

Berringa Community News

Autumn 2021



*News and views from the residents of Bellbridge,
Bethanga, Granya & Talgarno
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www.berringacommunitynews.com.au*

Summer 2020 /21 Seasonal Market at Bethanga

Peninsula Seasonal Markets

Autumn Market Day – Talgarno, Sunday March 7th

After a highly successful Summer Market, producers have been busying themselves in preparation for the Autumn Market to be held on Sunday March 7th at the Talgarno Hall/tennis courts, 9am-12pm. The subsequent Winter and Spring Markets will take place at Bellbridge and Granya.

The first ever Peninsula Seasonal Market, held in Bethanga in early December surpassed all expectations. Over 30 local stall holders ran stalls with products and services ranging from jewellery, clothing, floral arrangements, photography, pottery, natural dyed fabrics, timber wares, original children's books, fruit and vegetables, jams and baked goods, plants and seedlings, a community BBQ, a pop-up coffee shop and a local band.

Conservatively, at least 500 attended the markets, with many locals relishing the chance to catch-up after lockdown and border closures. Local stall holder and organiser Jess Gray was amazed by the day, "I was blown away by all the people who came out! Such a great community gathering with fantastic stalls."

In addition to the many who travelled from Albury-Wodonga, there were cases of those coming from further afield. This included a mother, from Canberra and her son, from Melbourne, who met for a long awaited catch-up in Wodonga. They ventured out to Bethanga for the first time, after hearing of the market the day before!

The Autumn Market will be held at the Talgarno tennis courts and Hall on Sunday March 7, 9am-12pm. The wide range of stall holders is set to return, along with a

few new stalls and an extra coffee van. The CFA will be running the BBQ, with a breakfast option before 10am and the Talgarno Primary School will sell drinks and icy poles.

The Berringa Peninsula Community Network, Creek Clay, and Creations by Cooper will be among the stall holders at the Autumn Market.

The Berringa Peninsula Community Network Group has formed in response to the recovery program initiated by the Towong Shire. Volunteers from the group are keen to reach out to the local community to explain what they do and hear from locals any thoughts they may have on future actions. So, bring plenty of BIG ideas!

Creek Clay is a Talgarno based art studio, where artists come together to create uniquely designed and decorated ceramics. All pottery is fired on-site. This market sees the studio bringing their new range of "Wonky Pots", which potter Lea Casey describes as a "budget range using recycled clay, practice pots and experimental designs and glaze trials".



Creations by Cooper is a pop-up photo-booth run by the very talented Rachel Cooper. A big hit, with young and

COMMUNITY REPORTS

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

old alike, Rachel takes high quality images which are later available online to purchase. Judging by the big smiles of the girls in the photo below, she is also a natural in making you feel comfortable on camera.



Market goers are encouraged to bring cash, as EFTPOS is limited to only a few stall holders. The Peninsula community is looking forward to a COVID-safe, family-fun market and is keen to show off their new creations.

Additional information and details of stall holders can be found on the group's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Berringapeninsula/> and Instagram page.

Angela Nevin Lewis
anevinlewis@bigpond.com
0407 232 820



ANZAC Day Service

The Bethanga Soldiers' Memorial Hall committee will not be holding the annual ANZAC Day commemoration this year. It was decided that there is too much uncertainty, with a range of issues to consider, including COVID regulations regarding numbers/close contacts, the possibility of a sudden change in circumstances and related government decisions, as well as none of the usual military support being available.

It is hoped that next year the commemoration will resume as usual.

Vale Eileen O'Reilly



Just before Christmas, the Berringa Community lost a very significant lady. Eileen O'Reilly had made a huge impact on our community since she and her husband Phil first arrived in Wisecreek, Talgarno to enjoy their retirement and their dream of a farm life. They arrived in 1988 and Eileen soon joined numerous community groups. She joined CWA where she enjoyed meeting some locals. She joined in lots of CWA activities although she stressed she was not 'arty or crafty' but could certainly organise things and offer support. One such support was teaching knitting at the local primary school. This group allowed Eileen to travel the shire, meeting

more people and learning about the area she lived in. From this, Eileen then became a member of the Women on Farms group which lobbied the government to provide Kindergarten access for remote areas. From this, the Mobile Kinder and then FARMS began providing early childhood education for our farming families. Eileen and Phil then assisted setting up the Wisecreek/Talgarno Landcare Group and continued to be a part of this group up until she left Talgarno in 2011. Eileen was a staunch supporter of St Francis in Bethanga and joined CERT at the age of 73 in 2007, retiring in 2010.

Unfortunately, Phil passed away in 2009, struggling for quite a few years with dementia.

Eileen was also on the Berringa Community News Committee for many years and was our roving reporter, photographer, editor, even using her computer skills to put the newsletter together. She would join in any and all activities organised. One such activity was an Australia Day picnic up at Burrowye where we floated down the river. The first time we did this, we were just stepping out in the river when Eileen informed our group that she could not swim. It was a very nerve-wracking float for some, but Eileen was ecstatic. This is just one example of Eileen's determination and willingness to try anything.

Regular weekly breakfasts were held at Eileen's (Café Eileen). We would walk there, enjoy breakfast and then walk home. One morning we arrived to find a 'Wicked' camper in the driveway and a house load of young Mexican travellers who introduced us to chipotle chilli on our toast for breakfast!! Eileen travelled to Burma with Lea Casey which included a very off-road and non-sanctioned trip to find the place where she grew up. They found it and incredibly met up with her old nanny's daughter. Eileen's sense of adventure never ceased to amaze her friends.

Eileen was aged 86 and will be sadly missed by the community, as well as by her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Elizabeth Wood

Berringa Furies Calendar 2021

\$5 each

Thanks to everyone who has bought a calendar. There are still a few remaining and can be found at the following locations: Bethanga Pub, Bethanga Post Office, Talgarno Fire Station, Granya Pub and the Tallangatta Bakery, or contact us on our Facebook page or email: berringafuries@gmail.com



Berringa Furies



Bethanga Post Office Robbed, Safe Blown

On the 9th of December two men faced the Wangaratta court charged with robbing the Bethanga post office.

Samuel Butt and James Bartlet pleaded not guilty to the charge of breaking into the Bethanga Post Office and stealing cash from the safe.

Witness statements revealed the men, well known to police, had been planning the robbery for some time and had visited the post office, casing the layout prior to the robbery. Timing of the robbery was strategic to take advantage of the week's takings.

Trial report records show that twenty-four witnesses gave evidence, describing the activities preceding and of the day of the robbery.

Senior Warder W. Clark of Beechworth Gaol deposed that the prisoners had been in gaol for three weeks and during that time had not shaved and consequently their appearance had slightly altered. They had the opportunity to be shaved and had refused.

Stephen Carkeek deposed: I am the manager of the Terminus Hotel in Albury. On the 6th of November I came up from Melbourne by train and saw prisoner Butt in the train at Benalla. He got in the same compartment and said he was going up the line to meet a friend. He had a bicycle with him and said he would stay at my hotel. He came to my place at 12 o'clock and brought the prisoner Bartlett with him. Butt had the bicycle and I noticed a parcel tied under it. It was long and about 2 or 3 inches thick. The jemmy produced could have been contained in it. Both prisoners left without paying their accounts.

Philip Newman deposed: On the 7th of November I saw a man with a bicycle between 7 and half-past. Another man followed and came in for a bottle of beer and took it to the man on the bicycle. I watched the men walk up the hill and when they got there the taller man got on the bicycle and the other man got on behind. There were two parcels on the bicycle.

John Earnest Cummins, a boy 12 years old deposed he was in a paddock halfway between Wodonga and Bethanga and saw two men on a bicycle heading towards Bethanga.

Neddy Wheeler, fisherman at Wodonga deposed he was camped out on the road to Bethanga and saw two men pass on a bicycle between 8 and 9 o'clock. One man was pedalling and the other was standing on the back. They were heading towards Bethanga.

Robert D Cole deposed: I am the postmaster and clerk of petty sessions at Bethanga. In the post office there was a small safe that could not be seen from the lobby. I have seen Bartlet three times during the last three months. One time he came to the back door and later that evening he came back saying he wanted to ask me a few favours. While we were talking he was writing in a pocketbook similar to the one produced. He said he was writing replies to my questions. On the evening of 7th November, I locked up the safe which contained postal notes to the value of £24. 2s 5d. Stamps £6. Cash £106 consisting of bank notes, gold and silver. I locked the post office and went to my residence about 20ft away. Next morning the door was open and the safe was gone.

Jos. H. Bracksley deposed: I am a miner at Bethanga and live about 100 yards from the post office. I was up late on Sunday night 7th November. I saw two men in the bright moonlight and watched them for about five minutes. When I checked 2 -3 minutes later they were gone. Afterwards I heard what sounded like a squeaky wheel. After I went to sleep I heard an explosion. Next morning I found a safe with its door blown to atoms and my wheelbarrow nearby.

W. T. Chapel deposed he was going towards Bethanga with a team on the morning of the 8th November and met two men with a bicycle. He recognized one of the men as Butt but could not swear to Bartlett.

The court heard depositions from several more witnesses after which the jury returned a guilty verdict for both prisoners.

Judge Casey summed up describing the men as clever criminals and with the assistance of a bike placed great power in the hands of a burglar and that no counting house in Victoria was safe.

Both men had been convicted of previous crimes resulting in prison sentences. He said "One thing they would find out, they would be more severely punished on every occasion they were brought up".

The sentence of the court is they be each imprisoned for 8 years with hard labour.

Story – John Northey using extracts from the Trial Report - Thursday 9th December 1897

The full story can be found using the following links.

<http://www.tarahall.com.au/about31.html>
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/199747815>

2021 Gymkhana & Family Fun Day Cancelled

Our committee have made the decision not to organise a Gymkhana and Family Fun Day this year. This decision was not taken lightly. We know the families in our community, especially the kids, look forward to this event each year. Horse competitors travel from as far away as Melbourne and Canberra, they enjoy the day so much. As well, the groups in our community look upon this event as a way to earn themselves some money for their respective activities.

COVID 19.

This "little bug" is pretty persistent. To organise a Gymkhana and then be forced to cancel it at the last minute is a risk we were not prepared to take. With the rules that are currently in place, which could change at any time, it would be extremely difficult for us to run a COVID-safe event. Also, as we attract competitors from far and wide, we were concerned that we may bring the virus into our community.

Secretary.

Our secretary for the past 22 years, Mary Northey, indicated to the committee that she was no longer prepared to do the necessary workload to organise this event. We did a push in the summer edition of Berringa News seeking new members. We were hoping someone would be willing to take on the role of secretary, with Mary assisting them, with the view to taking on the full role of secretary next year. Of course, with the event being cancelled, this did not eventuate.

New Secretary for 2022.

We did form a committee this year for the sole purpose of paying our Incorporation Fees and Equestrian Victoria membership so they didn't lapse. However, Mary has informed the committee that she will not be standing for re-election as secretary in 2022. If this event is to continue, then someone else needs to step up to take on this role next year. Further details will be advised in later editions of Berringa Community News.

Greg Prichard (President).

Mary Northey (Secretary/Treasurer)

An update from the Bethanga Police Station

Hello all and I hope everyone is doing OK through these trying COVID times.

First of all, I would like to apologise for my absence through the January period. Unfortunately I was called upon to help out with the border closures and spent the majority of my time in Wodonga. Fingers crossed we have seen the worst of these times and I can once again concentrate on keeping the community safe.

One of my focuses when I started here was to get on top of hoon driving. I had several complaints of motorists speeding and performing burnouts on local reserves. In response to this I put together an operation where I employed the services of Wodonga Highway Patrol and other Police officers from surrounding towns. I had a blitz on visiting members of the public. As a result of this operation, we handed out a range of fines which ranged from speeding drivers, unlicensed drivers, overloaded vehicles, unregistered vehicles and unroadworthy vehicles. I am pleased to say all offenders were from out of town. Since this operation I have noticed a decline in erratic driving behaviour.

In my short time here, I have done over 300 breath tests and removed 2 drink drivers from our roads.

General crime in the area has been minimal. Over February I have had 1 case of a theft from a motor vehicle in the Bellbridge area. A spate of thefts from cars occurred in Tallangatta over January where numerous items were stolen from unlocked vehicles. It appears offenders have come in from out of town, stolen items and left. If I could please ask residents to be mindful of securing vehicles and make sure valuables are kept out of sight. The last thing we want is our towns to be known as a place of easy pickings for crooks.

I look forward to getting around the community and meeting more residents over the next few months. I am happy to be involved with community meetings or upcoming events, so please do not hesitate to get in contact with me.

Thank you for your support in welcoming me into the area. It has been overwhelming.

Stay safe.

Luke FOGARTY

Senior Constable 37007 | Bethanga Police Station
Email: luke.fogarty@police.vic.gov.au | telephone :
(02) 6026 4204 fax : (02) 6026 4600
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Australia Day Awards 2021

The Rotary Club of Bellbridge Lake Hume, in conjunction with Towong Shire Council, conducted the Australia Day awards on an historic wet day. After the hearty traditional free breakfast, MC Rob Lees welcomed everybody by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land on which we gathered. The Naval Cadets were then invited to carry out the Flag Raising Ceremony.



Rob Lees introduced the guest speaker Sub Lieutenant Australian Naval Cadet, Amanda Thomas and gave a short history of Amanda's background and career. Amanda was born in Finley and from a young age had an interest in joining the services. She enlisted in 1999 in the Royal Australian Navy as a Boatswain's Mate. She then had a distinguished career serving in peace keeping operations in Timor and Bougainville before discharging in 2003. She lived in Tamworth before moving to Albury. In 2017 she commenced her work as a volunteer with the Naval Cadets.

Amanda spoke about her experiences with the Royal Australian Navy, both overseas and locally. She also was committed to the Naval Cadets and stressed the importance of youth to our future and also the importance of utilizing her commitment and leadership skills in working with the cadets. Her goal was to build confidence and a 'can-do' attitude in the youth.

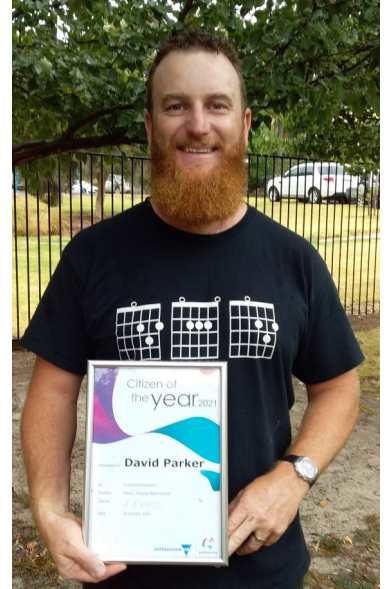
Mayor, David Wortmann responded to Amanda's address and then announced the dual Citizen of the Year 2021 Awards.

The first Joint recipient was Ken Star, Captain of the Granya CFA. There are many examples of his community mindedness and generous volunteering including fire emergency related responses. This was expressed during the last horrendous bushfire season. He also always makes



time to help other farmers on farming activities even in times of significant pressure, sometimes to the detriment of his own farm. He works fulltime on another farm as well as tending to his own.

The second joint recipient of the Berringa Community Citizen of the Year was David Parker, a similar incredibly community minded person in achieving so much for the benefits of others. David, during the bushfires of 2020 sourced over 400 tool packs to assist farmers and residents who lost sheds and equipment in the fires. He personally delivered the packs and supplies to the people in the affected areas. He is also heavily involved with the Bellbridge Childcare Centre and other community matters. He also has a striking red beard which he shaved off for charity events.



Overall both recipients are significant contributors to the Berringa community in passionate, caring ways and highly deserving of the awards.

David then had the honour of conducting a Citizen Ceremony for five conferees. The people who pledged their loyalty to Australia and gave their commitment to the obligations of becoming Australian Citizens are as follows:

- Mr Lee Eckert;
- Mr Michael Ludbrook;
- Mr Miha Skok;
- Mrs Tanja Skok;
- Mr Fra Skok



David and all present welcomed them all as new citizens of Australia.

Overall, the inclement weather did not dampen the spirits of those present and we look forward to next year's ceremony at the same site. The shade at this area will be welcomed on hot days.

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 positive outcomes for all.

Our Chairman James Filby resigned due to his work and family commitments. Jim de Hennin was elected chair and Stacey Rich deputy chair.

Hall and Recreation Reserve Facilities

Many believe that the Peninsula region was very fortunate not to have had more direct fire impact from the Black Summer Bushfires and have stressed that Jarvis Creek, Mt Granya and Mt Lawson still have heavy fuel loads. Our halls and rec. reserves are natural points for people displaced by fire to seek refuge, information and assistance as was proved during 2020. Many of the Community Halls in the region, including Granya, Bethanga and Talgarno have been putting together grant submissions to improve their facilities. Good ideas have come from each group and therefore a sharing of ideas and pooling of resources might be a way that the BPCN group could assist the community. In December BPCN arranged a meeting with representatives from Bethanga Hall, Bethanga Recreation Reserve, Hume Boat Club, Granya Hall and Talgarno Hall and the Bethanga, Granya and Talgarno CFAs

Following this meeting, with funding from Bushfire Recovery Victoria, we have engaged Ben King, an engineer with consultants AKPS to assess the condition of the halls. His reports will provide support for funding either as a joint application or for the individual halls.

Bushfire Preparedness Surveys

We think the area we live in is pretty unique and that the way our communities respond to emergencies would also be unique. Recently, the network sent out a postcard survey asking residents what would have made them feel better prepared for the bushfires the region experienced in 2020. The information we received highlighted the resources the people who responded thought would have helped. We now need to find out how important the rest of the community thinks those resources are, and which ones are a priority. The network will be holding a stall at the upcoming Peninsula Market in Talgarno on the 7th of March. We would really appreciate you dropping by to take a look at the list of resources we have

produced and rank them in order of importance to you. Once we understand what the community's priorities are, our network can begin looking for ways to obtain those resources. You will also have the opportunity to add any ideas you may have. If you have a few minutes spare to help us out, you will go into a draw to win a great prize on the day. If you are unable to make it to the market, you can contact us via email to participate.

Contact Us

We have set up a Facebook page. Follow us to get the updates on activities and share your ideas.

We can also be contacted on berringapcn@gmail.com

Julie Miller



BPCN Committee Meeting at Granya Hotel 1 Feb 2021

Clockwise L to R Jim de Hennin, Julie Miller, Bob Martin, Brendan Pearson, Jenni Manguy, Denise Anderson, Stacey Rich, Di Singline, Emma Nichol, Amanda Pagan (Towong Shire) David Wortmann, Bridget Bowe, Katie Kotzer. Absent Jayden Kotzur, Ben Nelson, Rowena Calvert

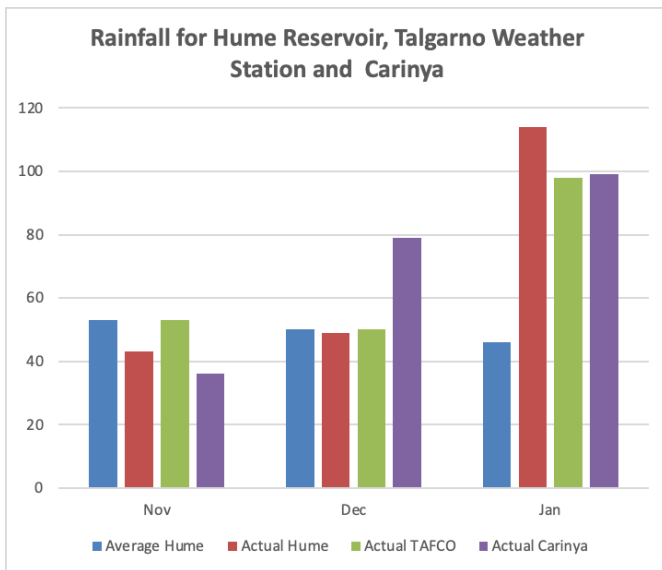
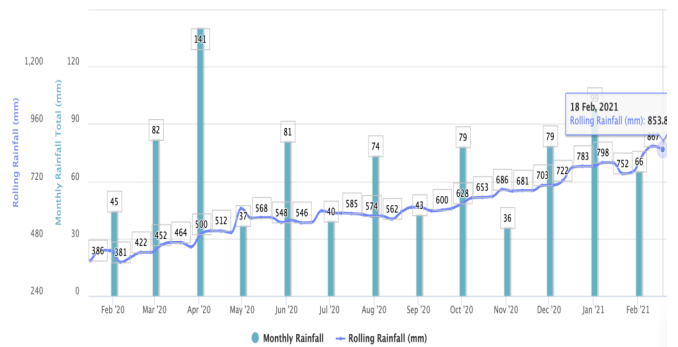
Prospects for the Season Ahead

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



Rainfall Round-up

The La Niña delivered this summer as BOM had forecast. In an average year, the summer rainfall (November to end January) would be 150 mm. This year it was 201 mm at TAFCO station (de Hennin's), 241 mm at Hume Reservoir and 214 mm at my place. The Hume reading was 161% of average (150 mm).



Prospects for autumn

Although the La Niña is still with us it has passed its peak and is now weakening and is expected to return to neutral conditions by May. The Indian Ocean Dipole doesn't have much effect over autumn so it can be ignored. Six out of 12 models analysed by Agriculture Victoria expect wetter than average conditions for the next 3 months, 3 wetter to neutral and 3 neutral. Looking at the next 4 – 6 months, a majority of models are suggesting neither wetter nor drier than average.

The BOM expects that it is likely that the March to April rainfall will be above the median (about 125 mm). Fingers crossed we may have an early autumn break.

Almost all of the above average rainfall fell in January with the 114 mm at Hume Reservoir being about the 92nd percentile (92% of all other years since 1922 have had less rain in January). All this rain was the result of lots of moisture being available from the north (because of warm seas) and suitable rainfall triggers such as cold fronts not being blocked by high pressure systems and hence meeting up with moist air over Victoria.

Overall, 2020 turned out to be one of the better years for a long time as everybody has been commenting. Although the total was not huge (there were five years wetter than this since 2000) it was set up by an early autumn break (280 mm in March and April), a mild winter, a top up in August (95 mm) and close to average rainfall the rest of the year. At Hume Reservoir the total was 782 mm, 708 mm at de Hennin's and 786 mm at Carinya.

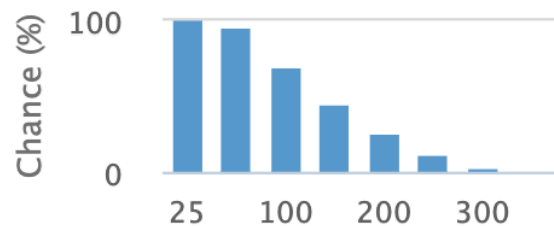
The rolling 12-month total rainfall has gone from 430 mm last February to 853 mm now. This has meant that my safe stocking rate (without feeding out) has gone from about 9 DSE/ha to about 17 DSE/ha.

Outlook for March to May at Talgarno

Rainfall

Median **120 mm**
 Chance of above median **Likely**

Rainfall total of at least (mm)



Past accuracy

High

Berringa Community Fundraiser Morning Tea for our regional Cancer Centre

Our annual (well, not last year) fundraising morning tea date for this year has still not been able to be set due to Corona Virus restrictions. We can nevertheless say that this year the event will not be held in autumn as we have in past years. It may be possible in spring time.

If we are not able to have the event during spring, it may be necessary to think creatively about how to host the event, so our community can continue to contribute funds to the Albury – Wodonga Regional Cancer Centre.

The goods made and generously donated for the 'auctioneer called auction' and 'the silent auction' are still available.

Do you have an idea of how this community can raise funds and auction the already held items if restrictions remain in place?

Please call Julie de Hennin – 0412433499, Di Singline -0452424248 or Mary Schorobura - 0403786353 with your ideas and/or availability to help the team with this year's event.

Berringa Community Fundraiser for the AWRCC Morning Tea team

Richard has Retired

As everyone may be aware Richard has retired from the store after 11 years of keeping all of us entertained. To mark this occasion a function was held in late January at the hall and despite the 42 degree day, 45 locals attended and provided an excellent spread of afternoon tea. Richard thanked everyone for their support over the years and said he felt it an honour and privilege to serve the community with the shop.

We would like to wish Richard a long and happy retirement and thank him for all his support to various groups and clubs in the area.

Thanks to everyone who came along and helped.

Graham Maynard

New standpipe installed in Bellbridge



North East Water has installed a new water standpipe in Bellbridge which will give local rural communities easier access to treated drinking water.

Most of our standpipe customers live on farms that aren't connected to town water supplies and this new standpipe on Lake Road will make it simpler for people to supplement their water needs.

Customers will need to apply via www.newater.com.au/standpipes and will then be issued with a metal key which is prepaid online with an amount of water usage.



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or check us out on facebook!



Help shape our future in Agriculture

Council, together with agriculture industry representatives and community members, are developing a Strategic Plan for Agriculture in the Shire to build a stronger, more profitable and more resilient agriculture industry for generations to come.

Mayor Wortmann is encouraging community members to contribute to the plan. "If you would like to help shape the future direction and growth of our agricultural industry, we would love to work with you."

"Agriculture is our largest industry, accounting for over 30% of employment and contributing almost 40% of Towong Shire's economic output each year. The importance of this sector to our economic future is paramount" he said.

"The good news is we already have a huge amount of knowledge of the industry on our doorstep and it is this local knowledge which can make all the difference in building a prosperous industry for generations to come" Mayor Wortmann said.

Community and industry consultation will commence in February 2021. If you are interested in taking part, complete the online form at bit.ly/agriculture-strategic-plan or contact Council's Economic Development Coordinator on 1300 365 222 or email ecodev@towong.vic.gov.au

The Working for Victoria Outdoor Crew keeping up the hard work in Towong Shire

In August 2020, Towong Shire Council was successful in its application to take part in the Working for Victoria scheme, keeping more Victorians employed during COVID-19.

Under Working for Victoria, the Council provided jobs for unemployed people – whether they lost their jobs due to the impacts of COVID-19 or have been without work for a longer period of time.

The State Government initiative made way for 18 new six-month fixed term roles at Towong Shire Council. Seven of those roles were Outdoor Crew and have included an Outdoor Team Leader, Crew Leader plus Outdoor Parks and Gardens crew members.

Since coming on board, the Working for Victoria Outdoor Crew have been busy on a number of projects, including planting over 300 trees in Bethanga as part of the Bethanga Streetscape Project, restoring picnic tables and seating along the Tallangatta Foreshore and cleaning up the Corryong Saleyards.

Mayor Wortmann thanked the Working for Victoria Outdoor Crew for their important work within our community.

"The Working for Victoria Outdoor Crew are integral in helping us bring larger projects like the Bethanga Streetscape Tree Planting to life, as well as ongoing maintenance to improve the amenities of our beautiful Shire."

"I want to personally thank the team for their ongoing contributions, helping us make Towong Shire such a great place to live" he said.

If you see the team out and about, don't forget to give them a wave!



Pictured: Front (left to right): Crew Leader Jo, Mayor Wortmann, Parks and Gardens Crew members Ritchie and Ben. Back (left to right): Team Leader Mark, Parks and Gardens Crew members Dre, Mark and Roy.

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)

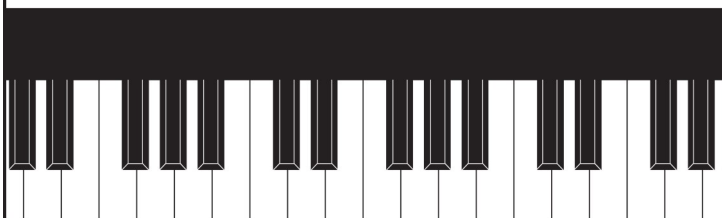
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PLAYGROUP

Berringa Playgroup is up and running again!

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

Starts 24 February - all welcome!



Come and
join in the
FUN!

The Playgroup will recommence in 2021

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Pete & Katrina

Members of the HIA and Master Builders Association

COMMUNITY NOTICES

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

Wymah Ferry

Operating hours

7am – 8pm

During daylight saving

6am – 9pm

(NB no meal closure times)

OUTSIDE THESE HOURS

Ring the contractor,
6020 2038

Wymah Ferry Open

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

Granya Museum

Specialising in pioneer families.

Open by appointment
6072 9540

Talgarno Hall

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

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

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

Use of pizza oven free - but booking essential
The old chairs and the tables are available for hire by donation.

For bookings contact Anthea 6020 1134

Bethanga Soldiers Memorial Hall

Hall and Supper Room Available for Hire

Functions and Meetings

Day / Night

Air Conditioned / Heated

Competitive Rates

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

Granya Hall

Fees for the hall hire

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

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

Catering \$8 a head

Community Meeting \$15

Bookings and Information contact

Kim Stewart
kstewart557@gmail.com
0412 672 629

Autumn is here, time to turn the leaves in a good book from the Talgarno Street Library

Open all hours for everyone at the Talgarno Hall.

Babies

The Calvert family are thrilled to have had a baby girl, Sienna Grace. Big brother Joshua is over the moon.



Marriages

Maddy Wood and Tolga Gurses celebrated their marriage in Melbourne on the 3 January 2021. Maddy is the daughter of Michael and Bert Wood from Wisers Creek and Tolga is the son of Haluk and Ayse of Melbourne. At last they got to say 'I do'.



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



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Bethanga Hotel



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

The Bethanga community has shown their generosity once again by supporting the hotel and I thank you all for that. I truly feel blessed to be part of this ever-vibrant community.

The critters are all happy to be having the children back and we have had new babies born in the past month.

Now, what's happening down at the pub? Well, we've made a few changes and tweaks, so I thought it best to give you an update on opening hours, food and entertainment.

General Trading hours:

Monday-Thursday: 4pm-Close
Friday –Sunday: 11am-Close

Kitchen hours:

Friday, Saturday & Sunday: Lunch 12:00pm-2pm
Wednesday to Sunday: Dinner 5pm – 8pm
Wednesday and Thursday nights, Pizza and Parmigian nights

All meals are available either dine-in or takeaway.

(Please note we do have many GF options as well as a dedicated GF fryer to accommodate dietary needs).

It is advisable to book for meals on the weekend 02 6026 4214

Entertainment:

Live music was back on Saturday the 20 February, with 'Backporch Fridaze' headlining.

Gift vouchers:

Gift vouchers are available at the bar for those friends or family members who are hard to buy for.

Bethanga Hotel T-Shirts

Bethanga Hotel T -Shirts are now available for \$20.

Again, I would like to thank you all for your continuing support of the Bethanga Hotel and myself.

Kate

ALBURY LIFESTYLE CENTRE

TIME TABLE

MONDAY - BOX FIT 6.30PM
THURSDAY - BOX FIT 6.30PM
FRIDAY - MUMMA MOVEMENT
10AM

**\$5 PER CLASS
INCLUDING NUTRITION UPGRADE**

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A great way to meet new people, have fun and best of all exercising.

Bring your kids along if you want to as we are very child friendly.

First time free and there after \$5.00 a session,

Albury Lifestyle Centre is next door to Auto Barn in Young street, Albury

For more information ring

Jayne Curran

LIC NO: 162975C



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Granya Gazette

GRANYA TENNIS CLUB NEWS

An exciting year for Granya Tennis, this year both section 1 and 2 have made the finals. Section 1 will play Yackandandah in the qualifying final at Georges Creek and Section 2 will play Mt Beauty at Tangambalanga on Saturday 20/2! Go get em Granya, Good Hitting! Thank you to all new players and current players this year. It has been excellent to build on our great team spirit, make new friends and on court improvement has been outstanding, looking forward to the 21/22 season! A big thank you to our sponsors.

If your keen on having a hit please get in contact with Sharon 0402683606 or Jayden 0468695073. Or follow our Facebook page for updates.



GRANYA CFA

Welcome to our new CFA members, Harry, James, Katie, Jayden, Chase, Leigh and Howard who have been participating in Minimum Skills over the last few weeks. We have also been busy this summer building up our training. A big thank you to Bob Cowan who is doing an excellent job running these sessions.

A special welcome to Maisie, a Junior, who will be participating in CFA district 24 Running Championship. Great to see Juniors joining CFA and participating in these great events.

Granya CFA AGM and Election details as follows: -

Date: Wednesday 3rd March 2021

Time: 19:00hrs

Place: Granya Hall

Please contact Ken Star 0419141444 if you wish to become a CFA member.



CLUBS AND GROUPS

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

BERRINGA CERT



We need more GoodSAMs

THE search is on for regular people in the community to become good Samaritans and help to save a life while they're at it. Ambulance Victoria is asking people to download the GoodSAM app which will notify them if someone has suffered a cardiac arrest and their location

Responders will also be given the location of the nearest available defibrillator so they can start CPR immediately before an ambulance arrives. You do not need to be a paramedic or medically qualified to make a difference and you can choose when you want to accept an alert, so there is no pressure to always respond.

Many people do not know that they no longer need to do mouth to mouth resuscitation or know CPR to be a heart starter.

All you need to do is be willing and able to help a neighbour in need with hands-only CPR.

Ambulance Victoria is aiming to recruit an extra 5000 GoodSAM responders and be there in the critical moments when someone needs lifesaving support.

Every day 18 Victorian hearts stop beating and urgently need care to get them going again. The free GoodSAM app is available Google Play and via the App Store


For more information on GoodSAM visit <https://www.ambulance.vic.gov.au/goodsam/>

Defibrillators

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



Bethanga Shop
Bethanga Recreation Reserve pavilion
Bellbridge Community Centre
Granya Hall
Talgarno Hall



If someone is...
unconscious? not breathing normally?
It's time to act! Seconds count. It's up to all of us to learn how to save a life in
3 simple steps...

CALL **PUSH** **SHOCK**

Call Triple Zero (000) now.
The call taker will talk you through CPR and using a defibrillator (AED).

Push on the chest between the nipples.
Push hard. Push fast

If available, turn on the defibrillator (AED) and follow the instructions

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

ROTARY CLUB OF BELLBRIDGE LAKE HUME INC.

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

PENINSULA MEN'S SHED



6 Sirl Street, Bethanga

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

The Men's Shed is open every Wednesday from 9am until 6pm (depending on attendance). You are welcome to come along and get involved in Men's Shed projects or create your own, or even get the men at the shed to do a project or repair job for you, or just come along for a cuppa and a chat. Member meetings are held at the shed on the first Tuesday of every month at 7pm.

Phil Craig, President

TALGARNO TENNIS CLUB

It's been a fantastic summer of tennis at Talgarno and we can look forward to much more of the same through autumn. The courts and surrounds are looking green and neat thanks to summer rain and many mowing members, respectively. Thanks also to the Towong Shire and the Community Recovery Grant, as the clubrooms have been much improved with a new fridge and freezer.

On court, two of our four teams will be featuring in the Kiewa & Talgarno District Tennis Association finals. The Talgarno Tigers in Section 4 have had a great season – well done and good luck for the finals Chloe, Tilly, Ruby, Elsie, Belle and Ella. Although the Titans won't make the finals this year, Will G, Shune, Chloe & Zac Mac, and Holly have improved immensely.



Coach Paul Sykes has worked with most of these kids for a number of years and deserves some kudos too. Note: coaching is back by popular demand and more than 20 kids are currently getting weekly lessons at the Talgarno courts.



Many of our juniors represented themselves and the TTC wonderfully at the McKimmie Tennis Tournament in Tangambalanga. Whilst the results were exceptional – Chloe and Ella won age-group singles; Belle and Chloe won-age group doubles; Will G and Will L won age-group doubles (The Willies?) – it was the way they competed that should make the community and tennis club proud.



Our Section 1 team will feature in the finals again and can hopefully win through to the GF. A highlight so far has been the great form of three generations of Redmans (Anthea, Jill, Deb and Tilly); and whilst they think they carry the team, the men have showed pretty good form this year (Jarrod, Brendan, Daniel, Dave and Adam).

Genn's Section 2 team unfortunately won't make the finals this year, but they may win the "Team that has the Best Time' award. Section 2 is hotly contested tennis, with many teams from far and wide, and our guys may not have benefitted from several (too many) washouts. Regardless, Cara and Chris, Matt, Jess, Paul, Genn, Loren, Katherine, Lorne, Harrison and Austin have battled hard and kept the fun in the game.

We managed a 4-week Fast Four competition prior to Christmas, and it was a hoot. So we are pleased to announce another Fast Four competition starting (probably) in March, this time, compliments of our new sponsor Albury Sportspower who will be providing some prizes. Open to anyone, from any club or no club at all, please get in touch with me or Brendan Pearson (0439881440) if you would like to take part

Although we are still awaiting some directive from the Towong Shire, everyone at the club is excited by the prospect of new tennis courts sometime this year. Hopefully the rebuild occurs during the downtime (winter) which is short at one of the most used sport facilities in the shire.

Finally, thanks to our growing list of sponsors who ensure our club can keep chugging along. We welcome Kyle and Jess from Leischke Plumbing Talgarno as well as Albury Sportspower and encourage everyone to use their services. Same goes for Johnsons MME, Cadmac, the Bethanga Hotel and Monumental Ice Creamery.

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

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- *Club rooms available for function hire (members hire only).
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Membership forms available on website
Contact

Scott Coates 0457 464 647

Email: Administrator@humeboatclub.com

BERRINGA SUPPORT

If you or anyone you know is in need please don't hesitate to reach out and we will do our best to help or put you in contact with people.

Denise Anderson

info@berringasupport.com.au

02 6046 9250

www.berringasupport.com.au

Privacy will be respected.

BETHANGA CFA

Fire calls 000

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

THE FIRE SEASON IN REVIEW

This year has been one of the quietest fire seasons in memory, after one of the worst in history. We have welcomed cooler temperatures and plenty of rain. Conditions can change greatly year to year, and day to day – so we must always be careful. Please continue to follow all the guidelines and restrictions.

LOCAL INCIDENTS

13th December 2020 7:41pm

Heywood's Bridge, Trout Farm Road, Bonegilla. The brigade was called to assist Bonegilla with a sofa on fire near the river. The Bethanga ultralight was on scene first and extinguished the bulk of the fire. Shortly after they handed the scene to Bonegilla and returned to station.

29th November 2020 1:58am

Lake Road, Old Tallangatta.

The brigade was called to assist Old Tallangatta with a car accident and was called off on route.

TURN OUTS DURING COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

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

CFA FIRE RESTRICTIONS

In Towong Shire, the Fire restrictions are set to end

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on the 1st of May. This may change depending on conditions, so make sure you check on the CFA website before lighting a fire.

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

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

VIC EMERGENCY APP AND WEBSITE

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

BASIC FIRE FIGHTER COURSE

Unfortunately, we were unable to run our annual Basic Fire Fighting (BFF) course in 2020 due to COVID-19. Coming into the winter we may conduct BFF training, pandemic permitting. This is the initial training for new members that allows them to respond to fires and incidents. Anyone interested in joining the brigade and become a volunteer fire fighter please contact any of the members listed at the bottom of this article as soon as possible, as it takes a while for registration to occur.

BRIGADE TRAINING

Over the last 12 months, the Bethanga brigade has been unable to train on a regular basis due to COVID-19. We were still able to participate in preseason training to maintain fire fighter competency in October last year. This February we were able to hold our first general training with 17 members participating. Restrictions have eased for CFA and we are back on track for regular monthly trainings.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Bethanga brigade will be holding our Annual General Meeting on Monday the 22nd of March at 7pm.

BI-ANNUAL BRIGADE ELECTIONS

Brigade elections had to be postponed in 2020 due to COVID-19. Our current position bearers have served a 3 year term now as opposed to the standard 2 year term. With the current easing in restrictions, we will be holding our next Brigade Election on Monday the 22nd of March at 7pm. We encourage all brigade members to attend and if you are possibly interested in holding a position, please ring one of our BMT to discuss.

SENIOR RUNNING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Over the last three years the Bethanga-Talgarno Juniors have participated in the District 24 Running Competitions. These events mimic procedures and practice skills that we use regularly on the fireground. This year we are also entering a Bethanga-Talgarno Seniors team, which includes members from Bethanga, Talgarno and Granya brigades. The team consists of members from all fitness and ability levels and is aimed at having a bit

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Onsite repairs (when viable)
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of fun and practicing our skills. We also see this as a great joint brigade endeavour, and hope it builds on our brigades already great relationships.

“GO BACON & TOMATOES”.

CONTACTS

<i>Ben Mitchell, Captain</i>	<i>0411 080 277</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

We hope you have enjoyed one of the best summers we have had in quite some time; mild temperatures and rain keeping everything looking great! The threat of any significant fires is likely over for this season, but please note that the Fire Season is not over yet. A declaration to end the fire season will occur soon.

The financial year of 20-21 has been one of our quietest for some time with only three call outs to date and two of these call outs saw crews returning as incidents were managed by other brigades. This is in stark contrast to last financial year where we had 16 call outs and gathered multiple crews for the Black Summer fires in the Upper Murray.

Winter fire prep

As we are experiencing almost Autumn like weather, now is an opportunity to get ready for fire prevention for winter. This could include cleaning chimneys, fireplaces, laundry dryers and preparing green waste for burning after the fire season if necessary.

Quick Updates

Training: We have yet to commence training due the ever-changing COVID restrictions hampering our efforts. We are hoping that the year ahead will see a little more stability and allow us to re-commence

80th year anniversary: We are hoping to hold this in 2021, which will be our 81st year anniversary! We have applied for a grant through the Towong Shire to help with the running of this to keep costs down for members to attend and will be making announcements about dates as soon as we hear about the grant application and COVID restrictions allow.

BBQs and Shelter

The brigade and community were excited to hold our monthly social club BBQs again from December and we have also done so in January and scraped through one in February before the snap lockdown. We are still awaiting details on the erection of the shelter as part of the tennis court upgrade grant and we hope this information will come through very shortly as we are expecting work to commence from March.

Annual general meeting and elections

Our AGM and elections is scheduled for Wednesday 31 March 2021. Key staff from the CFA District 24 office will attend our meeting. At this stage our meeting will proceed in person at the Fire station with COVID restrictions of 1 person per 4 square metres and wearing of masks, unless restrictions change. For any members who will be absent for the meeting and plan to nominate for a role in the brigade, absentee nominations are available from Brendan Pearson, Secretary. We are also keen to hear from any of our female members who would like to join the District 24 Women's reference group to help progress women's participation in CFA and brigades.

District 24 Championships

This year we had a contingent of adult brigade members, Scott and Connor Craig, who joined forces with Bethanga brigade to compete in the District 24 Championships at Rutherglen on 28 February. They competed in several events that tested a range of basic firefighting skills such as use of ladders, use of hydrants, bowling hoses and using pumps correctly and as quickly as possible.

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New members

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

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

Peter Star, Captain, 0429 436 347

Brendan Pearson, Secretary 0439 881 440

brigade activities such as a first aid course, orientation courses, home fire safety activities, visits to other brigades and ambulance and police stations and other activities that grow member's skills in leadership, citizenship and technical firefighting.

We would also like to give a warm welcome to two new members to the Junior Brigade – Kobi and Kevin from Bethanga. And if you are between the ages of 11 and 15, we are always open to new juniors joining us! Give us a call and come and try a session or two. If you enjoy the sessions, you can sign up officially.

*Brendan Pearson on 0439881440 or John Northey
0414931442*

bethangatalgarnojuniors@gmail.com

BETHANGA TALGARNO JUNIOR BRIGADE

Our juniors have returned to training activities since mid-January 2021 after quite a lengthy break for majority of 2020. The focus of our sessions until March will be on running events that test the juniors' firefighting skills in a set of fast-paced races. Many thanks to John and Maddie Northey, Scott Craig, and Jono Green for assisting with the sessions thus far. The first competition was the District 24 Championships, on 28 February 2021 in Rutherglen.

After the championships, pending COVID restrictions, we plan to undertake some other junior

BETHANGA GOLF CLUB

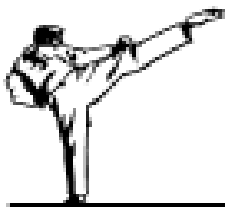


Springdale Road Bethanga

Due to the Covid 19 restrictions the golf course is closed. Although some of the restrictions on golf courses are to be lifted, the Bethanga Golf course committee has made the regrettable decision that it

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will not re-open the course this season, due to the work required to make it useable for what would be a very short period.

The course will be re-opened next year.

Hire the club house for your next celebration or fundraiser.

Contact either

Peter Star 0429 436 347
Morry Strelec 0400 036 635



BETHANGA RECREATION RESERVE

Executive

President - Brett Martin

Secretary - Andrew Hird

Treasurer - Karen Pyle

General committee

Matt Gill

Terry Macartney

David Elder

To contact us email bethangareserve@gmail.com

or SMS 0468 350 930

BETHANGA CRICKET CLUB

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

TALGARNO CRAFT GROUP

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

Joan Elliot 6020 1177

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BETHANGA ANGLERS CLUB

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

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

*Happy Fishing, CATCHYA soon
Brian 6026 4235*

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

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

When: 1st & 3rd Wednesday

Time: Starts 2 pm

Where: Bethanga Hall

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

BONEGILLA HALL CRAFT GROUP

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

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

Contact Pam on 0401 545 583

POLE WALKERS

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



Cockatoo tree , Talgarno by David Cottee

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

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

All visitors welcome.

Baptisms/Christenings - by appointment.

Enquiries to Rev Sandra Temple 6026

4361 or

0467 259 722

Catholic - St Francis Bethanga

Mass times: In recess until further notice.

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All enquiries to Fr Junjun Amaya 0459

356 917

or Fr Shibu 0432 591 551



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Murray River Road Talgarno
E. lieschkeplumbing@gmail.com

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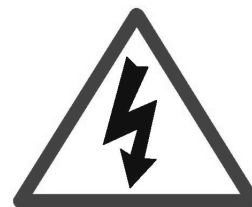
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Wises Creek Talgarno Landcare Group

Well at last quite a few of us got together at the pre-Christmas gathering at Julie and Jim de Hennin's place and, despite the torrential rain, everybody had a particularly good time. Many

thanks Julie and Jim for making this possible.

Simon Feillafe has been busy as usual and organized the collection and distribution of four spring active dung beetle colonies which have the potential to fill a gap in the dung beetle calendar. The plan is to breed these up and then distribute them to interested members of our landcare group.

Simon and Irene Lewis in the Mitta Valley Landcare group have been successful in winning a major grant to breed up and expand dung beetle numbers across their district and this will add to the dung beetle population in our region. Whilst we have not had any official notice, it appears that we were unsuccessful in our application for a similar grant for Balanced Farming. So back to the drawing board for that topic.

Our group joined with the others in the region to support the formation of Mitta to Murray Landcare Inc (MtoM) and we are currently applying for a grant to support Simon as our Landcare Facilitator under the Victorian Landcare Facilitator Program for the next three years. We are confident that MtoM will prove to be of great assistance to our group as well as others in the region.

If you haven't already done so, please make sure that you have your blackberries under control and look out for the great bio-control videos that have been prepared under the Blackberry Action Group.

We will be holding our AGM at the Talgarno Hall at 7.30 pm on Wednesday April 7 and will have an interesting guest speaker. There will be an email sent out with details closer to that time. Please consider volunteering for a position on the committee for our group – it's not onerous and it's a lot of fun and we need some new faces and ideas.

With the wonderful early rain this summer and the prospects of an autumn break, it is a good time to be planning and preparing for any planting or other Landcare activities this year. Give Simon a call (0438 190 999) to discuss any thoughts you may have.

Greg Hayes
Secretary



Bethanga Landcare Group

Bethanga Landcare looks forward to New Activities in 2021

Following good rains and mild weather for the start of the year, Bethanga Landcare looks forward to new activities for 2021 in order to protect and enhance our surroundings. Meeting last week, Committee members covering the Bethanga and Bellbridge area, started planning for the popular yearly Tree Givaway and Tree Planting days which attract each year dozens of residents from across the Peninsula.

The Committee is also exploring the possibility of holding across the year video and discussion nights open to the public. These social occasions and field days would aim to better inform anyone interested on key issues such as water erosion and management, healthy landscapes, managing paddock trees and shelter belts, protecting native pastures, enhancing soil health, etc...

In order to organise these activities to the general public and develop new ones, the handful of volunteers that make up Bethanga Landcare are supporting the appointment of a regional Facilitator, based in the North East under the umbrella of the Mitta 2 Murray group. This Facilitator will help identifying opportunities and securing necessary resources .

Your ideas for future activities are welcome! Please contact us at: bethangalandcaregroup@gmail.com with your suggestions and ideas. Bethanga Landcare will next meet on 18th May for its AGM and to finalise its activities for the next 12 months.

Enjoy our balmy autumn and see you there!

Jean Gabriel Manguy



The centre has started off the year with a real buzz, with both returning and new families utilising the various services provided.

This year, Towong Shire is fortunate to be one of the first shires in the region to offer a fully funded 3-year old kindergarten program. This is part of the state Government's free kinder initiative and means parents can now access 2 x free days of kinder for 3-year olds. This is available on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am to 4.30pm.

early years learning centre

In addition, the centre continues to provide Long Day Care from Monday to Friday (7.30am to 6.00pm) for ages 0 to 5 years. The 4-year old kindergarten sessions are on Wednesdays and Fridays (9.00am to 4.30pm) and before school care is available for school age children on Monday to Friday from 7.30am.

Highlights from late last year:

Christmas celebration with a special visit from Santa escorted in style by our local police officer Senior Constable Luke Fogarty. Thanks Luke and Santa for an amazing day!

A visit from 'Mindful Moby' author Cathryn Gordon and illustrator Ryan Sutherland who worked with the children to create a new character for Cathryn's next book – a rock'n'roll cat called 'Sparkle Shine'.

While the centre has been busy getting to know the new children and families, we will sadly be saying goodbye to one of the educators, Sharni, who is heading to Perth with her partner. Thanks Sharni for all the love and care you have provided to the children, staff and parents, and for the every changing activities in the Long Day Care room. Good luck with the next adventure!



The parents committee would like to thank all those who supported our Christmas raffle last year – from all our wonderful sponsors to those in the community who bought tickets. It was our most successful fundraiser to date and would not have happened without your support!

On the back of all the fundraising activities, the committee have provided the centre with over \$2,400 in the last 2 years for improvements and resources. This is in addition to \$11,000 achieved through successful grant submissions through both Junior Landcare and Towong Community Recovery Grants. Thanks to all who helped make this happen, especially Kate Singline and Ben Nelson. The outdoor yards of the centre are enjoying some much needed love on the back of these grants! Please get involved with the Friends of BEYLC parents committee - we'd love your help and ideas to keep our group strong. Find us on Facebook - Friends of Bellbridge Early Years Learning Centre or call the centre on 0429 859789.

Rowena Calvert

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.



We have had a wonderful start to the 2021 school year at Bethanga. We have welcomed 5 new foundation students who have settled in beautifully. We have also welcomed two new students in Millewa (3-6) boosting our school community to 20 families!



Last week students in grade 5/6 competed in the NERSSA swim carnival. Everyone gave 100% effort and enthusiasm! Hazel and Izzy qualified for the Division Swimming Carnival... good luck girls!



It was unfortunate that we were required to go into Lockdown 3.0 however, there is always a silver lining! Over the 3 days, Students, Parents and Teachers demonstrated such optimism and resilience.



Being unable to have our traditional Pancake Day at school, families cooked pancakes for breakfast at home and raised \$160 for Uniting Care!

In addition to this, students worked on art projects, learned new maths concepts, practised writing, cooking and sewing.



Last week, our amazing Sensory Play Space was complete! This area incorporates things to see, smell, touch and hear... it is a beautiful space for all of our students, particularly assisting with self-regulation when students need to calm, relieve stress or burn off excess energy.



This term we have also welcomed some feathered friends to our school! We can't wait until they have settled and we can have them roaming around during the day.



Rachel Saunders



STAFFING NEWS

We are extremely fortunate to maintain the staffing structure for 2021. There will be three teachers in the classroom for reading, writing and maths conferencing. They will be Mrs Kim Roebuck, Mrs Belinda Toohey and Mr Jayden Kotzur. Kim will also provide intervention in small groups. Mrs Cherie Wright-Pearce is our business manager who works Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Captain Pete will be continuing MSL lessons with students one-on-one and also delivering a whole school lesson on a Monday morning. He will also be running the music program every second Tuesday. Pete is our school's nominated tutor who will be in the position for 2021.

The specialist teachers will be MACC Van (art) Ms Earles, MARC Van (Library) Amy Musgrove, Science Mrs Rankin (Term 2 or 3), Bluearth (sport and well-being) Cathryn Gordon.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Monday 15th February
MACC Van

Tuesday 16th February
Pancake day

Wednesday 17th February
Bluearth 11:30am-1:00pm

Thursday 18th February
Assembly & coffee morning
MARC van

Friday 19th February
Division swimming carnival
Foundation rest day

Tuesday 23rd February
Music

Wednesday 24th February
Year 5/6 Canberra Camp

Thursday 25th February
Year 5/6 Canberra Camp

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The beginning of each year brings new adventures, new student enrolments and much, much taller and mature existing students. This year we have five new Foundation students Bailey Vine, Leni Brain, Luka Leveritt, Maddy Green and Bella Loxton. To add to the mix we also have a new year 6 student Seth May. They have been very excited to attend their first couple of weeks of school.

We are certainly looking forward to a more normal year in terms of learning, socialising and parent accessibility in our school. We invite you to be a part of your child's learning so please come and see us if you would like to know more about what they are up to.

The 'Meet and Greet' was held last Thursday 11th February at 6pm at the school. It was fabulous to see so many committed and active families in our school community. We look forward to keeping you informed with everything that is happening in 2021.

Finally the year 6 shirts that were designed by the new year 6 students look terrific. This is a great tradition that the students enjoy designing and having ownership on their uniform in their last year of primary school.

THE NEW AND THE OLD



To the left we have our five new Foundation students who have been a joy to teach in their first week of school. From left to right: Bailey, Leni, Luka, Maddy and Bella.

Seth May is our new year 6 student on the right (middle blue). We would like to welcome them all to our school!



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Red's Carpentry	0409 180 649	Granya Museum	6072 9534
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Dave Walker Painter	0419 493 423	High Country Pest Control	0418 570 194
Black Bridge Constructions	0400 116 848	Plumber	
Carpet		Kyle Lieschke	0421 772 262
Carmody & Slade	0402 591 835	Public Halls & Community Centres	
YAW Floors	0499 264 486	Bellbridge - Towong Shire	6071 5100
Catering		Bethanga - Graham Maynard	6026 4007
Dave Chambers	0407 404 672	Bethanga Rec Reserve - David Elder	0408 281 006
Cemeteries		Bonegilla Hall—Pam Rapsey	0439 186 373
Bethanga—Chris Packer	6026 4294	Granya - Kim Stewart	0412 672 629
Granya - Michael Warnock	6072 9534	Talgarno - Anthea Redman	6020 1134
Talgarno - Lea Casey	0418 967 953	Schools & Child Services	
Churches		Bellbridge Early Years Centre	6026 4373
Holy Trinity, Bethanga	0467 259 722	Bethanga Primary School	6026 4263
St. Francis, Bethanga	0459 356 917	Maternal & child Health	0417 535 978
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Jamie Swinnerton Electrical	0419 419 048	Playgroup	0422 725 147
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Equipment and machinery		Taekwondo	0419 635 554
Bob Cat Hire	6020 1153	Pole Walking	6026 4325
Mini Diggers	0403 838 038	Craft Group	6020 1177
Farm Services		Talgarno Tennis Club	0417 228 445
Jono Green Farm Services	0422 965 024	Planned Activity Group	6026 4325
General Stores & PO		Bethanga Golf Club	6026 4927
Bethanga General Store	6026 4215	Bethanga Pony Club	0414 612 918
Bethanga PO	6026 4223	Mens Shed Bethanga	6026 4418
Hotel		Rotary	6025 4338
Bethanga Hotel	6026 4214	Bethanga Anglers Club	6026 4235
Granya Hotel	6072 9563	Bethanga Cricket Club	0439 090 333
Hair & beauty		Hume Boat Club	0457 464 647
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Berringa Community News Distribution

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

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

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

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Editorial Team- Julie Miller (0419 339 679), Elizabeth Wood, Di Singline (0452 424 248)
 Kerrie Stephenson, Julie de Hennin,
 Lea Casey
 Treasurer- Kerrie Stephenson 6020 1146

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

COMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Page
March		
1	Men's Shed member meeting	17
7	Peninsula Seasonal market	1
13	Live Music Bethanga Hotel	15
20	Morning tea Fund Raiser Team Meeting	9
22	AGM Bethanga CFA	20
31	AGM Talgarno Rural Fire brigade	21
April		
5	Men's Shed member meeting	7
7	Wisers Creek Talgarno Landcare Meeting	27
17	Live Music Bethanga Hotel	15
May		
2	Men's Shed member meeting	17
14	DEADLINE BERRINGA NEWS AUTUMN EDITION	
28	Live Music Bethanga Hotel	15

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

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