Road and Lake Road.

For further enquiries relating to this closure please call 1300 365 222 or email us at info@towong.vic.gov.au





Stay Informed

Latest Council Updates

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

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

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



Scan the QR code to sign up for our newsletter

Other places you can always find updates are:

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



towong.vic.gov.au

Walking Trail Progress

STAGE 2 AND 3 UNDERWAY

Stages 2 and 3 of the Bellbridge Walking Track has commenced.

The upcoming works will include formalising sections of the existing track and asphalting the full length, starting approximately 170 metres southwest of Mitta Avenue and continuing through to the Kurrajong Gap Boat Ramp (Victoria side Lake Hume Boat Ramp).



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



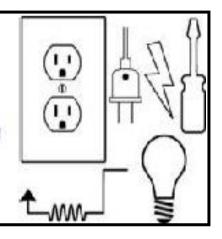
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Berringa Peninsula Community Network

AGM 6.30 pm August 4, 2025 Bellbridge Boat Club

The network is at a crossword. Do we have a role and do we continue?

Come along to the AGM to express your view or contact BPCN via email at

<u>berringapcn@gmail.com</u>, Facebook, or call Julie Miller 0419 339 679.

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

COMMUNITY NOTICES

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

Wymah Ferry

Operating hours
7am – 8pm
During daylight saving
6am – 9pm
(NB no meal closure times)

OUTSIDE THESE HOURS Ring the contractor, 6020 2038

For information on ferry closures: www.livetraffic.com

DYSONS CORRYONG BUS & FREIGHT

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

Daily Monday to Friday

Dysons Corryong Bus & Freight 0427 240 077

Women's Health Clinics

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

All ages welcome.

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

Sue Reid 6071 5270

Talgarno Hall and BBQ Shelter

Hall and BBQ Shelter is available for Hire

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

Chairs and Tables available for hire

For more information please email <u>Talgarnorecreationreserve@gmail.com</u> or phone (02)60201134

Bethanga Soldiers Memorial Hall

Hall and Supper Room Available for Hire
Functions and Meetings
Day / Night
Air Conditioned / Heated
Competitive Rates

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

Granya Hall

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

Community Meeting \$30 (hire only)

For all catering information and availability please contact

Bob Cowan or Sharyn Terlich

Bob Cowan
0448 474 669 rcowan@bordernet.com.au

Sharyn Terlich 0411 299 911 shalinda56@yahoo.com.au

Winter is here, enjoy the chilly weather in front of the fire with a good book from the Talgarno Street Library

Open all hours for everyone at the Talgarno Hall.

Bonegilla Hall

Hall available for hire.

Craft Group held every Thursday 10am-2pm.

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

Enquiries: 0439 186 373 Email: BonegillaHall@gmail.com

Maternal & Child Health

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

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

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

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BERRINGA PLAYGROUP

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PLEASE JOIN US FOR PLAYGROUP EVERY SECOND
MONDAY FROM 9:30AM-11AM @ BETHANGA
PRIMARY SCHOOL (ONLY DURING THE SCHOOL
TERM)

PLENTY OF ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING: STORY TIME, CRAFT, SINGING AND SENSORY PLAY

TERM 2 DATES: 12 MAY, 16 JUNE
TERM 3 DATES: 21 JULY, 4 AUGUST, 18 AUGUST,1
SEPTEMBER, 15 SEPTEMBER

PLEASE CONTACT BELLA (PLAYGROUP FACILITATOR) FOR MORE INFORMATION: 0477 139 943 OR



FIND US ON FACEBOOK: BERRINGA
PLAYGROUP



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In Memoríum

Alfred (Fred) Matthias Brunner, 06/10/1936- 16/01/2025.

Fred was born in Hetzendorf, Austria. He went to school in Judneburg and he left school at the age of 14 to start an apprenticeship at Kortchaks Fohnsdorf as a Flour Miller in 1950, where he stayed until 1958.

During those years Fred took on the responsibility of being a father figure to care for and support his mum and his siblings on his wage, after the death of his father. There was one Christmas where Fred had to sell some of his prized possessions including a motorbike, guitar and other various items to give his family a Christmas.

In 1959 Fred and three mates decided to travel to Australia via boat which took five weeks, a trip of a lifetime, an overseas adventure. He stayed at Bonegilla for two months. He did various jobs, including working on the railway in Port Kembla as well as at the Steelworks.

In 1961 Fred moved to Melbourne where he started at oat millers, Parsons Bros in Fairfield as an oat miller. After one year he was promoted to shift miller and then to Production Supervisor. Fred transferred to Cottees General Foods in Blackburn where he was Production Supervisor. 1971 he moved to Intercity Mills as Plant Manager. Two years later they relocated to Wahgunyah to what it is today, Uncle Toby's. Fred was promoted to Manufacturing Manager over four plants and was involved in all relocations and training of personnel. Fred worked at Uncle Toby's for 29 years, retiring on 31/03/2000.

While in Melbourne working, Fred met the love of his life, Janice at a dance in St Kilda. Janice would have been totally smitten with this handsome, well dressed, tall, dark haired, courteous man from Europe who could waltz like no other. During their dating years, Fred was Naturalised and made an Australian Citizen on 14/09/1964. Fred and Janice married on 30/01/1965.

Their honeymoon was for 6 months travelling to various countries like Egypt, Rome, Venice and India on their way to Austria.

Later returning to Melbourne they bought their first house in Pitt St, Eltham. They have two sons, Paul and Michael.

With Fred's work being relocated to Wahgunyah, Janice had secured employment at Aquinas College/Xavier High School. They both made the decision that it would be best for Janice, Paul and I to move in with Nan and 'Jimpa'. Then in 1976 Fred and Janice bought their little piece of paradise, 5 acres of land in Talgarno, a place

called "The Oaks". A beautiful spot right on Lake Hume, a spot where Fred had continued to live until last October. The house was in need of repair and with the help of his brothers-in-law John and Julian Baker they brought the house back to life.

Fred loved his little hobby farm because it was his. Fred didn't know a lot about farming at the start, but he was pretty handy and resourceful and he learnt as he went.

He bought a red Massey Ferguson tractor which he loved and was often out and about slashing and ploughing the paddocks often wearing his green army camo hat, red footy shorts and no top. Actually I don't ever think I saw Fred put any sunscreen on in his whole life.

Allan Lehman's parents used to own the Oaks and one day Allan came down and told Fred there was a well down on the weir front that had a natural spring in it and a constant water supply throughout a drought. So, he found the well and got his two labourers, Paul and I We went to work digging out years and years of mud and silt that had covered the well. There was no OH&S back then. We were fed in on a rope and bucket by bucket we got rid of the mud. Fred had an endless water supply for his fruit trees and vegie garden.

Fred looked after his family and we never went without. He travelled around the countryside being our chauffeur, taking us to eisteddfods and football and tennis games.

He loved his sleep, first to bed first up watching the German news having his coffee overlooking the water, a routine which he followed right to the end.

Fred loved his grandchildren and would do anything for them: Isabella, Yakob and Olivia. He never missed their birthdays. He would always ring and leave a message, he'd watch their sport, have his meat pie and a beer and head home in his unmistakable blue Rodeo.

From eulogy by Micheal Brunner

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Bethanga Hotel

OPENING HOURS:

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

Online bookings www.bethangahotel.com.au or Facebook

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

Bethanga Hotel Autumn Round-Up: Pints, Puns & Pub Grub



As the leaves begin to turn and the air gets a little crisper, Bethanga Hotel is bringing warmth, celebration, and community connection. With local celebrations, lively nights & delicious meals we've settled into a steady rhythm, welcoming familiar faces and new guests through our doors each week.

Trivia Nights have truly found their place on the Bethanga Hotel calendar. What began as a fun idea has grown into a much-loved tradition, with packed tables of friends, families, and friendly rivals turning up month after month. Whether you're in it for the facts or the pub snacks, it's become a midweek ritual where brains meet beers and everyone's a winner (well, almost). These nights are full of lightbulb moments, surprise upsets, and the kind of banter you won't find on a search engine.

Live music continues to strike a

chord, with returning favourites like "The Overtime Duo", Zaeysha Wilhelm, and the high-energy return of "Before the Storm" turning up the volume on our weekend vibes. From foot-tapping folk to sing along classics, our cosy corners have become the stage for spontaneous dancing, laughs, and memories worth replaying.



April saw us hop into the festive spirit, with Easter bringing a flurry of fun: guessing games, raffle hampers, and a seasonal menu that added a little extra flavour to the long weekend. Mother's Day brought a full house of happy families, live tunes from "The Troubadour" and heartfelt touches that made it a joy to host mums, nans, and all the special women worth celebrating.

Chef Steve has kept taste buds on their toes with weekly specials that keep you coming back for more! With dishes like creamy garlic prawns, bushman parmis, southern fried chicken burgers, and slowbraised lamb shanks, who can say 'no' to a meal at the pub? And of course, our classic Sunday roast & apple pie combo are still carving out their place as a firm favourite.

Bethanga Hotel is proud to be the social heartbeat of a growing community. Our Friday nights are always a favourite, with Happy Hour specials, Joker Poker, and the local clubs' meat raffle bringing the whole town together. And with our footy tipping comp heating up, the ladder is being watched more closely than a grand final replay. Whether you're here for the beer, the banter, or a bite to eat—we're here to make it memorable. Book a table, bring your mates, and we'll see you at the pub!



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CLUBS AND GROUPS

BERRINGA CERT



Berringa Community Emergency Response Team are community <u>volunteers</u> who are dispatched at the same time as an ambulance, to time-critical emergencies within our local community. We are trained to provide basic emergency care services until the ambulance arrives. CERT does not transport patients but provides emergency response in locations that have a low caseload and limited ambulance coverage.

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

The Victorian Virtual Emergency Department

It is a public health service run out of Northern Health in Melbourne for non-life-threatening emergencies. If you are experiencing symptoms and you think you might need medical attention and your usual GP/health service is closed or unavailable, rather than call an ambulance or go to the emergency department, you can contact VVED. These symptoms might be pain, vomiting, urinary infection and influenza.

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

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



Defibrillators

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ROTARY CLUB OF BELLBRIDGE LAKE HUME INC.

Lake Hume Fishing Classic

Lake Hume Fishing Classic will be held on 18 and 19 October 2025 at the Lake Hume Resort. Registrations can be made at www.lakehumeclassic.com.au or register on site Friday 17 October from 4 pm to 8 pm and Saturday 18 October from 6.00 am to 10 am

Fishing commences at 6.30 am on the Saturday morning and concludes at 11.00 am on the Sunday Morning.

Meals will be available on Saturday evening and Sunday lunchtime at the entrant's own expense. Alcohol and non-alcoholic drinks will also be available. NO BYO ALCOHOL ON SITE. Random spot prizes will be awarded on the Saturday night about 8pm.

Further details about entry costs etc are available at www.lakehumeclassic.com.au.

Lahe Hume Cycle Challenge

About 350 cyclists participated in the Lake Hume Cycle Challenge held on Sunday February 16 at Ebden Reserve, Lake Hume. It resulted in over \$36,000 being raised and donated to Albury Cancer Wellness Centre. making our total contributions over a number of years at over \$250,000.

Christmas Carols

The Christmas Carols will be held on Sunday 7
December 2025 commencing at 6.00 pm at the Lake
Hume Boat Club, Bellbridge. Food and drinks will be
available as usual. Donations would be greatly
appreciated. More details available in the Spring edition
of Berringa News

Seniors Week Event-Pub Luncheon

A seniors' luncheon will be held on Wednesday 1st October 2025 at the Bethanga Hotel. It consists of soup, a roast and dessert and entertainment. The event is limited to 40 persons. People wishing to attend please contact Rotarian John Parry on 0419 950 529 for more details and registration.

Regards Rotarian Andrew Christy issues from the courts, work out plans for the old clubhouse and, excitingly, start work on the new clubhouse (currently at permit approval stage). Hopefully we have a new and completed facility by the commencement of pennant tennis in October.

See you on court!
Club Secretary
Regards Adam Richardson
(Christy 0412 560 833

PENINSULA MEN'S SHED



6 Sirl Street, Bethanga

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

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

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

Phil Craig, President 0427 632 575

BETHANGA TENNIS CLUB

Lesley Smith 0467 191 426 Diane Star 0419 436 347

TALGARNO TENNIS CLUB

Onlookers would have undoubtedly noticed progress with tennis court rectification works over the past few months. Peter Collins Concreting have done an outstanding job encasing the new courts with a concrete plinth to reduce cracking. We have also had new fence installed around the outside of the courts – the old fence had to be pulled down for the concrete plinth to be created.

The good news is that the courts should be ready for tennis, or netball, or pickle ball! We will get a net up soon and take advantage of the mild (and dry) weather – or maybe that will make it rain? The courts will generally be available for members and guests from now on, with only occasional closures whilst other rectification works are taking place.

Next on the list for the tennis club is to deal with drainage

BETHANGA CRICKET CLUB

Bethanga Cricket Club 2024-2025 Season



The Bethanga Cricket Club season has come to an end for another year. A grade had another fantastic year making it to a consecutive Grand Final, but just falling short to Kiewa. B Grade also had its first finals appearance for a number of years. We look to come back fighting stronger for the 2025-

Congratulations to all the winners from our Presentation Night held at the beginning of April.

1st Grade Batting Award ~ Luke Rafferty
2nd Grade Batting Award ~ Paul Robinson
Club Batting Average Award ~ Luke Rafferty Cameron Sirl
1st grade Bowling Award ~ Jack Robinson
2nd Grade Bowling Award ~ Trevor Domaille
Club Bowling Average Award ~ Martin Cummins
Donut Award (Most Ducks made) ~ Ben Webb and Martin
Cummins

Coach's Award ~ Matthew Blake
1st Grade Player of the Finals Award ~ Haydyn Roberts
2nd Grade Player of the Finals Award ~ Jake Bridgman
lan Sirl Memorial Trophy Champion Player ~ Jack Robinson
Lawrence Packer Memorial Best on Ground Award ~ Jack
Robinson

2nd Grade Player's Player Award ~ Trevor Domaille Doug Lowcock and Mick Mason Best Club Person Award ~ Peter Jeffries

Batting Award - 148 Runs ~ Luke Rafferty
Bowling Award - 5/18 ~ Cameron Sirl
Bowling Award - 5/27 ~ Jesse Griffiths
Bowling Awards - 6/66, 5/40, 5/6 ~ Martin Cummins

LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD ~ Trent Sirl

Please follow us on Facebook for more information about our upcoming AGM, and Preseason for 2025-2026 Season.

You can also email us at bethangacc@hotmail.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

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

VERY IMPORTANT, WE ARE STILL HERE!

There is a lot of talk around the new fire levy due to commence 1st July this year. As I'm writing this it's still in early stages of political backlash. The BMT (Brigade Management Committee) would like to assure our community that we will continue to respond to call outs like we always have, whether that be through private vehicles or CFA appliances.

Please understand that our members are all volunteers that do their best to serve their community and keep you safe. This is a time for us to support one another not work against each other.

INCIDENTS THROUGHOUT SUMMER

7th January 2025

Murray River Road, Talgarno Assisted Talgarno with a vehicle accident.



11th January 2025

Lehmans Road, Talgarno Support Talgarno with a scrub and grass fire

12th January 2025

Lehmans Road, Talgarno Support Talgarno with a scrub and grass fire



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24hour emergency service 7days

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> www.tallangattavets.com.au or check us out on facebook!

7th February 2025

913 Lake Road, Bethanga Attended fire, supported by other brigades

9th February 2025

Talgarno Gap Road, Talgarno Supported SES and Talgarno Brigade with a Tree Down

10th February 2025

Mitta Avenue, Bellbridge Clearing of tree down

22nd February 2025

Dwyer Crescent, Bellbridge Controlled burn

6th March 2025

Lake Road, Bethanga Responded to small grass fire

10th April 2025

Sirls Road, Jarvis Creek Assisting Old Tallangatta in extrications of a victim

FIRE DANGER PERIOD

Official Fire Danger Period commenced on 18th of November 2024 and in Towong Shire is still in place until 23 June 2025.

Even though the weather is cooling down this is not the time to be complacent.

AUTUMN PREPARATION

Did you know Fire related injuries and deaths rise significantly in the cooler months?

Try to spend some time preparing your home for a safe season.

Top Tips

*Install a working smoke alarm on every level of your home

When a fire takes hold, every second counts. In less than 30 seconds, a small flame can turn into a major fire. The risk of a fatality in a home fire is halved if a working smoke alarm is present

- *Check electric and gas heaters before use
- *Make sure your fireplace and flu are clean, avoid using a vacuum cleaner to suck up coals as hot coals can start fires within the vacuum cleaner
- * As the leaves start to fall throughout autumn, try to keep your garden clear of leaves to minimise fuel load for a potential fire.
- *Discuss, draw and practice an escape plan for your household (make your kids aware and invested)

Our close proximity to Albury Wodonga can sometimes mean we forget that we are isolated, resource wise, in the event of a fire. Being lucky enough to live in this beautiful area comes with the responsibility of being prepared and ready to look after yourself, be community minded and chat with your neighbours.

Bethanga **Brigade** in conjunction with Talgarno Brigade has been out and about in the community last season.

The CFA Olympics that were to be held in Gapsted were cancelled due to the extreme weather and need for resources to be closer to their brigade area. This was

a little disappointing as the teams had put quite a lot of training in to get ready. New member Fergus Smith, really put in the hard yards and it was nice to get to know him via this unusual way of training. So it was decided that we would travel to Springhurst on another weekend to put the hours to good use. Our senior members managed to come away without pulling any hamstrings (if For all Brigade members, thank you. We work closely you're over 30 I know you're impressed). Our junior members came away with the trophy!! Firsthand I witnessed some incredible sportsmanship and behaviour from these young leaders and they were always the first to step in and help others out, pack up and I even saw a couple of them pull a little kid out of the way from a reversing car.

Congratulations to Will, Riley, Shune and Conrad. Thank you to all the parents and volunteers that helped make this happen.

We also welcome to the brigade, Bethanga Publican, Dan O'Connell and long-term Bellbridge resident, Steve Jones.

Gymkhana- another great community event where we can give back. The Bethanga Brigade had the big truck there for kids to squirt water and Talgarno helped keep everyone fed by manning the BBQ. This event has so many groups involved to ensure it runs and it's definitely one that makes my heart happy seeing it all come together.

BRIGADE SIREN

A reminder that the Brigade is continuing monthly testing of the Brigade's siren. This is scheduled for the first Sunday of the month at 10:00 am.

The Brigade's siren is used for alerting members of a call out and is used in conjunction with individual pagers and other alerting devices. The siren serves a secondary purpose in notifying the community when the Brigade has responded to a call out. Please rely on the Vic Emergency app and/or website for updated information. Having a battery-operated radio tuned to



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ABC is also a good option.

When testing, the siren will sound for no more than 10 seconds. For incidents, the siren will sound for 90 seconds.

with the Berringa Brigades including Granya and Talgarno it's a Team Effort. Volunteering for your community is an incredibly rewarding yet sometimes thankless job. To all members we want you to know your experience and knowledge are valued and very necessary to our community. The BMT (Brigade Management Team) thank you.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Especially given what's transpiring now. If there are things you would like to know or have information days tailored to please email through to our secretary.

> Stay Less Crispy Berringa Cheers Mel

CONTACTS

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

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

Mel Naismith, Community Safety Liaison 0428 191 283

John Northey, Junior Brigade Liaison 0414 931 442

TALGARNO RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

Dear Community Members,

As you're all aware, this season is as dry as any in recent memory, and fire restrictions still remain in place until 23 June—a strong reminder for us all to stay alert.

The Talgarno Fire Brigade has responded to several unattended burns and an accidental grass fire recently. We encourage everyone to remain vigilant and follow all fire safety guidelines during this period.

Please remember to check your smoke alarms to ensure the batteries are working and to inspect your woodfire chimneys so they are clean and safe for use.

With the tough seasonal conditions affecting everyone, we encourage you to check in with your neighbours and friends to make sure they are doing well. Looking out for each other is especially important currently.

Our brigade saw a lot of success at the District 24 Rural CFA Championships this year, winning medals in both competitions. Our juniors were a particular stand out going from strength to strength.

The Brigade are very proud of our local junior boys Shune Cole, Will and Riley Green and Conrad Klippel. The boys have been training over the summer months for these competitions.

The Boys attended Springhurst on the 16th of March and competed in the 11–13-year-old competition in 5 events and were winners in all events.

On the 30th of March the team went to Mooroopna for the state championships and competed in 6 events and placed in the top 5 for 5 of the events.

We are very proud of the boys and we thank the parents and trainers for their support throughout the competition.

We highly recommend getting your kids involved as they are the future of our brigade and we can see we are already in good hands.

We're grateful for your support during the recent wood drive. All proceeds from firewood sales will go directly to our brigade. If you're interested in firewood, please contact Michael Elliot on 0407 201 169.

We're also excited to announce that the brigade will be selling raffle tickets for a large trailer load of firewood. We would greatly appreciate your support by purchasing a ticket—every ticket helps us keep the brigade strong and ready to serve the community.

The brigade is only as strong as the community allows, and we welcome any new members who would like to contribute in any way, big or small. Your involvement makes a real difference.

Thank you for your ongoing support and for helping keep our community safe. If you have any questions, suggestions, or are interested in joining, please feel free to reach out.

> Michael Elliot Talgarno Brigade Captain

BETHANGA-TALGARNO JUNIOR CFA BRIGADE

The Junior CFA team this year has been training very hard for the summer running events. The team is Shune Cole, Will and Riley Green and Conrad Klippel. The 3 March event at Gapsted was cancelled due to very high fire danger.

The Boys attended Springhurst on the 16 March and competed in the 11–13-year-old competition in 5 events and were winners in all events



They also won

11-13 Grand aggregate points trophy

11-13 Junior CFA cup and trophy

On the 30 March the boys went to the state championships in Mooroopna where they had a lot of competition but still had success

Low Down Pump and ladder 5th 21.9 sec Wet hose & ladder. 4th 25.12 sec

Tanker priming, pumping and ladder 3rd 32 sec Hydrant and Tanker. 5th 34.6 sec

Tanker Drawing water from tank. 5th 33 sec Shune Cole come 3rd in the 11-13 male sprint.



Congratulations to the boys on a fantastic season. We *Michael Elliot* are very proud of you all!

Talgarno Brigade Captain A special thanks to John Northey and Shane Bracegirdle for training the boys and the parents for getting kids to training and events.

Jono Green

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.

bethangatalgarnojuniors@gmail.com

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BETHANGA RECREATION RESERVE

Autumn has been a busy time down at the Bethanga Reserve. There were two big events - the Bikes and Blues Show and Shine and the Gymkhana.

The Show and Shine was held for the first time in Bethanga by the Albury Wodonga Motorbike Enthusiasts Club. Monies raised were for the Albury Wodonga Regional Cancer Trust. It was a lovely day with many interesting bikes to look at, as well as a host of games to play and live music to listen to.

The Gymkhana was held on the Saturday of the Easter long weekend and by all accounts was very successful. It's a time when the Bethanga Gymkhana committee and their volunteers shine to provide a wonderful day of events, games and horsemanship.

Bridge St Playground - The Rec Reserve Committee are working with Towong Council to improve the safety of the Bridge St Playground along the Bethanga Creek. All works are being carried out in conjunction with authorised Council direction.

Falling Tree Limb Incident – unfortunately one of the elm trees located on the reserve dropped a limp that fell onto a parked car. We have engaged an arborist to

assess the Rec. Reserve elm trees to see what needs to be done to help preserve them. Please be advised that parking under trees at the Rec. Reserve is done at your own risk.

John Northey 0414 931 442 Camping – in general campers are allowed to stay for 14 days maximum. If a camper needs longer, they must apply in writing to the Rec. Reserve Committee for written permission. Each extended stay must be applied for each time.

> Users of the Rec Reserve need to remember that the Fire Danger Period has been Extended until 23/06/2025. No open fires permitted, please refer to the CFA information.

https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/fire-bansratings-and-restrictions/can-i-or-cant-i

Finally, the Rec. Reserve committee would like to say thank you to Jenny who has been cleaning the Rec. Reserve utilities. Jenny is moving onto other ventures good luck!

Sharon and Jo

You can follow us on Facebook or email us at bethangareserve@gmail.com

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

BETHANGA GOLF CLUB

A Season of Success and Community Spirit

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) has been held and a new committee has been installed. While there may not have been significant changes in our leadership, we remain as enthusiastic and committed as ever to driving the club forward. We'd like to take a moment to personally thank those who have stepped down from the committee for their dedication and service and to warmly welcome the new members who are joining us. Your contributions are invaluable and we look forward to working together to continue growing Bethanga Golf Club.

A quick reminder to all our members: Membership renewals are now due for May and June. Please ensure you've renewed your membership so you can continue to enjoy all the benefits of being part of our fantastic community.

As we embrace a busy period in the golfing calendar, Bethanga Golf Club (BGC) is proud to reflect on a season so far filled with competition, camaraderie and achievements. It's been a fantastic few months, with golf enthusiasts from our club representing us across the district in a range of exciting events. From Myrtleford to

Mansfield, Corowa to Jubilee, Thurgoona to Welaregang, our members have been out in full force, showcasing the social spirit that Bethanga is known for.

A Historic Win at the Mansfield Bowl

One of the standout moments of the season was our Women's Team's victory at the Mansfield Bowl in March. This remarkable win marks a significant achievement in our club's history and is surely just the first of many to come. Congratulations to our dedicated ladies for their hard work and outstanding performance on the day! Closer to home, our much-loved Chook Run has wrapped up for the season with the end of daylight savings. We're already looking forward to its return, as it provides a relaxed, enjoyable opportunity for golfers of all levels to come together and share a few laughs. Stay tuned for updates on when this popular event will resume!



Andrena, Ren, Tracey take the cup at Mansfield

This year's ANZAC Day event was another highlight, with a fantastic turnout that truly captured the spirit of the occasion. It was a perfect blend of high-quality golf, delicious food, and great company. We are grateful to everyone who came out to honour the day, and as always, it was a proud moment for the club to see so many members come together for such an important cause.

In a special return to tradition, we also held our Retallicks Cup this year. The event was a tremendous success, and we want to extend a huge congratulations to Ren and Damo for their fantastic performances on the day. Your dedication and sportsmanship continue to inspire us all!

Upcoming Tournaments & Events

Looking ahead, we have some exciting events on the horizon. The Men's Sand Scrape Championships are just around the corner, and we can't wait to see our talented golfers take to the course. Following closely behind is the Women's Bowl Event, where we hope to continue our winning streak and see more fantastic performances from our women's team.

A big shout-out of thanks goes to everyone who has contributed to the ongoing upkeep of the course. As we prepare for these upcoming events, your hard work ensures that Bethanga Golf Club remains a top-tier destination for golfers and visitors on the peninsula.

Bethanga Golf Club is not just about golf; it's a vibrant hub for our community. We continue to host a variety of events that bring people together, like the recent 'Worn Once Wardrobe' event. These events showcase the diversity of activities at our club and highlight our commitment to fostering community spirit beyond the fairways.

To stay up to date with all the latest happenings at the club, make sure you're following the Bethanga Golf Club Facebook page. It's the best place to get real-time updates on upcoming events, course news, and all the exciting goings-on at the club.

Upcoming, this includes

Sun 25th May - Men's North East District Sand Scrape Championship

Wednesday 11th June - Ladies Bethanga Bowl Saturday 21st June - Bethanga Just Wants to Have Fun -Bethanga Hall.

Thank you to all our members, volunteers and supporters for making this such a memorable period for our club. We can't wait to see what the rest of the season holds!



BONEGILLA HALL CRAFT GROUP

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

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

TALGARNO CRAFT GROUP

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

Joan Elliot 0498 208 308

PALMS

PENINSULA ACTIVITY, LAUGHTER, MOVEMENT & SOCIABLE

Run by Tallangatta Health Service, this group provides a range of activities with a chance to meet new people and make new friends, a great avenue for companionship and keeping active in the community.

When: 1st & 3rd Wednesday

Time: Starts 2 pm **Where:** Bethanga Hall

For more information contact the MCHC office

on Ph (02) 6071 5238 for further details



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Talgarno Landcare Group

Still not much rain

On Saturday 10 May we held a roadside clean up day covering the area from the Bethanga Bridge to Wises Creek Road. Our small group of volunteers man-

aged to collect a significant amount of rubbish and did make the unfortunate observation of some roadside dumping of large amounts of rubbish along the river road in parts.

We also had our free plant giveaway after the cleanup. Simon Feillafe brought out a great variety of very healthy -looking trees for us.





On **28 May** we are hosting a Farm Succession Planning Workshop at the Talgarno Hall with the support of Riverine Plains and Towong Shire. Please be sure to register for this event which will be catered with a BBQ dinner https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/farm-succession-planning-workshop-tickets-1319608056219? aff=oddtdtcreator

Watch this space for an update on our Raptor presentation which we are currently organising.

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

COMMITTEE

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

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learning centre

This year is truly flying by with so much happening and about to happen at Bellbridge Early Years Learning Centre (BEYLC)!

If you commemorated Anzac Day at Bethanga Memorial Hall, you may have seen some of our little ones led up to the cenotaph by our wonderful educator, Lauren. The children spent a lot of time carefully working on their wreath, making for a truly heartfelt

offering to our Service Members, both past and present. Thank you to all who assisted with BEYLC's Anzac Day presence.





Parents may have noticed that changes have continued to occur in the outdoor space. The Centre's vision is set to improve safety, enhance supervision and provide climbing and gross motor skill opportunities for all age groups. Friends of BEYLC are excited to finally be able to contribute more exciting equipment to the Centre, which could include items like a mud kitchen, cubby house or music wall!

Older children have once again been enjoying My Future Academy (formerly Blue Earth), getting out and active as the weather cools down. Each fortnight, one afternoon

on the tennis court is spent connecting little minds and little bodies using mindfulness – an integral skill to grow as they do. What does this look like? Throwing and catching balls, weight bearing activities, running, jumping, hopping and balancing and playing games with specific rules to learn and

explore. The most important thing – they love it!



Finally, we would like to thank each and every person who bought a bulb from our bulb fundraising activity. This has been wildly successful, raising \$800 (our most successful bulb fundraiser yet)! We are super excited to put this money to good use for the betterment of our children and will be sure to keep you posted on any new developments. Please always feel free to reach out to our committee through the Facebook page: Friends of Bellbridge Early Years Learning Centre with any questions, feedback or (especially) if you would like to join the committee.

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

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

Editorial Team- Julie Miller (0419 339 679), Elizabeth Wood, Di Singline (0452 424 248) Kerrie Stephenson, Julie de Hennin, Lea Casey, Jacki Eckert

Treasurer-Kerrie Stephenson 6020 1146

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

Enquiries and contributions email info@berringacommunitynews.com .au

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 can picked up at the General store. For those in Granya with PO boxes copies are available in the community mailbox at the Granya Hall.

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

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

