

Berringa Community News

Winter 2022

News and views from the residents of Bell-
bridge, Bethanga, Granya & Talgarno

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David Cottee

The market from the sky Picture by David Cottee

Peninsula Seasonal Market at Bellbridge

On Sunday the 1st of May we held our fourth Peninsula Seasonal market. This was our first market at Bellbridge and the beautiful setting at the Boat Club didn't disappoint. With a variety of new stalls showcasing our local talents, we saw between 1500 and 2000 people come through. Our new food stalls and coffee vans were a hit, with a range of options available for everyone. The kids were well entertained with face painting and pony rides.

A huge thankyou to all the stall holders, volunteers and committee members who made the day such a success. We would also like to thank the Towong Shire for their support.

Our next market will be in Spring so keep an eye on our socials for a date and location.

Peninsula Seasonal Market Committee



Stall holder Peter Klein with his doggy friends Harry & Vespa

COMMUNITY REPORTS

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

The Gymkhana Rebounds

I don't think we could have asked for a more perfect day to run the Gymkhana this year! The sun was shining, the horses were raring to go and there were delicious smells wafting from the barbecue.

We kept a lot of the favourites for this year's event – the rocket launch, the dog jump and busking and we added a few new activities that we think we'll keep – the market stalls, cheese boards and EFTPOS!



This year, we had over 700 adults come to our event (that's not including kids!). We've raised a fair amount of money, which will be going towards running the Gymkhana next year, and the remainder will be split amongst the community groups that helped us out.

We had lots of help to run the Gymkhana this year, from both our local community groups, local businesses who donated items for the silent auction or items for the running of the events throughout the day. We were even lucky enough to have a few sponsors donate money for us to purchase prizes.

We would like to thank the following for their help and donations this year:

Rotary Club of Bellbridge
Bethanga Primary School
Talgarno Primary School
Bellbridge Early Years Learning Centre
Border District Show jumping Club
Bethanga Recreation Reserve
Bethanga CFA and Juniors
Talgarno CFA
Berringa CERT
Berringa Community News
Captain Pete
Peninsula Seasonal Markets
Sporting Horse Australia
Kelly's Mitre 10
The Pearce Family
Bec Brown Hairdressing
Parkside Produce
Lens of Jess Photography
Jones St Butcher
Lake Hume Resort
Total Tools Albury
Fashion Fingers Albury
Bethanga Blooms
Bethanga Hotel
Bethanga General Store
Monumental Confections
Big W Albury
Urban Graze

Intensity and Regent Cinemas
All-Music Albury
Alana and Dave Murray
Natalie Baker Interiors
Towong Shire Council
Colin and Pam
Corcoran Parker Pty Ltd
Brian Unthank Rural
Hutchinson Civil
Scott Carroll Plumbing
Wodonga Pumps and Mowers

... and likely a few more that I've forgotten and I'm sorry!



We'd also like to thank the Bethanga and surrounds community for ensuring that our first post-COVID event was a success – we wouldn't have been able to do it without you! We really do live in the best community ever – looking forward to seeing you all at the Gymkhana in 2023!

Jess Grossrieder
Secretary – Bethanga Gymkhana Inc.



Fundraiser in support of Carolyn Packer.

Catholic College Wodonga are organising several fundraisers and activities to support 'Fight MND' and 'MND Victoria'. They are selling beanies and socks as well as hosting a Big Freeze with a number of local celebrities and a community trivia night. This is all in support of Bethanga local and long time teacher of Catholic College Wodonga, Carolyn Packer. Carolyn taught at CCW for 24 years and when she was diagnosed with Motor Neuron Disease in 2021 the school community were devastated by the news. Coming together to support Carolyn, the school hopes to raise \$20k towards research into this terrible disease.

Donations can be made to

<https://www.mnd.org.au/my-fundraising/473/catholic-college-wodonga-mnd-fundraising-donation-page>

Progress on Talgarno Tennis Courts and Shelter

As you will all know, there have been extensive delays in the Sports and Recreation Victoria project that was agreed in August 2020. The Committee of Management of the Reserve (the Hall Committee) has had numerous meetings and discussions with the project manager and more recently with Towong Shire to try to overcome the delays. The lowest quote received for the upgrade of the tennis courts was about 45% above the available funds for both the tennis courts and the BBQ shelter, largely due to the extra cost related to the addition of a netball court overlaid on the tennis courts.

After much discussion, Sports and Recreation Victoria has just this month agreed to adjust the scope of the project by removing the netball court. The tenderers will now be asked to submit revised quotes and these are to be presented to Council for approval at the next Council meeting in mid June. The Infrastructure Department in Towong Shire has advised the Hall Committee that they are expecting new quotes to come in within budget and that they are hopeful for completion of the work in September 2022. They will provide an update to the Hall Committee after the council meeting.

In the case of the BBQ shelter, the Hall Committee has submitted schematic plans for the shelter and these have been used by Council in preparing the Request for Quotations which are to be sent out to prospective suppliers by May 23 with a two week response period. It is hoped that the decision on the contract would be made in June and that the shelter would be completed within three months.

*Greg Hayes
Secretary*

Talgarno Recreation Reserve Committee of Management

TALGARNO RECREATION RESERVE

Notice is given of a

PUBLIC MEETING

to be held at **Talgarno Hall** on **Sunday 12 June**
commencing at **10.30 am**.

The purpose of the meeting is to nominate no less than three (3) or no more than nine (9) persons as the Committee of Management for the Talgarno Recreation Reserve for a term of three years. The current committee's term will expire on 31 July 2022. All positions will be declared vacant and nominations will be accepted prior to or at the meeting. 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 by contacting your local Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning office or at the meeting. For further enquiries please contact the Secretary, Greg Hayes on 0419 609 042



Update on the Three Halls Project

As announced in the last BCN, Bushfire Recovery Victoria (BRV) has provided a grant of \$564,842 for upgrades to the community halls in Bethanga, Granya and Talgarno. The grant is being auspiced through Landcare Victoria Incorporated (LVI) and oversight for the project is being provided by the Three Halls Working Group. The working group comprises two representatives from each of the Committees of Management (CoM) of the halls, two representatives of the Berringa Peninsula Community Network and is chaired by Hugh Hanna representing Bethanga Landcare. The Working Group is meeting frequently at this stage and will appoint a Project Manager very shortly.

Seeking Local trades and suppliers

Owing to the requirements of LVI, all works are to be contracted via a Head Contractor, which will in turn use sub-contractors to carry out the works. The Working Group hopes that to a large extent the sub-contracts will be carried out by local tradespeople and to this end is seeking expressions of interest from licenced and insured tradespeople. Simply provide your contact details, licence details and trade to 3hallsproject@gmail.com and we will inform you with details of works as they are released.

It is hoped that the project will be conclude by mid 2023 but there will need to be some flexibility because of building materials supply issues and trades availability.

Each hall committee determined a list of projects which were costed and included in the grant application. Given the increases in costs since the project inception each of the halls have determined their priority list as shown below



Bethanga Hall

- Supply/Install 6.4kw solar battery
- Prime and paint hall and supper room roof
- Replace damaged/missing weatherboards
- Paint all external facades
- Supply/install solar hybrid bore pump
- Upgrade switchboard to accommodate 240volt generator
- Supply/install 23000ltr rain water tank
- Seal main front doors
- Install/supply tv & heavy duty mobile trolley for internet/meetings
- Polish hall and stage floors
- Paint stage side walls
- Replace carpet with commercial grade carpet in change rooms
- Replace flouro tube batten stage lights with led batten lights
- Supply/install illuminated EXIT sign



Granya Hall

- Replace roof and guttering
- Construct a portico
- Clean/paint external wall cladding including window timbers
- Repair storeroom
- Re-stumping of stage
- Install fireproof doors either side of hall
- Upgrade switchboard, include accommodation for 240volt generator
- supply/install reverse cycle air-conditioning
- Supply/install solar pump on bore
- Supply/install 30000ltr bore water tank
- Purchase interior furniture
- Install sprinkler system on roof
- Supply/Install outdoor furniture
- Vermin treatment
- Engineers report for termite damage
- Hazmat



Talgarno Hall

- Supply/install reverse cycle air-conditioning
- Insulation in roof & door seals
- Replace louvre style windows
- External & internal lighting upgrade to led
- Upgrade kitchen (benches/cupboards/painting/lighting)
- Upgrade switchboard, include accommodation for 240volt generator
- Supply/install solar system and battery
- Supply/install rain water tank for BBQ shelter
- Install/supply tv & heavy-duty mobile trolley for internet/meetings
- Vermin proof hall
- Exit & other signage
- Supply/install doors on open fireplace

Julie Miller 3hallsproject@gmail.com

Berringa Peninsula Community Network (BPCN)



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

Nibbles and Networking Event



Following on from the inaugural 'Meet and Greet' event in November last November, the BPCN held a 'Nibbles and Networking' evening to support local business owners and help strengthen community connections.

The Lake Hume Boat Club venue was once again, a central meeting point, which looked very welcoming, decorated with beautiful autumn vines.

Approximately 55 people attended and enjoyed socialising and connecting with each other. Local businesses were used to provide their services - Ren Howard of Gosh Creative for the advertising, Danielle Chettleburgh for the delicious savoury food, Laura Hovar

for the beautiful sweet treats and Jo Webster for wine from Websters Estate.

We were fortunate to have Helen Haines and Stephen Williams attend, who both spoke briefly to the crowd, sharing their views on how they could address local issues if they were elected and the importance of building our local community connections.

Paul Clancy from Towong Shire spoke about establishing a Lake Hume Business group. If you would like to become part of this group, please email Paul:

paul.clancy@towong.vic.gov.au

The lucky door prize, a lovely wooden vase made by Stacey Rich, was won by Ren Howard.

All in all, it was a very successful and enjoyable evening, with many new faces and businesses joining previous attendees. We would like to thank all who 'networked and nibbled' for making it such a worthwhile event.

*Rowena, Emma and Di
berringapcn@gmail.com*



HOME CARE PACKAGE PROGRAM

The My Community and Home Care (MCHC) department has commenced 2022 with the launch of the Home Care Package Program.

A Home Care Package helps you live independently in your own home for as long as you can. The program provides a Government subsidy towards a package of care services and case management to meet your needs, designed for individuals aged 65 and over with more complex and higher care needs than is delivered by the Commonwealth Home Support Program.

To be eligible, you are required to be assessed by Aged Care Assessment Service (ACAS); this process begins with registration or referral to My Aged Care. This is usually arranged by a general practitioner, nurse, or other health service provider, although you or a family member can also request an assessment. Once allocated to you, a package is available for as long as it meets your level of need or circumstances. Tallangatta Health Service offers experienced staff who have the skills to ensure the right services are fitted to your needs and package.

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



Prospects for the Season Ahead

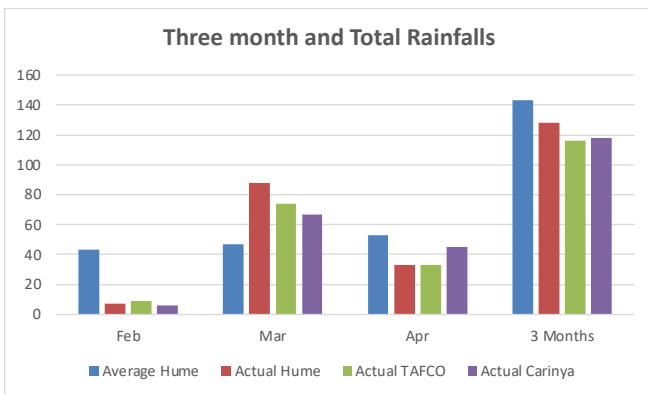
Thank you to Greg Hayes who has agreed to regularly contribute weather related articles for Berringa Community News readers.



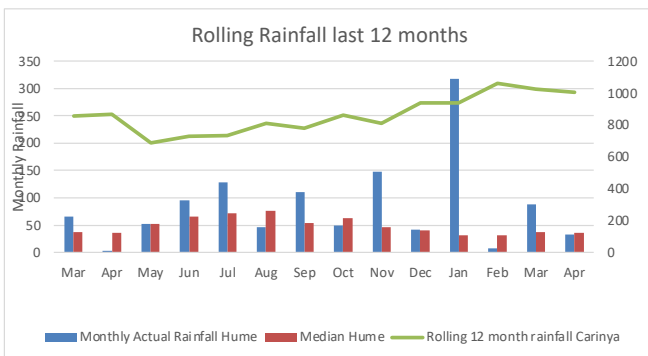
Rainfall Round-up

BOM got it a bit wrong having suggested that rainfall for early autumn would be slightly above average whereas it was slightly below.

The historical average rainfall for February to end April is 143 mm and Hume Reservoir had 128 mm (90%) I had 118 mm and Jim & Julie (TAFCO) had 116 mm. February was a shocker, the driest since 2009 but March was much wetter than normal. April was a little drier than normal. Over the past year, there seems to have been a bit of a pattern of above average rainfall in one month followed by below average in the next one.



We have had over 1000 mm over the past 12 months which is well above the average of around 700 mm. This kept soil moisture levels higher than normal over summer (hence the massive summer grass and weed growth) but root zone moisture levels right now (end May) are a little below average. In fact, for some of us, you could say that we haven't had a proper autumn break.

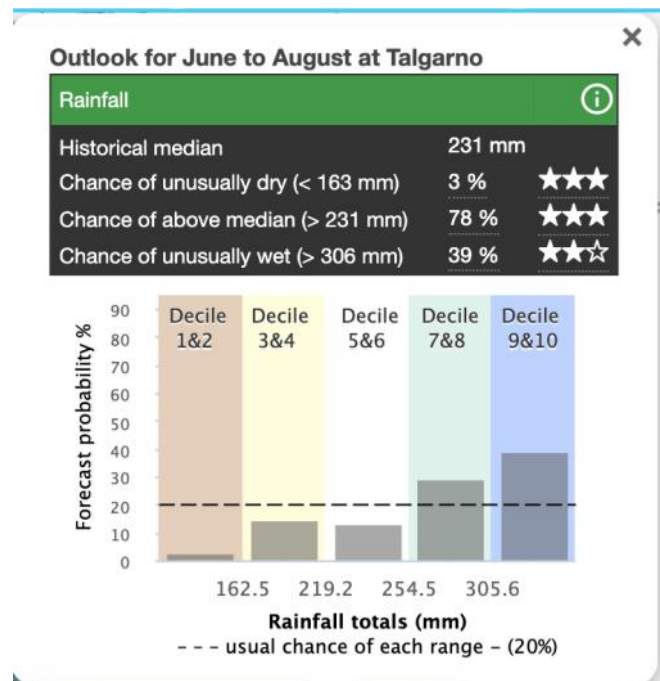


Also, the Southern Annular Mode remained in a positive mode which brought easterly winds and rain to eastern Victoria but not much of that reached us.

Prospects for Winter (May to end July)

The La Niña pattern has remained in place and is expected to revert to neutral levels by July. There is, however, some suggestion that we could have three La Niña events in a row which is highly unusual. Some models suggest that we are moving towards a negative IOD (Indian Ocean Dipole) which could further boost chances of wetter than normal weather.

The BOM forecast is that rainfall is slightly likely to be above the median over the June to August period.



Dale Grey reports that for the May to July period, 8 of the 12 models he follows suggest wetter than average rainfall, and 4 neutral. This suggests that we will have a wetter than average winter. Fortunately, the models suggest that the temperatures will be average or warmer than normal which will be good for pastures and stock.

The rainfall pattern over autumn was unusual. Even though the La Niña pattern persisted which brought good moisture sources into the east coast of Australia we missed most of the big rainfalls.

Greg Hayes



Bec's Banter

I look forward to this time of year to get lots of the work done in preparation for spring.

Checking your trees and shrubs for any pruning requirements – cut out any dead and diseased wood. Look for branches that are crossing over each other, growing inwards or just out of place and prune them out .

Opening up a tree or shrub a little bit helps with air circulation, helping reduce pest and disease.

It's bare root tree planting time... can't hide my joy!

There is ALWAYS room for a new tree. look for colour and something a bit different.

Depending on your needs, check the western side of your home to see if there might be space to plant a gorgeous shade tree for the summer months.

If you have any grapes growing, including ornamental, give them a nice big prune and clean up. It results in better fruit production and keeps the Ornamental grape in check. They grow so quickly in spring, you can prune them right back to main leader branches and have gorgeous new clean growth for the new season.



Beer trap

The cool and wet weather is always a delight for the snails and slugs. Particularly if you have new winter bulbs or seedlings. Keep them in check by using beer traps throughout your garden.

Get all those delicious crispy salad greens into the vegie patch - so delicious with a potato frittata.

These days it seems we will be paying more for our fresh fruit and vegetables. Planting garlic and onions really does not take up much space and they are very easy to grow with just a bit of preparation. Plant your bulbs in prepared soil, keep it weeded

and sit back and wait for that amazing fresh garlic and onions from your plot. Garlic is generally quite expensive, so growing your own just makes sense. Once you realize how easy it is, you can generally just have a patch and allow it to grow. One of my friends uses the green tops of her garlic if she runs out.

It seems so far away, but preparing for spring and summer planting, starts now. Makes life so much easier if we prepare a site now, if you know where you might want a new garden or tree planted out in spring.

It's drizzling, but I'm out to get some new plots prepared for lots of new flowers..

If you need flowers for any occasion, don't forget to text me on 0410 594 282

Bec
Bethanga Blooms

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

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

See you all at the next Peninsula Seasonal market





Berringa Peninsula Works Update

Towong Shire are continuing to progress remediation and repair works across the Berringa Peninsula following the January storms.

Immediate repair works on the Bellbridge foreshore, Sirs Road, the unsealed section of Lake Road and Springdale Road have been completed.

However, a partial road closure will remain in place on Lake Road until the water levels reduce to enable further investigation and repairs.

While debris has been removed, traffic lights and water barriers have been installed to ensure safe access to

Springdale Road bridge. A partial closure will remain in place until design and reconstruction works can be completed.

While rock beaching on the Bridge Street culvert is now complete a partial road closure will remain in place until a replacement guardrail is installed in September.

There are also further works programmed for Roy Williams Park over coming months.

Activating Lake Hume Masterplan



Help make Lake Hume the ultimate recreation and tourism destination

About the Plan

The development of a masterplan for Lake Hume was identified as a priority project under the recently developed Destination Management Plan.

The Activating Lake Hume Masterplan will provide a clear direction on the future development of Lake Hume and identify the initiatives, strategies and projects such as the proposed redevelopment of the Hume Boat Club, to get there.

We know that when working to secure state and federal funding to support the delivery of projects across the Shire, having a masterplan that shows our communities priorities is key.

We are seeking your input, ideas and aspirations to help make Lake Hume one of Towong Shire's ultimate recreation and tourism destinations.

How To Have Your Say

Join us at a community information session:

Hume Boat Club
6.00pm to 8.00pm
Monday 30 May

Tallangatta
Rowen Park Recreation Reserve
6.00pm to 7.00pm
Tuesday 31 May

RSVP via towongshirecouncil.eventbrite.com.au

Meet with the project manager:

to secure a meeting contact us on 1300 365 222 or info@towong.vic.gov.au

Fill in a short survey by 19 June 2022:

Visit www.towong.vic.gov.au/1-council/projects/current-projects/activating-lake-hume-master-plan

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

COMMUNITY NOTICES

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

Wymah Ferry

Operating hours

7am – 8pm

During daylight saving

6am – 9pm

(NB no meal closure times)

OUTSIDE THESE HOURS

Ring the contractor,

6020 2038

For information on bridge and ferry closures: www.livetraffic.com

CORRYONG BUS & FREIGHT

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

Daily Monday to Friday

Maurie Johnston

0427 240 077

Women's Health Clinics

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

All ages welcome

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

Sue Reid 6071 5270

G ranya Museum
Specialising in
pioneer families.

Open by appointment
6072 9540

Talgarno Hall

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

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

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

Use of pizza oven free - but booking essential

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

For bookings contact Anthea 6020 1134

Bethanga Soldiers Memorial Hall

Hall and Supper Room Available for Hire

Functions and Meetings

Day / Night

Air Conditioned / Heated

Competitive Rates

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

Granya Hall

Fees for the hall hire

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

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

Catering \$8 a head

Community Meeting \$15

Bookings and Information contact

Kim Stewart

kstewart557@gmail.com

0412 672 629

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.



THE TALGARNO CEMETERY TRUST

The Talgarno Cemetery Trust is seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified members of the community who would be interested in becoming honorary trust members. Women and those from a diverse background are actively encouraged to seek appointment.

Cemetery trust members are appointed by the Governor in Council for a term of up to five years on the recommendation of the Minister for Health. Cemetery trusts are responsible for the proper and efficient management of the public cemeteries under their control, including planning for future cemeteries services and the preservation of local history.

Being appointed to a cemetery trust provides successful applicants with a unique opportunity to develop their competencies as a board member. The Department of Health provides free governance training to all trust members.

Current trust members whose terms of appointment are due to expire may apply for reappointment as part of a competitive selection process.

More information about the role of cemetery trust members is available at: <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/cemeteries-and-crematoria/class-b-cemetery-trust-appointments>

To register your interest please contact The Talgarno Cemetery Trust as follows within two weeks of the date of this advertisement:

The Talgarno Cemetery Trust contact details: 0412 433 499

The Victorian Government is committed to ensuring that government boards and committees reflect the rich diversity of the Victorian community. This includes appropriate representation of women, people of all ages, Aboriginal people, people with disability, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, gender diverse and intersex people.

F21068

We like to feature photos of local events and places. If you have photos you want to share please email us or send photos to info@berringacommunitynews.com.au



Maternal & Child Health

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

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

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

Bonegilla Hall

Hall available for hire.

Craft Group held every Thursday
10am-2pm.

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

Anyone interested in Zumba classes?

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

Wedding Congratulations



Tom Packer, son of Carolyn and Lawrence (dec.) Packer married his partner of 11 years, Daisy Cleal, on Saturday 14th of May at St Francis Catholic Church in Bethanga.

Tom and Daisy met in Melbourne in 2011 when Daisy came to Australia to work. In 2013 they decided to move to Bethanga and settle before starting their family. In 2014 they welcomed their daughter Scarlett, followed by their son Archie in 2016. Tom and Daisy had been living in England for the past 3 years with Daisy's family, until recently moving back home to Bethanga at the end of last year.

It was a beautiful ceremony in the same church that Carolyn and Lawrence were married in some 40 years ago! Followed by a lively celebration at the Bethanga Hotel. Mr and Mrs Packer would like to thank the community for their well wishes and are excited to head off on their honeymoon shortly.

In Memorium

Karin McRae

11 March 1948 – 9 May 2022



Born in Thornbury, Melbourne, Karin attended Thornbury Girls' School before moving to Beaumaris with her parents and younger sister.

Karin had an incredible passion to be an achiever, a trait that was to be a hallmark throughout her working life. Her first job, at 14, was at a butcher where she needed to be tough, quick thinking and able to converse with all types

of customers. In her teens, Karin joined a Richmond dancing school, where she made friends with another motivated teen named Denise Drysdale. It was probably this environment that cemented her lifelong passion for the Richmond Footy Club. This was the era where/when dances were a meeting place for teenagers and where Karin met a young country lad, Malcolm McRae. They became good friends and when they went their separate ways, continued to keep in touch. When Malcolm returned from serving in Vietnam, they reunited and the beginning of their lifelong union of devotion and support to each other, began.

Karin, Malcolm and their son, Stephen lived for some time in Mentone. Karin's acceptance of hard work and the (desire to help them 'get on their feet') resulted in her working at a Lucas factory, assembling car alternators,

where arriving home with solder burns on her hands didn't even deter her. At this stage Malcolm had left the army and was studying to be a teacher and plans to move to the country after his graduation were realised. Wangaratta was their destination and it was here that Karin decided to complete her education, at night school, gaining her VCE. A new venture awaited. Karin and a friend set up a local catering business which proved very popular and helped develop her passion for food.

Malcolm was then transferred to Bethanga and after a few years living in a Department house, they built their lovely home on a hill overlooking the town. It was here that Karin sought new challenges. She worked at Jacqueline Eve Fashions in Albury where she began a weekly fashion spot on Albury's TV station AMV4. However, again a change was in the air. She decided to sit for the Public service entrance exam for the Taxation Department, a job which she absolutely loved and excelled at. Her team of girls, who remained true and loyal friends, met monthly to chat and share a laugh.

Karin had many hobbies and loves in her life, including softball player and coach, qualified apiarist producing honey, qualified wine maker, gardening, pole walking, water aerobics, nutritionist (health and fitness), novelist (writing over 30 short stories), sewing and crafts and card making ... and she gave 100% to them.

Karin will be remembered with love and fondness by her family and friends.

*Thanks to Malcolm for use of the eulogy
Di Singline*

Michael Edward Childs

22 June 1957 – 19 May 2022



*Mick's brother Dale,
spoke of Mick's early life.*

Mick was born at Nowra on 22.06.1957 and at just 4 mths old was back in hospital with golden staph. He was so ill that his Mum called for a minister and had him baptised. It seemed that he may not survive. At 2 years of age, the family moved from the dairy farm to Shellharbour where Mick started school. He liked the teachers and enjoyed making friends and playing games. A move to another dairy farm at Kiama, when he was 7, allowed him time to enjoy farm life, the animals, playing in the creek, riding his horse,

etc. As he got older, he spent time fiddling with tools in the shed or trying to fix something. He made a billy cart and was really interested in why something wasn't working properly. After another move, and having completed his schooling, Mick got a mechanics apprenticeship with a Taree car dealership and also became interested in motorbikes. He continued as a mechanic until he moved to Albury with his girlfriend. Lake Hume was a great attraction as he loved the water, fishing and boats. In 1984 he and Vicki married and moved to Bethanga, where Kylie and Nathan were born and where he could live "a quiet life with no fuss." After their marriage broke down and Vicki and the children had moved away, Mick met Maz at her sister's wedding in Bethanga. As their partnership grew, Mick became step-father to Maz's 3 boys. He also had 5 grandchildren, 1 step-grandchild and 3 step-great grandchildren.

(Mick worked at Uncle Bens and Twin City Trucks for many years, before setting up his own mechanics

business in Bethanga. His much loved job driving the school bus was one he looked forward to every day.

Bethanga was 'home' for Mick and whenever he crossed back over Bethanga bridge, he was relieved to be home again.

In conclusion, Dale thanked the community for their amazing support after the flood's destruction of Mick's garage.

Ken Merkel spoke of Mick as a close and loyal friend of 30+ years, a kind and caring person who would go out of his way to help a mate.

Mick and Ken both worked in the automotive industry and enjoyed regular chats and chacking each other over Ford versus Holden. Although they had opposing local businesses, they agreed there was plenty of work for them both and they were able to support and help each other on many occasions. Mick often shared bus stories with Ken, including on one occasion, while cleaning out the bus and checking for lost property Mick was surprised to find a little one sound asleep on the back seat; his siblings having got off at Bellbridge, leaving him behind – what a stir that caused! He loved the kids and only occasionally had to stop the bus, asking a misbehaving child if he/she wanted to get off. Compliance quickly followed! He enjoyed going on school sports days and excursions, joining in and helping where possible.

Ian Cuss, Cuss Buslines' owner and Mick's boss for 15 years said Mick was a unique man, who did things his way and who needed to feel he belonged and had ownership. He was always loyal, reliable and trustworthy.

Mick loved his school run, loved the kids and looked forward to it every day. Whilst employed by Ian, he never required a relief driver and even on the day of his mother's funeral, didn't take the whole day off as was offered.

When the new Cuss bus was purchased in 2014, Ian decided to put 'Mick's Bus' on the door side panel, in recognition and appreciation of his loyalty. Of course, Mick was thrilled and very proud.



Mick had a special way with his time sheets and workshop invoices – they often came with an accompanying comment or story. Some from Ian's files reveal Mick's sense of humour:

“End of term, you beauty. No more clock watching and the parents can have the little buggers for a few weeks.”

“Nice and quiet this week – some kids on camp. Bloody hell, they're back and noisier than ever on the bus.”

“No BPS today. Teachers' curriculum day. Have to learn things about kids. Just come on the bus run and they will learn about kids.”

Mick will be sorely missed by the school children and staff, the community and the bus service ... and in Ian's final words, all that is left to say is “The little buggers are at school, the run is finished, your job is complete. Go fishing.”

... and in Mick's words “It will be right.”

With thanks to Dale, Ken and Ian for access to their notes
Di Singline



Bunting drawn by Bethanga Primary School in memory of Mick. This one drawn by Melody Parker. Mick used to wait with her in the park until her parents came to collect her.

A special 'thank you' from Mick.

The huge storm which roared down Bethanga Creek, spilling over the banks and into Mick's garage and workshop, inundating everything before it and destroying machinery and his many tools was unbelievable. The townsfolk quickly rallied and organised a clean-up and donations of money to help Mick and Maz at such a devastating time. Mick was extremely grateful for everyone's support and was very humbled by the experience. He wanted to put out a 'thankyou' to the extended community and approached me to help him write a note for the next edition of the BCN. Sadly, his health deteriorated, he was admitted to ICU and we weren't able to sit down together to write it.

In honouring his wishes, there's added sadness that it is not in his 'voice' and that he will not see it 'in print'.

Rest peacefully, Mick.

Di Singline

Bethanga Hotel



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

What's happening at the pub...

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

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

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

Please abide by the COVID restrictions, Double vaccination required

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

Kate Middleton

PLAYGROUP

Berringa Playgroup is up and running again!
Hosted by Bethanga Primary School alternate Mondays (excl public holidays) during Victorian school terms.

Dates: 28 February, 28 March, 9 May, 23 May, 6 June, 20 June, 18 July, 1 August, 15 August, 29 August, 12 September, 10 October, 24 October, 7 November, 21 November, 5 December (COVIDSafe settings apply)

Time: 9.30am to 11.00am

Contact: Kate Singline on 0422 725 147 or Chantal Gardner on 0417 412 471

Come and join in the **FUN!**

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BETHANGA

ART IN THE AFTERNOON

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

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

Next gathering Sunday the 5th June, 1-4pm
Bethanga Soldiers Memorial Hall

CLUBS AND GROUPS

BERRINGA CERT



May 16 – 22 was volunteer week. I once again contemplated our small team of volunteers and pondered the future of the CERT team. We have 10 members with an average of 13 years of service. Most weeks we provide 24 hours coverage each day. Each team member is expected to be on call 20 hours per month. Three team members, each closer in age to 70 than 60, cover most of the daytime shifts and are on call up to 100 hours per week, including the weekends. The other team members give what time they can. We average one callout a week, with most of our callouts between 7 am and 6 pm.

Our rural communities have always relied on one another for support in our time of need. In times of community emergencies or crisis, for example bushfire, the community rallies together but for ongoing support for individuals in need, volunteer support is harder to provide.

Our volunteer emergency services model is based on rural workers or those working in local business being available 24 hours a day to attend emergency events. In these “busy times” (does that mean previous generations had nothing to do) more people have jobs outside their community and are not available to respond on weekdays.

In addition, over recent years the emergency services agencies have demanded more and more training and checks before anyone can join as a volunteer. In Ambulance Victoria before joining CERT, you need to have completed an interview, reference checks, police check, driver’s licence check, obtained a working with children check, completed online learning, plus two weekends face to face training, 1 day driver trainer and 1 weekend manual handling. There is a 12-month probationary period. All up, it can be up to two years between “I would like to join CERT” and having an authority to practice.

The future for a local CERT team able to provide daytime coverage is uncertain unless we have more people available during the day. Will no CERT team make a difference to our community? In most cases no, locals may have to wait an extra 15 minutes until an ambulance arrives, but it could also be the difference between life and death.

We do need new members. It is a bit of process to go through, but it provides an opportunity to support our community, get to know other locals and learn new skills.

Please contact me for more information or apply on www.ambulance.vic.gov.au/careers/become-a-first-responder/

CERT Committee AGM

CERT Committee AGM will be held at Bethanga Hall on **Monday August 15 at 7 pm**. For more information contact President Carol Marshall on 6026 4041

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

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

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

ROTARY CLUB OF BELLBRIDGE LAKE HUME INC.

Lake Hume Cycle Challenge this year was a new format commencing from Ebdon Reserve and incorporating 4 rides. Rider refreshments were provided at Old Tallangatta and Hume Boat Club area. In addition a BBQ and liquid refreshments were provided to all participants at the completion of their events. Almost 400 people participated in the events and enjoyed a great social event on a beautiful sunny autumn day.

Approximately \$20,000 will be donated to the Cancer Wellness Centre from the proceeds in running this event.

Seniors Christmas in July

The Rotary Club will hold its annual Christmas in July this year on Sunday July 10th after a two-year recess due to COVID restrictions. The function will be held at the Bethanga Hall commencing at 12mid-day. A two course meal and drinks will be provided free of charge to the Peninsula seniors. A bit of foot tapping music is always enjoyed by those attending.

If you know someone who may be in need of transport or would like to attend, please contact Rotarians on 6026 4305 or 6026 4365.

Other forthcoming events include the Lake Hume Fishing event in October and Christmas Carols in December.

*Keep safe and happy
Andrew Christy*

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

BETHANGA CRICKET CLUB

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

PENINSULA MEN'S SHED



6 Sirl Street, Bethanga

Anyone interested in joining the group would be most welcome. It's a great way to share and learn from each other, at the same time as being a social outing.

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

Member meetings are held at the shed on the first Tuesday of every month at 7pm.

Phil Craig, President

TALGARNO TENNIS CLUB

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

BETHANGA CFA

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

WINTER FIRE SAFETY

It is very important to **inspect your electric blankets** by looking and feeling for damage to the wires inside the blanket plus the power supply lead.

Faulty electric blankets can start fires.

It is also dangerous to leave electric blankets on when you are not using them.

Check and clean your heater flue annually. Burning unseasoned wood produces more creosote build-up inside the flue. Eventually it will block the flue and/or catch fire.

Check and clean dust and lint from your heater fan and clothes dryer.

If you dry clothes in front of your heater keep them and any other flammable items, "A metre from the heater".

Install a 1kg Dry chemical fire extinguisher in your home. These cost around \$20 from Bunnings and can save your home.

Let's have a warm and safe Winter

LOCAL INCIDENTS

9th March 2022 7:46 PM
Hazardous Material, Bellbridge. The Brigade was paged to a suspected Gas leak in the Craig Drive area, Bellbridge. Tanker 1, 2 and the Ultralight responded.

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After investigating for about an hour, no leak was discovered and the area was declared safe after assistance from VicPol and FRV76 (Wodonga) with their gas detector.

29th April 2022 04:56 PM

Bethanga Hotel. The brigade was paged to a structure fire at the hotel. On arrival, the fire had been extinguished by staff and patrons, the pub had been evacuated, around 60-80 patrons. The Brigade undertook

investigations to ensure the area was safe and the building was handed back and reopened about an hour later. A window frame around the office was damaged. A fire investigator attended the next day with the cause undetermined.

CFA FIRE RESTRICTIONS

In Towong Shire, the Fire restrictions have ended. Please note, that Towong Shire still require a permit for burning in residential areas of Bethanga and Bellbridge. Please contact the Shire if you have any questions or concerns.

VIC EMERGENCY APP AND WEBSITE

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

BRIGADE ELECTIONS

The Brigade held its AGM and elections on the 11th of May 2022. A new BMT was elected. They will formally take over on the 1st of July. We thank the retiring members of the BMT for their hard work over the years.

The officers elected are:

CAPTAIN:	Shane Bracegirdle
1 ST LIEUTENANT:	Ben Mitchell
2 ND LIEUTENANT:	Daniel Stahl
3 RD LIEUTENANT:	Zac Hirt
4 TH LIEUTENANT:	Sean Farrar
5 TH LIEUTENANT:	Pete Arkins

Congratulations to all members who have been elected to the BMT

CONTACTS

<i>Ben Mitchell, Captain</i>	<i>0411 080 277</i>
<i>After 1 July Shane Bracegirdle</i>	<i>0459 362 395</i>
	<i>bethangacfacaptain@gmail.com</i>
<i>Tracey Woodhouse, Secretary</i>	<i>0413 708 302</i>
	<i>bethangacfasecretary@gmail.com</i>
<i>Ron Evans, Community Safety Liaison</i>	<i>02 6026 4301</i>

TALGARNO RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

Since the last Berringa News our brigade has been operationally very quiet. We received only one call out in April, which resulted in our brigade turning back to station not long after the pager alarm.

The damp conditions of Summer have continued into Autumn. This resulted in the declaration of the end of the 21/22 fire season on 21 March 2022. This was one of the shortest declared fire seasons we have seen in years.

Brigade AGM and elections

We welcome all brigade members to our AGM on Thursday 2 June 7pm Talgarno Hall this year. We will be holding the AGM online on MS Teams as well as face to

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face this year. This will enable all members to take part in the meeting and elections. We will send the agenda and link to MS Teams in the next few weeks.

The presiding officer from CFA will declare all positions vacant and we encourage all members to consider nominating for a position. This will help our brigade continue to run for the community as it has for over 80 years. We have emailed absentee nomination forms to all members. If you have not received a form and require one, please contact Brendan Pearson on 0439 881 440. The positions in our brigade include Captain, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Lieutenant, Community Safety Coordinator, Health and Safety Coordinator, Training Coordinator, Secretary, Brigade Chairperson/President, Treasurer, Communications Officer, Apparatus Officer/Asset Maintenance, Primary and Alternate Group Delegate, VFBV and Deputy Delegate.

Bathroom upgrade update

Our bathroom upgrade is gradually taking shape. We have completed the installation of a new sensor tap, hot water service, hand dryer and exhaust fan. The last stage is tiling of floors and walls, which we are organising quotes for at present.

District 24 and State Championships

We congratulate the Junior and Senior Bethanga Talgarno running teams on their success at the recent District 24 and State championships. The teams have been training hard since December to perfect the drills with minimal mistakes and to achieve great times. Thanks to the committee members from both brigades who worked to make the Championships at Bethanga a success. Further thanks to the members of our brigade who gave of their time to cook up a storm at the BBQ for the day.

VESEP grant

The brigade has recently applied for a VESEP grant to increase our tank supply for the standpipe near the fire shed. The grant will cover the purchase of a new 5000 gallon tank, fittings and preparation of the tank pad. This will help immensely if there is a fire in the local area to access water quickly and easily.

Social Club BBQs

Our social club is running our monthly BBQs regularly now that COVID restrictions have eased. These take place on the 2nd Friday of the month from 6pm. We welcome all members of the community; young, old, and new to our community to come along to enjoy a chat, drink and something to eat

Volunteering with our brigade

If you are a new or existing community member who would like to join our brigade as a volunteer, we have a new process for you to express your interest.

Please go to www.cfa.vic.gov.au/volunteers-careers/volunteer-with-cfa then:

- Read about the volunteering options (operational, non-operational, junior volunteer),
- Read about the application process
- Click the 'Proceed to Expression of Interest' button
- Search for your Talgarno address and then follow the prompts.

We encourage any members of our community; female, male, older and younger to join in a range of roles from:

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

If you have any questions about the upcoming elections, joining the brigade or fire brigade activity more broadly, please contact Captain Michael Elliot or Secretary Brendan Pearson.

Michael Elliot, Captain 0407 201 169

Brendan Pearson, Secretary, 0439 881 440

BETHANGA-TALGARNO JUNIOR CFA BRIGADE

JUNIOR SESSIONS

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

JOINING THE JUNIOR BRIGADE

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

CONTACTS

John Northey 0414 931 442

bethangatalgarnojuniors@gmail.com

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BETHANGA RECREATION RESERVE

Hi All,

The cooler months of Autumn have arrived. We are grateful that the grass has slowed down growing and have been able to have a bit of a breather when it comes to mowing the reserve and surrounds.

Since the 2021/22 cricket season has finished, 2 main formal events have been conducted.

The first being the District 24 CFA Championships, hosted by Bethanga and Talgarno Rural Fire Brigades on Sunday 27th February 2022.

Approximately 150 competitors attended, with some coming from as far as Hurstbridge to compete on the day. Junior and Senior Members from a number of brigades competed in what was a very successful day. Our congratulations go to the organisers, trainers, competitors and volunteers who made the day possible.

Our next event was our beloved Bethanga Gymkhana on Easter Saturday, which has been missed over the last few years due to COVID. The Gymkhana Committee worked tirelessly to ensure that the event went ahead this year, which was a roaring success. The Recreation Reserve looked a treat and all the feedback we received regarding the Gymkhana was nothing but favourable. We would like to congratulate the Gymkhana Committee and all the helpers, sponsors, community members and workers who contributed to such an enjoyable day. The Gymkhana is one event of the year that really brings us all together, so well done to all.

The Recreation Reserve Committee will be meeting in the coming weeks and we will be discussing business arising, everyday activities and jobs to be done, as well as any upcoming

events. We hope to be able to work with community and user groups to organise more community events and promote our lovely town. COVID has not made that easy over the last couple of years but with restrictions lifting, we are looking forward to seeing more events conducted. We will always be looking to host our standard events such as the cricket , gymkhana, SR500 event and the like, however, we would like the community to come to us and help organise other events, which will not only benefit the Bethanga Recreation Reserve but the community and all its user groups. So watch this space and please come to us with ideas of events that you would like to conduct.

We currently have a "Draft of a Master Plan" for the Bethanga Rec. Reserve in the works as we speak, which is being developed in collaboration with the Towong Shire. The draft still needs some work and we will be meeting over the next few months to hopefully finalise our and the communities' thoughts. Once we have finalized the plan, we can then

apply for grants to support the planned renovations, improvements and additions to our facilities.

In addition to this, there is lots of work being done regularly at the grounds by our committee and volunteers to maintain our grounds. We are endeavouring to produce lists of things that need to be done so if there is anything around the ground that you think could be improved or needs work, please let us know.

As you will have seen, the Rec. Reserve has free camping facilities. We get a range of people from all over the country staying for short or a bit longer term stays. We have received fabulous feedback from the guests who have stayed at the Reserve. Campers generally donate when they stay: \$15.00 for powered sites and or \$10.00 for non-powered sites. The money raised from this covers the cost of their use of the facilities and anything extra goes straight back into maintaining the ground for the community. We try and go out of our way to make the campers feel welcome, as they get to



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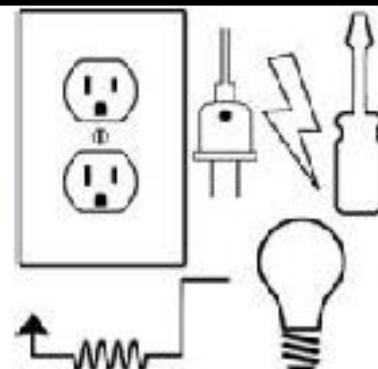
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appreciate our area and utilise our local businesses. So please if you see campers around say hello. We would ask that nobody park their cars where the camper sites are so as they can have clear access, particularly to the powered sites. Any queries about this please contact us.

So once again, to finish off, please all enjoy the Rec Reserve. If there are any improvements or things you would like to see happening at the Reserve, please contact us to let us know. Additionally, please remember the Reserve is run and maintained by volunteers and the generosity of this community. If you are willing to provide any time, financial support, equipment and or specialist supports please let us know – there is always something to do.

We hope to see you out and about enjoying the Reserve!

Bethanga Recreation Reserve Committee

Chairperson: Ross Mitchell - 0418 215 076

Treasurer: Jo Sirl

Secretary: Robyn Weddall

Email: bethangareserve@gmail.com

Ross Mitchell

BETHANGA GOLF CLUB PALMS



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Peter Star 0429 436 347

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.

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 to keep active in the community.

When: 1st & 3rd Wednesday

Time: Starts 2 pm

Where: Bethanga Hall

For more information contact the MCHC office on Ph(02) [6071 5238](tel:60715238) for further details

POLE WALKERS

On Wednesdays at 10:00 am during winter (9:00am in summer), a group of locals meet to walk with poles around the scenic spots of our Peninsula. Pole walking uses up approx. 20% more calories than just ordinary walking and you use approx. 80% more of your body muscles. You feel terrific at the end of an hour, not only from the exercise but the friendly company. If you wish to become a pole walker, give us a call.

Joan Elliot 6020 1177

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CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Anglican - Holy Trinity Bethanga

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

All visitors are welcome.

Baptisms/Christenings - by appointment.

Enquiries to Rev Sandra Temple 6026 4361 or 0467 259 722

Special meeting

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of parishioners of the Holy Trinity Anglican Church Bethanga will be held at the church at 2 Armstrong Street Bethanga on Sunday 26 June 2022 at 10 am.

The purpose and aim of the meeting is to consult with members of Holy Trinity Anglican Church Bethanga,

- 1) On the future of the ministry to this congregation
- 2) To determine the future of the church property and building
- 3) Outline a way forward with the outcome of the meeting

A copy of the agenda is on the Bethanga General Store Community Notice Board

Catholic - St Francis Bethanga

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Wises Creek Talgarno Landcare Group

Our season continues to fluctuate after a very wet summer. It is so nice to have some rain and look at green grass everywhere.

A downside of the wet summer is the dominance of couch grass which has caused quite a few farmers having to burn some of their paddocks to reduce grasses prior to sowing new pastures. This practice is quite unusual for our area. Of course another downside is the ever present weed population with, it seems, Bathurst Burrs leading the pack

We have had a slower year with our Landcare Group but still had some significant achievements.

- Our dung beetle program is still progressing. It is so great to have these little workers in the team.
- We held a soil interpretation day at the Talgarno Hall which was poorly attended but a great presentation by Sue Briggs and very beneficial information to those who came. We could run another soil test programme if we got enough interest, as we all should be soil testing to help make the necessary decisions on farm.
- We held our two, bird identification field days, one was at Greg Hayes place looking at birds in native trees, as distinct to the second, which was held at Hugh Dunchue's, looking at birds in plantations. Dave Watson from Charles Sturt Uni led the sessions at both places. He has such great knowledge not only about birds but the environment as well. The attendees learned so much and had ample opportunity to ask questions. Many thanks to Greg and Hugh for letting us come onto their properties
- Mitta to Murray Landcare Inc. offered two carbon

days – “Making Sense of Carbon and Agriculture” presented by Julian Hill from Ternes Scientific. The first evening was held at Talgarno Hall and the second evening at Eskdale reserve. Both were very well attended and the attendees gained a lot of information about this complex subject and enjoyed a delicious meal. A huge thanks to the wonderful people who prepared the meal. It really made the evening and a big thank you to Irene Lewis for organizing the Eventbrite bookings.

- Mitta to Murray Landcare Inc. organized a Landcare Pavilion at the Tallangatta Expo, showcasing Landcare and invited all Landcare Networks and associated agencies to participate, to show the benefits of working in partnerships. The event was a great success. Our pavilion was hive of activity and we made a video to share with interested parties.

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

We will be holding our AGM as soon as we can so please make the effort to attend as we need new ideas and a fresh approach.

All positions will be declared vacant and I have decided that after being President for 17 years I will not be standing again as President as it is time to have someone else take the reins.

If you need any project ideas or help with anything Landcare related, please call Simon Feillafe

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

Bethanga Landcare Group

At the recent AGM Bethanga Landcare organised the following activities for second half of 2022.

- Saturday 18 June (morning) Tree and shrub giveaway (this will be mostly shrubs this year as this proved to be very popular last year)
- Sunday 19 June (morning) Tree planting (part of Planet Ark's National Tree Day)
- Tuesday 9 August (evening) Next meeting (Grants for rabbit control work)
- Sunday 2 October (morning) Field day on soil erosion and soil health

For the field day we have Brad Costin, from the Dept. of Agriculture, providing his expertise on erosion, resilience for drought and soil protection. We will visit an existing erosion site that has had no remediation, a recently remediated site and a site where Bethanga Landcare assisted in providing rock work and tree planting over a decade ago. This last site will be interesting as the recent flooding provided a serious test of the effectiveness of the work that was done. There will be a BBQ lunch provided at the conclusion.

If you are interested in any of these activities, please contact BLG via this email bethangalandcaregroup@gmail.com

Please note that the tree/shrub giveaway has a limit, and you must register to receive an allocation of trees/shrubs.

Expression of Interest

“Doing it with Dung”

Spring Active Dung Beetle Breeders wanted!



Mitta Valley Landcare is offering Landcare members from the M2M groups the opportunity to be involved with this project breeding Bubus Bubulas Dung beetles.

We need people willing to look after Dung Beetle Nurseries for about 12 months breeding and documenting results. Closes June 15th 2022.

Please contact Irene Lewis for more information or register interest

lewgi2018@outlook.com or 0400775919



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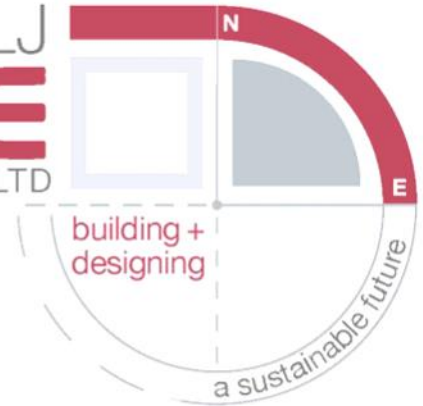
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 Pete & Katrina*

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The centre has recently reopened its doors to families (rather than door drop offs and pick-ups) now that COVID regulations have been relaxed. Everyone is once again, loving the opportunity to be back in the rooms and yards, interacting with the children and educators.

There have been a host of activities at the centre over the last term:

- The centre recently held a Mother's day afternoon tea with many mum's and grandparents attending, as well as a special musical accompaniment on the piano by Joshua and Sienna's grandfather Peter, playing beautiful nursery rhymes all afternoon.



- Kylie from Bunnings came for a visit and helped plant a variety of herbs and vegetables into the kindergarten vegetable garden. She will be returning later in the year to do a craft workshop with the kindergarten children and create a sensory fairy garden in the Long Day Care Garden.
- Halve Waste's Rhiannon visited the centre and helped update the worm farm and provide a few pointers on how to get our compost bin working better.
- The centre has continued participating in the Bluearth program again this year. For ANZAC day we painted poppies and had a visit from one of our military families visit to discuss the importance of ANZAC day. There was also a very fun easter egg hunt for Easter.



Highlights from the parents committee:

- Wood Raffle – Thank you to everyone in the community who supported our wood raffle this year which was drawn at the Peninsula Markets in Bellbridge. Denise Anderson was the lucky winner with a ticket bought by her son as a Mother's day gift!
- Mother's Day Flowers – Again, a big shout out to all those who supported this initiative and to Kat Cook's parents as these 2 fundraising activities raised approx. \$1,900. The money will be used to buy some much needed outdoor equipment as well as provide some future incursions for the children, so thank you one and all.
- We held our AGM recently and welcomed on board some new faces who are full of great ideas and enthusiasm. We'd like to acknowledge all the hard work of the previous committee and thank them for their time and energy – many of whom have been involved with the centre for years. A special mention to Genn Hamam, who has been involved with the committee for over 7 years and was an instrumental member of the team which rallied to save the centre in 2018. From media officer to president, her infectious enthusiasm and passion for the centre has attributed to the current popularity of the facility and the committee would like to acknowledge the considerable work she has done.
- For more info on the centre, please contact Amanda Armstrong on 02 6026 4373 or email: Amanda.armstrong@towong.vic.gov.au

School Values

RAPPORT – **R**espect **A**cceptance
Persistence **P**ride **O**ptimism **R**esilience **T**ruth



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



It was fabulous to see the Gymkhana back over the Easter weekend – thank you to the committee who made this happen. Students proudly displayed their art work and had a great time participating in all of the traditional games.



Term 2 has been action packed... so much learning happening in the classroom and beyond!

We've had members of the Beringa CERT team come and speak to students about the importance of knowing what to do in case of an emergency. As well as the serious side of this, the kids loved checking out the ambulance and practising CPR.



We've been fortunate to have two cluster sports days since the last Beringa News, a great Kanga Cricket Day in Mitta and more recently, a Netball and AFL day at Upper Sandy Creek. Both of these included expert coaching which everyone loved and learned from.



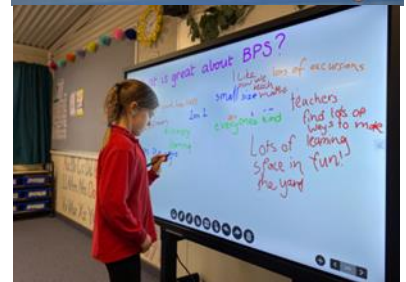
Through a Regional Arts Victoria Grant, we are working with local author Aimee Chan for term 2 and 3 Every week we'll be exploring literacy in creative ways – books, stage and even pod casts! Students are very excited to be preparing questions to interview renowned author Graeme Base for an upcoming podcast episode!



Sadly, we said goodbye to our beloved bus driver of 16 years, Mick. He was loved by all of our students and always went the extra mile.



Rachel Saunders



HAPPY MOTHERS DAY

We thought it would be a great opportunity to share some thoughts from our new Foundations about why their mother is the best mum in the world. Here is what they had to say!

Ollie: My mum is the best mum in the world because I love my mum!

Moby: My mum is the best mum in the world because she takes me skiing!

Riley: My mum is the best mum in the world because she is the best mum in the whole world!

Billy: My mum is the best mum in the world because she lets us go out deep in the lake without a life jacket!

Grace: My mum is the best mum in the world because she looks after me!

Eden: My mum is the best mum in the world because she helps me with everything!

Frankie: My mum is the best mum in the world because I love her!



Visual Texture

This session in Art, we focussed on the element of **texture**. Students explored and practised different tools and techniques to create visual textures in their artworks, including using rubbing plates, natural materials and colouring techniques.

We discovered how creating different textures, using various techniques, can create 'movement', shape and enhance our creations!

- Miss Turner



STUDENT AWARDS

Riley Hyland: for his commitment to learning new sounds

Moby Gordon: for his commitment to learning in term 1

Frankie Star: for her commitment to learning in term 1

Grace Loxton: for her commitment to learning in term 1

Harrison Cottee: for his confidence and growth in all areas of literacy

Eden Winter: for building confidence with all teachers and learning areas

Ollie Mudra: for his commitment to learning new sounds



Billy Kotzur: for his commitment to learning in term 1

Charli Vine: continual improvement for reading and comprehension

Music awards: Lawson Filby, Maddison Green and Bailey Vine

REGIONAL ARTS

We have been very lucky to receive a Regional Arts Victoria Grant. Kylie Biltris is a local artist from Tallangatta who facilitates creative workshops through her business Art Starts Here.

The initiative we have been successful for is with Regional Arts Victoria partnering with the Department of Education to support a student led artist in residence program for fire affected areas.

In essence Kylie will be at the school every Wednesday for terms 2 & 3 and assist the students to realise a creative project. This is a fully funded position with a budgeted allowance provided to cover materials. Keep an eye out for progress.

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

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

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

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If you have a story to tell, information to share with our community, photos of local events or scenes please contact one of the team. Alternatively you can email articles or pictures to info@berringacommunitynews.com.au



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