

Berringa Community News

News and views from the residents of Bellbridge,
Bethanga, Granya & Talgarno Circulation: 560

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www.berringacommunitynews.com.au

Autumn 2020



Out of the Ashes - Berringa Support

Berringa Support – how it all began

Berringa Support is a group of Bellbridge and Bethanga local volunteers, formed as a direct response to the bushfire crisis affecting our local communities. At the start of the Walwa & district fire emergency, Bethanga Hotel owners Gary and Bridgit started a drop-off point for donated goods at The Bethanga Hotel, which very quickly outgrew its space. An amazing range of generously donated goods was moved to the Bethanga Hall. Mel Carmody and Bec Chettleburgh gathered a group together to make meals for our local 'firies', a plan which quickly expanded to collating all of the goods which were rapidly filling the hall. Other locals came on board, giving additional support by collecting goods, sorting and boxing and distributing them to areas in and around Walwa, including Guys Forest, Mt. Alfred, Jingellic and Tintaldra.

Several trips have already been made, with more to come. Two 4WDs, very generously donated by McRae Motors and local residents pulling their own trailers, were loaded up with boxes of non-perishables and jerry cans of petrol, donated by the public as well as APCO Fuel, Wodonga. Another generous donation - a cool-room from TGI Airconditioning and Refrigeration, Wodonga - was filled with fresh fruit, vegies, bread, eggs, hams, sweet treats, water etc. All these vehicles formed a convoy, travelling around the Upper Murray. The sights that greeted the delivery crews were very

confronting and heart-breaking, but the appreciation expressed by the recipients, some of whom hadn't seen anyone for days and in some cases, weeks was really heart-warming.

The work is on-going as deliveries continue and helping in the recovery and rebuild phase.

If you have a business and would like to help out, please get in contact via email – info@berringasupport.com.au

Berringa Support has now formed a committee and is in the process of becoming a registered Not For Profit Organisation. Berringa Support aims to support Bellbridge, Bethanga, Granya, Talgarno and surrounds as well as the wider community in times of crisis.

You can follow their ongoing efforts on Facebook and Instagram.

There are so many to thank, but special thanks go to Mel and Bec, Denise Anderson, Daniel Anderson, Fred Carter, Dave Parker, Di and Bob Singline, Katie Brown, Gina Sutherland and Brian Collins, Paul at APCO, Wodonga, Lightning IP, Foodshare Albury Wodonga, McRae Motors, Wodonga, Offset Printing, TGI Airconditioning and Refrigeration, Wodonga, Apex Tools, Trevor Jones at Steeline, Thrive PR, Bethanga Hotel and the Bethanga Hall for their support.

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.

.... from little things big things grow

You, your family & friends are invited to the 4th Annual Berringa Community Fundraiser Morning Tea from 10.00am to 12 noon on Saturday 2nd May, 2020 at Jim & Julie de Hennin's property, 'Jounama', 697 Murray River Road Talgarno.

All proceeds from this event will be donated to the Albury Wodonga Regional Cancer Centre (AWRCC) to continue our ongoing funding of two nurses to complete the second year of their Master of Nursing (Oncology). We have every reason to be very proud of our contribution to being the inaugural sponsors of this initiative and contribute to strengthening the pool of specialty trained oncology nurses at our local Cancer Centre.

A group of friends from the Berringa Community, which includes Bellbridge, Bethanga, Granya and Talgarno communities, are running this event again this year. Your attendance will be welcomed so as a community we can continue to be proud of our contribution to the Cancer Centre. The event is only for two fun filled hours. Two of the highlights of the morning are the 'Auctioneer called Auction' and the 'Silent Auction' with many fabulous, generously donated items.

The range of donated goods for both auctions will assure you of the opportunity to make a generous bid and be able to leave with a quality product! These include - a hot air balloon flight; a helicopter flight; 2 electricians labour for 1 day; a processed & packaged prime lamb; 3 loads of firewood; local

artists original works; bales of hay; Lake Hume BBQ Boat trip; new modern electrical goods too numerous to list; bottles of wine; vouchers for accommodation, food & pet care; magnificent handmade wooden items including picture frames, dressing mirror, household items & planter box; fertiliser; & lots more. There will also be plant and cake stalls, freshly cooked chicken kebabs from the BBQ, 'real' coffee from the Brew Cart & a delicious morning tea.

Please bring a plate of morning tea to share & we ask for a gold coin entry donation please

We would be delighted to receive donations of quality saleable items, such as cakes or plants. Ingredients of any food items should be listed and plants name-labelled.

Cash/cheque donations would be much appreciated and tax deductible receipts can be provided. EFTPOS facilities will be available.

For more information please call Jim or Julie de

Proudly Supporting

Albury Wodonga Regional Cancer Centre Trust Fund Inc.



Meet our Cancer Pal

Well-known Talgarno resident, Julie de Hennin, has been appointed as a volunteer community advocate for the Albury Wodonga Regional Cancer Centre Trust Fund.

Following a recruitment process late last year, Mrs de Hennin was named as one of 12 Cancer Pals, who will help support the work of the Trust Fund in towns throughout the region.

Mrs de Hennin said she was “thrilled” to be able to be part of the program aimed at helping local families impacted by cancer.

“We have had members of our community who have been patients at the cancer centre,” she said.

“They were all friends of ours and I was keen to support the centre in advancing services for this community.”

Mrs de Hennin is one of the key organisers of the annual Berringa Community Morning Tea held in May, which last year raised \$27,000.

Money from the event is being used to pay for scholarships offered to two oncology nurses to further develop their skills and experience.

The morning tea this year has been scheduled for Saturday, May 2.

Trust Fund Manager, Kristy McMahon, said all of the Cancer Pals selected were passionate about improving cancer services for their local community.

“Our volunteers all have a strong knowledge of the workings of the Trust Fund and will serve as a link between us and their communities,” she said.

“We’re really excited to have them on-board and think they will do a great job representing the Trust in our regional areas.”

The Albury Wodonga Regional Cancer Centre Trust Fund raises funds to support cancer services in the



L to R Albury Wodonga Regional Cancer Centre nursing scholarship recipients Nicole Webb and Tamara Quigley, with Talgarno Cancer Pal Julie de Hennin

Albury-Wodonga region to provide quality care for patients and families.

The four main areas of investment are life-saving medical equipment, cancer research, staff training and development and the Wellness Centre.

Anyone wishing to find out more about assisting the Trust can contact Mrs de Hennin via email at juliedehennin@bigpond.com

ANZAC Day Service

Saturday 25 April 2020, 8.30 am

At Bethanga Soldiers Memorial Hall Gates followed by morning tea in the hall. Please bring a plate of morning tea to share

Australia Day 2020

Report provided by Towong Shire Mayor Cr David Wortmann

The Australia Day Awards at the Berringa Community Centre began with a delicious breakfast provided by the Bellbridge Lake Hume Rotary Club which the large crowd in attendance enjoyed immensely. The ceremony began with John Parry MC welcoming everyone. The Naval Cadets then performed Australia Day Flag Raising. John then introduced our Guest speaker Mr Lawrence Money and a quick profile of Lawrence's career.

Lawrence Money was a newspaper columnist for 37 years before leaving The Age in 2016 after 50 years in journalism. He was twice named Victoria's columnist as a winner of the Melbourne Press Club's Quill Award. A multifaceted man, Lawrence has written six books, appeared on ABC and commercial radio, designed a family board game and, in a busy retirement, has become a stand-up comedian with a show a part of the recent 2019 Melbourne International Comedy Festival called Loose Change. Lawrence gave his speech which was fantastic, contained humour but left everyone in attendance with a lot to consider and reflect on. I was called upon to respond and announce the Australia Day Awards and Mr Lawrence Money helped with awards presentations to the recipients.

Framed certificates of appreciation were presented to the following:

- Bethanga CFA
- Talgarno CFA
- Granya CFA
- Berringa CERT Team

For their efforts responding to the recent bushfires.

I then announced the **Award for the Community Group of the Year** which was the Rotary Club of Bellbridge Lake Hume. The Club is very active in the community and their list of achievements are extensive as follows:

- They organise the Australia Day Awards in conjunction with the Towong Shire.
- They also supply the breakfast on Australia Day.
- They run The Lake Hume Bicycle Challenge.
- The Club conducts the Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal and collections.
- The Club hosts the Christmas in July for Peninsula Seniors.
- In partnership they conduct the two day Lake Hume Fishing Classic.
- At Christmas they present the Carols at Bellbridge.
- They also present awards to students at Bethanga and Talgarno Primary Schools.

Mr Colin McGinnity accepted the award on behalf

of the Club and expressed his surprise and gratitude.



Members of Rotary Club of Bellbridge Lake Hume

The last Award was for the **Citizen of the Year** and the recipient was Mr Greg Hayes. Greg contributes his time to organisations such as Lifeline, World Vision, Catchment Management Authority, Albury Wodonga Cancer Centre, Department of Agriculture Better Beef Project to name a few organisations. Locally he is a "working" member of many organisations and has held executive roles on the following:

- The Wises Creek - Talgarno Landcare Group
- Mitta to Murray Blackberry Action Group
- Talgarno CFA
- Talgarno Recreation Reserve Committee

In his spare time he writes an informative and factual weather related article for the Berringa Community News. He is also a local beef farmer. Greg was very surprised by the award.



Citizen of the Year Greg Hayes with guest speaker Lawrence Money and Jim de Hennin who accepted an award on behalf of Talgarno CFA

What I would have said on Australia Day

Greg Hayes responds to his being the awarded Citizen of the Year

"I was so totally blind-sided by being told that I was Towong's Citizen of the Year that my brain turned to mush. Here's what I would have said if I had known this was going to happen.

Thank you for this extraordinary award. I feel totally undeserving because what I have done is unremarkable in our community. I can only accept it if you tell me that my name was pulled out of a hat which had the names of hundreds of the citizens across the shire. I could then accept it on behalf of all those who have contributed. It is important for me to acknowledge that this community is what it is because people just quietly go about helping others. It just comes with your mailing address: if you live in this community you will see this generosity of spirit all around you and inevitably follow the pattern.

We are supported by such an extraordinary range of people, many of whom are doing things we don't even know about. We do know about the amazing work being done by our frontline volunteers such as the fire brigades and the Community Emergency Response Team. We know

about the myriad of small groups giving us or our children everything – exercise, tennis, healthy landscapes, music, cleaner roadsides, etc. We know about the individuals who mobilise others to support deserving causes such as the Cancer Centre, Relay for Life, Brave Hearts, refugees etc. We don't know who it was who mowed the cemetery or the wayside stops or the hall surrounds. We don't know the neighbours who stepped in and helped their neighbours when needed. But we do know it is happening all around us all the time and we are both grateful and inspired by all those acts of community spirit.

And thank you David Wortman and all the Towong Council and staff for the tireless efforts you make on behalf of our community. The burden you have carried with such strength in this horrendous bushfire season has been staggering.

So, on behalf of all those community members who have made this community what it is, I accept this honour with great humility. "

BETHANGA POST OFFICE

offering

BANKING

withdrawals and deposits

BILL PAYMENTS

MONEY ORDERS

LETTER AND PARCEL POST

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or
renovations?
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PETER JACKSON

a call on

02 6026 4040

NSW Licence 41348C

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!

Berringa Community News is on line at
www.berringacommunitynews.com.au



Local voices and local support will be front and centre for bushfire recovery efforts across Towong Shire.

Following a very challenging start to the year for communities across Towong Shire, Council wishes to express their gratitude to all emergency services, agencies and volunteers for their ongoing contributions. It is Council priority to work together with communities to put sustainable recovery plans in place, knowing that there is a long road ahead. A number of initiatives have already been implemented to help ease the financial pressure and fast-track the rebuilding process. In the Upper Murray, a Community Recovery Hub has been set up at the old Primary School campus in Corryong. The Hub will bring together multiple agencies under the one roof, providing bushfire affected residents with a single destination to access recovery services and programs. Council is also working with other communities across the municipality who are bushfire-affected to understand what support is most needed. A series of community planning meetings will be scheduled in the coming weeks, giving community members a chance to provide input into recovery plans.



Business Registration Fee Waiver

Following the bushfires council has resolved to waive its business registration renewal fees (including food premise, prescribed accommodation and health act premises) for all businesses within the Shire and to refund those businesses that have already paid for 2020. Contact Council directly on 02 6071 5100 to discuss.

Bethanga Black Spot Project Update

As part of the Black Spot funding program supported by

the Federal Government for safety improvements along Bethanga's Lake Road, (a \$170,000 project) the concrete island at the intersection of Lake Road and Kurrajong Gap Road was completed before Christmas.

Following some inevitable delays due to the tendering process from the bushfires, the next stage of the works is expected to commence in March. This includes pavement widening and upgrade of the road shoulders, installation of safety guards and new signage.

The project will also involve a reduction in the speed limit from 100km to 80km near the Lake Road and Kurrajong Gap Road intersection, a further measure to improve the safety of the area. The entire project remains on track for completion by June 2020.

Bushfire Recovery Small Business Mentors

Bushfire Recovery Advisors are now available for business owners and operators to access across Towong Shire. Currently based in Tallangatta and Corryong, advisors appointed by Small Business Victoria are also able to travel to other areas where required. Contact Anthony on 0409 016 517 or email programs@sbms.org.au to register your interest.

The team can provide:

- Immediate advice and assistance in navigating local, state, commonwealth grants and resources
- Administrative support such as banking, insurance, accounting, continuity and contingency planning

Towong Shire Welcomes New Australian Citizens

Seven of Towong Shire's residents, including Ivana Skok from Bethanga, are now able to officially call Australia home, following the Council's citizenship ceremony on Tuesday.

The citizens who come from the Philippines, South Africa, Slovenia and the UK have made their new home in Towong Shire towns of Corryong, Tallangatta Valley, Old Tallangatta and Bethanga.

Mayor Cr David Wortmaan said the ceremony is a special milestone as they formally become Australian citizens.

"It is an honor to welcome our newest Australian's from a number of diverse backgrounds who now call Towong Shire home."

"Many of the citizens have already called Australia and Towong Shire home for years and are already valuable community members. Today's ceremony simply formalises their commitment to Australia" he said.

The citizens were joined at the ceremony by their support networks including family members, friends, colleagues and fellow students.

Towong Shire Council hold Citizenship Ceremonies throughout the year. Residents wishing to become an Australian Citizen can find out more by emailing info@towong.vic.gov.au or calling 02 60715 100.



Mayor Cr David Wortmann, Sherwin, Symone and Fritzie Malenab, Ivana Skok, Duane Raubenheimer, Maddison Abrahams-Brown and Sarah Nicolson

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



Rural Asset Maintenance

Chris Vine
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On-site servicing & repairs
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Customer Satisfaction Survey

Over the coming weeks you may receive a randomised call from an independent market research agency to conduct an annual community satisfaction survey of all Victorian Council's.

Monitoring the results helps Council track performance against community needs. We value your feedback, please be assured all responses are confidential.

Thank You

Two years ago the Bethanga CFA applied for a grant to cover the cost of promoting the CFA in the Berringa Community News. A grant of \$1440 which is the cost of a full page in the next 12 editions of the Berringa Community News has been awarded. The Berringa Community News thanks the Bethanga CFA for this generous donation to support the cost of producing this newsletter.

We also wish to thank Talgarno CFA Social Club for their donation of \$200

Bethanga Gymkhana and Family Fun Day.

**Easter Saturday 11th April 2020.
Bethanga Sports Ground.**

ADULTS: \$6-00 CHILDREN: FREE
FAMILY FUN.

(Commencing around 10-30am).

STEPPING THE DISTANCE	** BUSKING **	NAILDRIVING
GUESS HOW MANY LOLLIES IN THE JAR.		JUMPING CASTLE (\$2-50)
GUESS THE WEIGHT OF THE BALE OF WOOL.		NERF GUN GALLERY (New)
HAND BALL COMPETITION	** ROCKET LAUNCH **	SOCCER GOAL SHOOT
GUESS THE HEIGHT OF THE POLE		GOLF PUTTING.
FREE EASTER EGGS.	TREASURE HUNT.	SMASH THE JAFFA.

FREE ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE CHILDREN

(Commencing around 10-30am).

EGG & SPOON RACES.	EGG THROWING.	SACK RACES.
WHEELBARROW RACES.	THREE LEGGED RACES.	TUG OF WAR.
CATCH EASTER BUNNY.		NOODLE JAVELIN

Pie Eating Contest (12-30pm) Entry: \$ 3-00 Winner: \$ 50-00
Dynamic Duo Dash (3pm) Entry: \$10-00 Winner: \$100-00 (New)
(Teams of two. 18 years and over. Entry cost is per team).
Men's & Ladies Gift Entry: \$4-00 \$60-00; \$30-00 & \$15-00
Dog Jumps (4pm) Entry: \$2-00 Every Dog gets a treat.

LOTTO COMPETITION.

1st Prize: \$600-00 Gift Voucher. 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th: \$5-00 Scratchie.
Tickets: \$3-00 Maximum of 400 Tickets.

LUCKY GATE PRIZES * BREAKFAST *** BBQ *** BAR *** KIOSK.
COFFEE MACHINE *** HOME MADE CAKES & SLICES.**

HORSE EVENTS.

42 EVENTS INCLUDING HACK, SHOW JUMPING AND NOVELTY RING.

BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY (INCLUDING THE DOG) FOR A GREAT FUN DAY.

Phone: Mary Northey (0260 264257) or Facebook: Bethanga Gymkhana.

Eftpos and ATM facilities not available.

Prospects for the Season Ahead

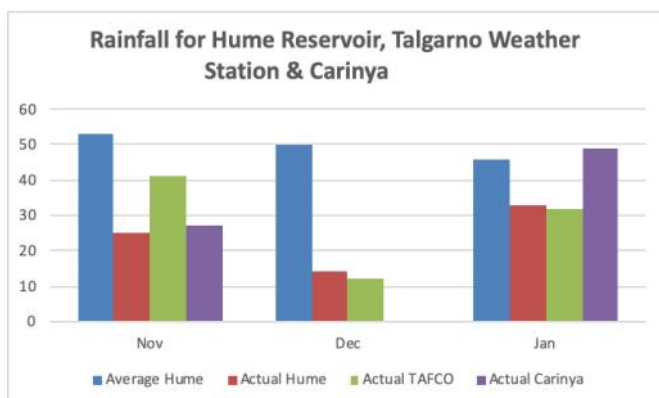
Thank you to Greg Hayes who has agreed to regularly contribute weather related articles for Berringa Community News readers.



Rainfall Round-up

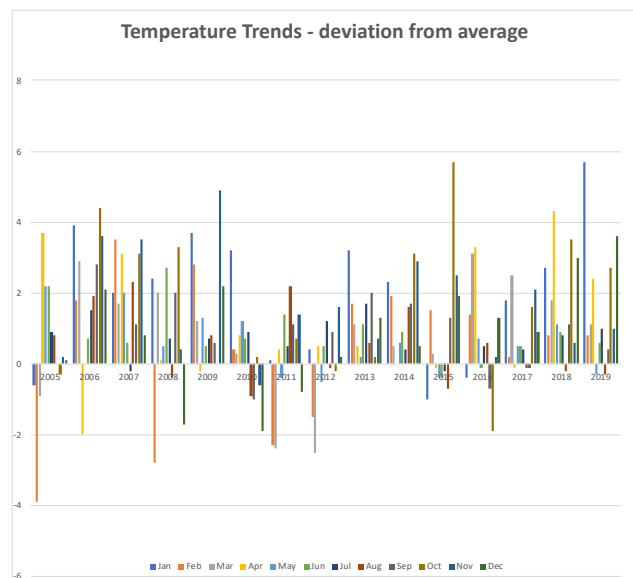
A weak spring of 2019 was followed by a very ordinary summer.

In an average year the summer rainfall (November to end January) would be 149 mm. But this summer it was 85 mm at TAFCO station (De Hennin's), 72 mm at Hume Reservoir and 76 mm at my place. The Hume reading was 62% of the median and 48% of average. November rainfall was 47% of the average, December with its 14 mm was 28% of average while January was better with 72% of average. (Please note that the De Hennin's topped the rainfall for the three months so no more grizzles please Jim). We were unlucky not to get more rain in January since statewide, the rainfall was 19% above the long term average.



The rainfall for the calendar year (397 mm at Hume) was 57% of the average but because of the patchy nature of the falls, some places were down 50%. For Hume Reservoir, the autumn was 63% of average, winter 88%, spring 39% and summer 48%. As we have said before, winter is becoming the most reliable time of the year and spring the least reliable.

Last year was also hotter than normal and this is looking like a long term trend. Over the past 15 years, almost 80% of all months have been warmer than the long term average. The autumns and winters were certainly warmer than usual but it is late spring (October and November) and January where the biggest increases in temperature have occurred.



I think we all know why it has been so dry over the past three months - the persistent positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) cut off any moisture sources in the north and the higher than normal high pressure belt kept many fronts to the south of us as it has done throughout the past year.

The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) summer outlook correctly advised that summer was likely to be drier and warmer than normal. They also correctly anticipated that the positive IOD would persist until January, a month later than normal.

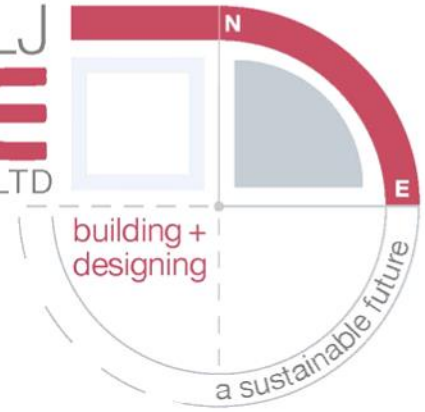
Prospects for early autumn (February to end April).

BOM's autumn outlook says there is no strong signal for either wetter or drier weather this autumn. Both the IOD and the SOI are neutral and are expected to remain so until at least May. Although the start to the wet season in the northern tropics was extremely late this year, the rainfall since has been excellent. There are now plenty of good moisture sources around hence the exceptional rains in northern and eastern Australia over the first weeks of February. This is an encouraging start to 2020 and I'm hoping we might just get an early break.

Greg Hayes



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 in both design and finish of our new home"*
 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**

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

CORRYONG BUS & FREIGHT

Passenger and freight service between
Albury/Wodonga and Corryong along Mur-
ray River Road

Daily Monday to Friday

Maurie Johnston
0427 240 077

Bethanga Soldiers Memorial Hall

Hall and Supper Room Available for Hire

Functions and Meetings

Day / Night

Air Conditioned / Heated

Competitive Rates

For more information: Contact Graham Maynard 6026 4007, Ron Evans
6026 4301 For Hall Bookings: Contact Bethanga General Store 6026 4215

Women's Health Clinics

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

All ages welcome

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

Sue Reid 6071 5270

Granya Hall

Fees for the hall hire

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

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

Catering \$8 a head

Community Meeting \$15

Bookings and Information contact

Kaye Guilliamese
kjfarm@gmail.com
6072 9598

G ranya Museum
Specialising in
pioneer families.

Open by appointment
6072 9540

**Autumn is here, time to sit with a good book from the
Talgarno Street Library**

Open all hours for everyone at the Talgarno Hall.

Maternal & Child Health

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

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

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



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 to ensure that the trust's membership accurately reflects the composition of the community it serves.

Cemetery trust members are appointed by the Governor in Council for a term of up to five years and are responsible to the Minister for Health for the proper and efficient management of the public cemeteries under the control of the trust, including the provision of 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. In addition, the Department of Health and Human Services provides free governance training to all trust members.

Current and previous cemetery trust members may apply for reappointment as part of a competitive selection process.

More information about the role of cemetery trust members is available at: <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/cemeteries-and-crematoria/cemetery-trust-appointments/class-b-cemetery-trust-appointments>

To register your interest please contact the Talgarno Cemetery Trust by telephoning the Secretary on 0418 967 953 or emailing: lea.casey@gmail.com within two weeks of the date of this advertisement.

The Victorian Government is committed to ensuring that government boards and committees reflect the composition of the Victorian community. This includes appropriate representation of women, regional Victorians, Aboriginal people, young Victorians, Victoria's culturally diverse community, the LGBTI community and Victorians with disability.

FR366_000

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

Follow Berringa Community News on Facebook

Berringa Community News now has a Facebook page. We will post deadline dates and advise when the latest edition is available on our website and as hard copy. Locals can also post local events



Babies



Jess and Brodie Sirl have welcomed baby, **William Henry**, weighing 4.39kg at Wodonga Hospital on 3rd December, 2019. William is the first grandchild for Margaret and Cameron Sirl of Bethanga and Sharon and Darren Campbell of Allan's Flat.



Jed Leslie Neilson, first baby for Abbey Chettleburgh and Josh Neilson, was born 3.05am on Christmas Day Weighing 3482g . A grandson for Leslie and Rebecca Chettleburgh and Robyn and David Neilson.

Recent Bushfires

On behalf of Tallangatta Health Service I wish to convey that our thoughts are with all those who have been affected by the recent bushfire situation, and as a community hospital, we are here for our community.

Tallangatta Health Service, whilst not impacted directly, was able to provide support over the period following the devastation in the Upper Murray region within our shire. As well as monitoring the situation for our own impending emergency, we were a part of the Municipal Emergency Management Plan which was enacted.

During the emergency period, we were members of the Towong Shire Emergency Management Team and attended twice daily briefings which kept our staff members, residents, and family members up to date with the changing situation.

Support was provided to the Tallangatta Recovery Centre in the early stages by way of mattresses and linen, and an ongoing twice daily linen service. Our social worker and other staff members and volunteers also provided support to those who had evacuated, whilst we were also able to transport some evacuees to other health services in the region. Additionally, we accepted patients from Corryong Health into our acute ward.



Preparing Beds for evacuees at the Tallangatta Relief Centre

In the ensuing days, our hospital and Medical Centre provided masks to those affected by the poor air quality. Medical services have continued to be available throughout the period.

Although some of our staff members had evacuated their own homes or were monitoring Watch and Act notices, others were able to assist above and beyond their normal rostered requirements, of which we are very thankful.

Looking ahead, Tallangatta Health Service is now functioning as normal as we are in the midst of organising appropriate services to support the health and wellbeing of our

community. Again we thank our staff members and volunteers for their teamwork and dedication. We also acknowledge the huge effort that has been made by the wonderful local community who supported those who needed help in a time of crisis. We particularly thank the wonderful people belonging to all of the Emergency services involved.

It is important at this time that we continue to keep a lookout for each other's health and well-being. If you wish to access our services or would like more information please phone us on 02 6071 5200.

Denise Parry
Chief Executive Officer

Wellbeing

Social Work and other support services have been operating from Tallangatta Health Service throughout the recent fire events and smoke filled days. Resilience is something that comes to mind when observing how our communities across our region and beyond have come together. As individuals, particularly as children and older adults, we all experience events such as these in different ways, with our unique coping strategies. As presented across a number of services, it is normal for a traumatic event to effect you emotionally and physically, even if you are not directly affected. At times it may re-trigger previous memories and emotions.

Many of our emergency service workers and first responders have put in long hours, along with volunteers. During this time stress levels can become overwhelmed, with pressure on relationships at work or family. It is important to take some time for some self-care and talk with someone if you need to. To ask the simple question of "RUOK" is often all that is needed to help someone.

Services across a broad range of Mental Health support is available. The Department of Human Services and Centrelink are providing emergency relief funds too. Upper Murray Family Care visits Tallangatta Health Service on a regular basis for Financial Counselling support, with free self-referral by phoning 02 6055 8000.

If you or someone you know needs support, it can be sought through the following options:

- Bushfire Counselling Phone Line on 1300 514 811 between 9.00am-6.00pm Monday to Friday to access free counselling services and advice on options.
- For urgent assistance speak to your local GP, local health professional or call Lifeline on 131114 or for Mental Health Crisis 1300 881 104.
- Dial 000 for all emergency situations.
- Further information and resources can be accessed by visiting: www.apmha.com.au/bushfires/

There is also a Bushfire case support program for people

from bushfire impacted areas in East Gippsland and North East Victoria which is a free service. Case Support Coordinators can help with next steps; discussing your needs, information and support to access services, completing paper work, financial support and guidance. Support can be offered face to face, over the phone or at a location that suits you. Call 1800 560 760 – 8.00am-6pm weekdays and 9.00am-5.00pm on weekends. Email: bushrecovery@windermere.org.au This is funded by the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding arrangements and Victorian Government.

If you would like to speak to someone in regard to Family Violence please phone 1800 Respect on 1800 737 732. This is a 24 hour / 7 day week State Wide Service. Remember if you feel unsafe please call 000.

If you would like further clarification around the contact points above, please let us know. I am available at Tallangatta Health Service Mondays through to Wednesdays. Phone 02 6071 5200.

Cathy
Tallangatta Health Service Social Worker

Caring for our Fellow Health Colleagues

Tallangatta Health Service lived our values by recently delivering care packages to Corryong Health staff members. These care packages were made up of donations by our staff members and the organisation with 'pamper items'. They were our way of showing our love and care to our Towong Shire health colleagues. Chief executive Officer, Dominic Sandilands was very appreciative and thanked us sincerely. A care package will also be delivered to Walwa Bush Nursing Centre this week.



Care Package for Corryong Health Staff



We're Here to Help

"Empowering people for health"

Services Available at Tallangatta Health

- Acute Hospital Care
- Asthma Education
- Diabetes Education
- Dietitian
- District Nurse
- Exercise Classes, and Strength Training
- My Community & Home Care
- Medical Centre
- Men's Shed
- Mental Health & Wellbeing Support
- Meals on Wheels
- Mixed Community Groups (MCG)
- Nurse Practitioner
- Occupational Therapist
- Pathology
- Physiotherapy
- Planned Activity Groups (PAG)
- Permanent and Respite Residential Aged Care
- Podiatry
- Room Hire
- Social Worker
- Urgent Care
- Women's Health

Bushfire Counselling
Call 1300 514 811
Between 9am - 6pm Monday to Friday to access free counselling services and advice on options.

Lifeline
Call 13 11 14
24 hours 7 days a week

PO Box 77
25 Barree Street
Tallangatta
VIC 3700

P: 02 6071 5200
F: 02 6071 5293
E: THS@ths.vic.gov.au
W: www.tallangattahealthservice.com.au



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GRANYA GAZETTE

GRANYA TENNIS CLUB

Our club has been successful in securing funding in the Active Clubs grant through Vic Health! This is fantastic news for Granya. We have started implementing Cardio Tennis Program which began on Feb 5th and will run for 6 weeks. For further updates on this and details, please like our Facebook Page, or phone Sharon on 0402 683 606.

Cardio Tennis is for all players and abilities and is about getting fit, getting a good work out and even

involves some tunes! In conjunction with this we have also provided some coaching for local kids. Great to see so many children involved and enjoying sport!

Well done to both sections 1 and 2 on a successful season, with Finals just around the corner. Good luck Section 1!

#VICHEALTH #ACTIVECLUBGRANTS



GRANYA CFA

January was a busy month - Granya had two Emergency Community meetings where information on the fire and weather situations was provided to community. We were very thankful the predicted wind change didn't eventuate and grateful that we had all the information and time to prepare our properties and pack our belongings.

Granya CFA was also called to assist at the fire in the Upper Murray at Burrowye and Guys Forest area. We thank everyone involved for assisting our CFA and our neighbouring CFA's during this busy time. A massive THANK YOU to our volunteers!

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Meals Range from \$8 - \$30

Try our popular Beef and Reef, Roast of the Day or Salt and Pepper Squid - We have Gluten Free, Vegan and Vegetarian options available.

WEDNESDAY night is Locals' Night - a limited menu of Chicken Parmigian, Chicken Schnitz or Porterhouse Steak all with Chips and Salad or Veggie Pasta for \$18.00

Soon to be introduced TUESDAY's Italian Night - Pasta and Pizza 6pm - 8pm

Come along and enjoy the outside deck area complete with fire pits to keep you warm in winter. Bring the kids along for a great family day out, feeding and petting our friends; the alpacas, mini ponies, goats, sheep, chickens and Millie the dog.

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



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Meet the New Licensee of Bethanga Post Office

Hi, my name is Felicity Conway and I will be the new licensee at the Bethanga Post Office from the start of March 2020.

My family and I moved to Bethanga in 2016. Both my children go to the local primary school and we love living in the little township of Bethanga.

A question I am sometimes asked when speaking about my new venture is, "Are the opening hours going to change?" Initially, the opening hours will remain the same while I work out how best to accommodate the community's needs in order to make the Post Office accessible for everyone. I also need to take into account

the needs of my family. I would value your feedback and will advise you of any future changes.

I do have a number of vacant Post Office boxes that are available at the discount rural rate of \$39 annually, with an establishment fee of \$20. These are accessible 24/7. Also Mail2day is a free service offered by Australia Post where PO box holders can be notified via email if they have mail to collect from their PO boxes.

I look forward to meeting you all and continuing to provide Bethanga with a reliable and friendly postal service, in a community with a bright future.

CLUBS AND GROUPS

BERRINGA CERT



GoodSAM open to those who are willing to do CPR and use a defibrillator.

The first few minutes of a cardiac arrest are crucial to survival. It takes a community to save a life – a person's chance of survival reduces by up to 10% every minute that passes without CPR and defibrillation. GoodSAM aims to provide rapid assistance to patients in those first critical minutes of cardiac arrest, while paramedics are on the way. Now any adult (over the age of 18) that is familiar with CPR and the use of an AED, first-aid trained, or a registered health professional can become a GoodSAM Responder in Victoria.

GoodSAM is a free, global smartphone app that alerts GoodSAM Responders when someone within a 5 kilometre radius is in cardiac arrest, to allow them to provide CPR and defibrillation prior to emergency services arriving. The app is integrated with the Triple Zero (000) call dispatch system, which allows AV to alert GoodSAM Responders via their smartphone and give them the opportunity to respond to nearby cases of suspected cardiac arrest.

Ambulance Victoria is committed to expanding GoodSAM coverage through enabling as many willing and suitable Victorians as possible to support their community. The majority of our GoodSAM Responders will be trained, however for some their training might have lapsed or they might not have had any yet. Our Triple Zero (000) call takers will remain on the phone to provide instructions until paramedics arrive.

I encourage as many people in the area to learn CPR and register with GoodSAM. Even with a CERT team in the case of a cardiac arrest 10 minutes is a long time. Your assistance can be the difference between your family or neighbour surviving or not.

To become a GoodSAM responder go to www.ambulance.vic.gov.au/goodsam/ for more information and download the app.

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



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

*Keep well,
Julie Miller, Team Leader Berringa CERT
juliemiller@skymesh.com.au
6020 1107
0419 339 679*

BELLBRIDGE COMMUNITY GROUP

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

Denise Anderson 0418 612 470

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

BETHANGA BOOKIES

A new book reading group has been formed in Bethanga, thanks to two of our locals, Tracey Middleton and Anna Barwick, who initiated and set it up in late 2019.

A keen group registered interest, for what was planned to be a group of 10. It quickly rose to 15, with several more on a waiting list. They met at the pub for a get together to discuss possible books, which naturally revealed a wide range of different interests and genres. Gary and Bridgit kindly provided lovely cheese platters to share, making it an enjoyable social gathering.

The first session was in February to discuss The Book of Dreams by Nina George. It was interesting to hear the different takes on the book, with varying opinions and ideas. Several of the participants commented on enjoying a book that they may not normally have picked up.

After contact with Albury Library, there will now be two separate groups reading the same book, to make it easier to contribute to the discussions.

The next book, for February, is The Lost Flowers of Alice Hart by Holly Ringland.

The groups will be meeting monthly on a Thursday at Bethanga Hotel. Thanks to Gary, Kate and Bridgit for providing the venue.

BETHANGA CFA

Fire calls 000

Burn Notifications VICFIRE 1800 668 511

Victorian Bush Fire Information 1800 240 667

All Peninsula Fire Units - UHF 24

A COMMENT ON THE 2019-2020 FIRE SEASON

We have had a fire season that has impacted Australian communities in a way that many say is unparalleled to anything else held in memory. If we ourselves were not directly impacted by these fires, we know someone who was. We know families, friends or neighbors who lost everything, or we know someone who dedicated their days and nights to helping others or to protecting our towns. As a community, we came together; everyone raised their hands to help. We volunteered our time and money; we gave our food, our clothes, our hay and stock feed to those who needed it.

The fires are still burning, albeit under better control. The clean-up and rebuild continues. The scars that these fires will leave on our community and on our country will take years to heal and will never be forgotten. The contribution, the resiliency and the support shown by our community and by everyone in the wider area shows us that there will always be help offered to those who need it.

We would like to sincerely thank all our members and every member of this community who offered support over the past months, and we look forward to the ongoing support in the effort of the rebuild and re-establishing the economy in these affected communities.

LOCAL INCIDENTS

5th December 2019 5:50pm Column of smoke, Wisers Creek Road, Talgarno. Members responded both trucks and ultralight but were called off en route.

31st January 2020 1:51pm Assist SES with tree down over road, Lake Road, Bethanga. Members of Bethanga brigade were quickly able to clear the tree from the road.

6th February 2020 8:19pm Grass fire, Talgarno Gap Road, Talgarno. Started by lightning, a small grass fire was quickly extinguished by private units prior to brigades making it out of the station.

STRIKE TEAMS

Members from our brigade have been on a number of strike team shifts over the last few months to support brigades in the wider area. We also joined strike teams further abroad, including interstate teams assisting with the fire effort in NSW.

Bethanga Tanker 2 was on scene at the Corryong Fire from the 30th of December 2019 until the 7th of January 2020, primarily in the Walwa and Shelly areas.

Bethanga Ultralight and crew were stationed at the Corryong Fire station from the 18th of January until the 20th of January to support the Corryong CFA.

UHF CHANNEL 24

Talgarno, Bethanga and Granya stations and appliances use UHF Channel 24 for operational communications.

Members attending with private appliances also switch to UHF 24 for the duration of an incident. While we encourage the general public to use this channel to communicate with the brigade to assist them with incident information, please do not use this channel for general chit chat.



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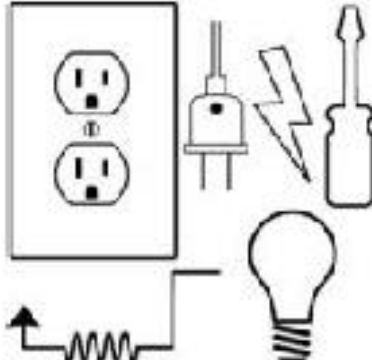
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CFA FIRE RESTRICTIONS

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

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

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

MINIMUM SKILLS

Coming into the winter we plan to conduct a minimum skills training. 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

Bethanga brigade members train on a regular basis to refine our skills.

Recent trainings have been well attended and covered:

- Identifying hazardous trees + burn over drill.
- Drafting water from all appliances and quick fill.

Training will resume after the Christmas break in the coming weeks. More information and reminders will be sent to members closer to training event.

CONTACTS

Ben Mitchell, Captain 0411 080 277

bethangacfacaptain@gmail.com

Tracey Woodhouse, Secretary 0413 708 302

bethangacfasecretary@gmail.com

Ron Evans, Community Safety Liaison 02 6026 4301



ALBURY LIFESTYLE CENTRE
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\$5 PER CLASS
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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
0427 729 569

TALGARNO RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

At the time of writing this update we are enjoying another, somewhat unexpected, soaking of rain. This is in stark contrast to the season we have had thus far in what has been described by many as an unprecedented fire season.

Upper Murray fire and beyond

As you would be aware the Upper Murray fire was one of the largest in our region burning well over 200,000 hectares. The incident ran for several weeks and many of our members put their lives on hold to attend shifts or organising support for our firefighters. We can't thank brigade members and the wider community enough for their support over the last few months. The fire behaviour this season has been extreme in many instances both locally and further abroad and unfortunately there has been some lives lost and destruction on many levels. If you have seen any of the fire affected communities first hand you would understand the destruction these fires



have caused and the time it will take to rebuild these areas. Any support you can offer these communities, whether that be through donations or visiting the communities and buying from local businesses will help these communities.

The large fires also prompted many community members to swing their bushfire survival plans into action. For some this may have been the first time this occurred. The one benefit of such a large-scale disaster is that we have all learned a thing or two about our plans and where we might fine tune some aspects. If you do not have a bushfire survival plan visit the CFA website to get started.

Winter fire prep

As we ease into Autumn, now is an opportunity to get ready for fire prevention for winter. This could include cleaning chimneys, fireplaces, laundry dryers and preparing greenwaste for burning after the fire season if necessary. A reminder that the Fire Season for our region is open through until 1 May 2020 unless revoked earlier.

Incidents

Since the last Berringa News our brigade was called to 6 incidents with the Upper Murray fire seeing several shifts as part of Strike Team 2475.

06/02/2020	TALGARNO GAP ROAD, TALGARNO 3691	Lightning strike
31/01/2020	LAKE ROAD, BETHANGA 3691	Fallen tree
29/12/2019	UPPER MURRAY COMPLEX, WALWA 3709	Several shifts as part of Strike team
05/12/2019	MURRAY RIVER ROAD, TALGARNO 3691	Small grass fire
24/11/2019	MURRAY RIVER ROAD, THOLOGOLONG 3691	Small grass fire
21/11/2019	LEFT HAND ROAD, TALLANGATTA VALLEY 3701	Forest or woods fire,

80th year anniversary

Please lock in Sunday 17 May midday for our 80th Year anniversary celebrations at the Talgarno Hall. This will be an opportunity to celebrate 80 years as a CFA brigade and award members with medals and certificates to recognise contributions.

Memberships

For any membership enquiries please contact our Captain Peter Star or Secretary Brendan Pearson or attend one of the Talgarno Fire Brigade Social Club bbqs on the 2nd Friday of the month.

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

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BETHANGA TALGARNO JUNIOR BRIGADE

Since our last update the Junior Brigade has done some more running event training in preparation for the 2020 District 24 Championships. We also capped off 2019 by having a meal out at the Commercial Club, followed by some very fun games of ten pin bowling.



Our sessions started in late January and we are fine tuning our skills for the running events that will be held at the District 24 Championships at Gapsted on Sunday 1 March. We have 7 juniors that are committing to the championships with a new member joining up only in February.

John Northey, Madelaine Northey, Scott Craig and Brendan Pearson have been putting the teams through their paces and the children's skills and speed are improving week by week.



If there are any 11-15-year old children (or those about to turn 11) in the community interested in joining the junior brigade, please contact us on details below. Membership is free and we aim to keep costs to a minimum. Joining the junior brigade is a great way to develop and improve knowledge and skills, get to know other people in the community, develop friendship and comradeship.

Brendan Pearson on 0439881440 or John Northey 0414931442

bethangatalgarnojuniors@gmail.com

TALGARNO TENNIS CLUB

Despite some fantastic tennis from all of the Talgarno teams this year, Section 1 is the only one that will feature in finals this year – in fact the Kiewa & Talgarno District Tennis Association Grand Finals (29 Feb) will have been lost and won by the time you read this. Let's hope you've heard the great news or got along to the wild celebrations!

Once again the Section 1 team has been held together by the strength of the Redman women (Anthea, Deb and Jill) with only the occasional hiccup in form – usually under lights! The men have possibly been a bit more reliable than previous seasons? Jarrod 'The Pres' has been serving plenty of rockets, Dave and Daniel Wortmann and Brendan Pearson have been steady as usual, and Craig Schubert and myself have managed a few cameo performances.

Our Section 2 team has taken a new look this year under the guidance of Paul and Genn Hamam. Wonderful to have new players to the club like Loren Dolphin and Katherine Haines, who have both shown considerable improvement with every match. Perhaps a season of what-ifs – many narrow tie-break defeats – so hopefully next year we will see more matches fall our way.

Most of the excitement for the club – and for the whole Kiewa & Talgarno District Tennis Association it must be said – lies with the juniors in Section 4. Talgarno Blue and Gold have competed against ten other teams this year – that's almost 50 juniors playing every Saturday morning in our little part of the world! Since the Christmas break we have stacked Talgarno Gold with our more experienced players – Klancie Star, Belle and Tilly Pearson, and Chloe and Ella Lewis – and they have played some great tennis. Hopefully they can stick together next year and feature in finals. Meanwhile in Talgarno Blue, Elsie Star, Ruby Pearson, Daniel Richardson, Will Lewis, Will Green and Shune Cole have stuck to the task, shown great form, and improved measurably. The future of the club and tennis in the region certainly looks bright.

Unfortunately plans for a Bushdance in March as our major fundraiser (in conjunction with CFA social club) have been put on hold, mostly because of the recent bushfires and the need for fundraising for those affected. However, the Talgarno Tennis Club must go on, so we will be exploring other fundraising opportunities in the near future.

If anyone is interested in taking part in a short night competition – probably only a 4-6 week competition in autumn – could they please let myself, Jill Pearson or Jarrod Stephenson know. This is something the club has considered since the new lights were installed and this invitation is by no means restricted to current club members – we would love to see players from the wider community involved. We are also open to any

suggestions regarding how this competition could be conducted.

In the meantime, happy hitting!

Club Secretary
Adam Richardson 0412 560 833

HUME BOAT CLUB



MEMBERSHIP NOW AVAILABLE

Members benefits

- *Secure gate entrance (key access).
- *Double width boat ramp.
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- *Club rooms available for members' use.
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- *Great location for all types of boating.

Membership forms available on website

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

Contact

Scott Coates 0457 464 647

Email: Administrator@humeboatclub.com

BETHANGA GOLF CLUB



Springdale Road Bethanga

Come and play at the picturesque nine-hole course. Players welcome 7 days a week in golf season.

\$10 green fee in the honesty box or become a member for \$100 per year which includes golf links membership and affiliation to Golf Victoria.

The golf season starts from the beginning of April.

Hire the club house for your next celebration or fundraiser.

Contact either



Peter Star 0429 436 347

Morry Strelac 0400 036 635

ROTARY CLUB OF BELLBRIDGE LAKE HUME INC.

Australia Day celebration.

The Rotary Club was awarded Community Group of the Year at the 2020 Australia Day Ceremony at Bellbridge community Centre. (see page 4 for details)

Regards,

Andrew Christy 6026 4338

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



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TALGARNO CRAFT GROUP

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

Joan Elliot 6020 1177

BETHANGA 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 PONY CLUB (BPC) AND ADULT RIDING GROUP

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

Although you would expect that horse ownership is a basic requisite to be a Pony Club member, the club is fortunate enough to have extra horses brought along by existing members and committee members to give those

members without a horse an opportunity to participate.

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

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

The club has up to two "come and try days" before fees are due. Annual fees include insurance through Pony Club Victoria which provides cover for members 24/7, not just at Pony Club rallies.

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

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

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

BONEGILLA HALL CRAFT GROUP

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

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

Contact Pam on 0401 545 583

POLE WALKERS

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

BETHANGA CRICKET CLUB

The 2019/20 Season is underway. The committee is Trent Sirl - President
Kristen (Krusty) Jahne - Treasurer
Jo Ollington & Lynette Tomic - Secretary

We are always keen to hear from new players. Please phone Trent on 0439 090 333 or follow us on Facebook Bethanga CC

Jo Ollington, Secretary.
Trent Sirl, President 0439 090 333

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Anglican - Holy Trinity Bethanga
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Bethanga Landcare Group

Our land has experienced troubled times this summer: drought, firestorms, and now rain washing the ash and topsoil into creeks and rivers devastating our water ecosystems. With a more turbulent climate, the concept of Landcare becomes more relevant in the

ongoing stewardship of our land.

This has been a particularly devastating time for our region. Our thoughts are with those that have been impacted and our thanks go to those who worked tirelessly to protect lives, livestock, and homes. While many of us are not in a position to assist during times of disaster, we can help mitigate future risks through involvement in stewardship programs such as Landcare. Your participation is sought and welcomed.

This year Bethanga Landcare has planned the following events:

<u>Bethanga Landcare Event</u>	<u>Planned Date</u>	<u>Details</u>
Scots School Annual Woody Weeds Day	April, TBA	Bethanga Commons Barbeque
AGM Committee Meeting	Tuesday, May 19	6:00pm, Bethanga Hall Guest Speaker(s) Light Refreshments AGM & Committee Meeting
Annual Tree Giveaway	Saturday, June 6	From 8:00am, Bethanga Hall Barbeque
National Tree Planting Day	Sunday, June 21	From 9:00am Location TBA Barbeque
Nocturnal Fauna Field Trip	Saturday, July 4	From 6:00pm Location TBA Barbeque & Guided Walk
Bethanga Primary School Tree Planting Day	July, TBA	Rec-Reserve
Committee Meeting	Tuesday, August 18	7:00pm, Bethanga Hall Light Refreshments
Land Readiness for Climate Turbulence	Sunday, October 24	Field Excursion Guest Speaker(s) & Barbeque
Committee Meeting	Tuesday, November 17	7:00pm, Bethanga Hall Light Refreshments
Year in Review Celebration	Wednesday, December 9	Photo Presentation 6:00pm, Bethanga Pub Barbeque & Finger food

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Susanne Watkins for her energetic and tireless work as secretary of the Bethanga Landcare Group these past years. Susanne stepped back from this role in December due to increasing commitments elsewhere. Please join me in welcoming Jean-Gabriel Manguy, who has taken on the role of secretary until the AGM in May when all office-bearer positions will be open for election.

Bethanga Landcare is a community organisation primarily funded through Landcare grants. The greater our community involvement and membership, the better placed we are in our funding applications. Your participation supports grant funding for local school and community projects. All meetings and events are open to ALL community members. We look forward to seeing you at some of this year's events.

Neville Bell, President
bethangalandcaregroup@gmail.com



Wises Creek Talgarno Landcare Group



We are organizing a field day on Regenerative Farming for Sunday April 5. We have been able to get David Marsh from Boorowa to come along as the key speaker. David operates a significant grazing and cropping family farm on the south west slopes of NSW between Cowra and Yass. He farms holistically which means putting the health of the farm as the foundation of the farm business. He says that the farm business depends on the health of the largely invisible army of creatures in the soil and above which, together with grazing animals, create the biodiversity of the farm. If we want a really secure long-term future for our farms, he argues that we must look after that biodiversity. In a practical sense this means that David is always adjusting the number of stock on the farm depending on the season which he says makes good business sense as well as being essential for long term viability. We are also hoping to provide some information (and possibly a demonstration) about the growing opportunities for farmers to get involved in carbon farming. This can be a way to

help deal with climate change while also (hopefully) to earn additional income by farming to fix more carbon in soil rather than contributing to global warming. We expect that this will be a really interesting day so we hope you can come along. Reservation will be necessary and there will be a \$15 charge per person for lunch and morning tea. More details will be available soon but please contact me (0419 609 042 or ggbhayes@gmail.com) if you need more information.

You will see that the wayside stop improvements have continued with erection of chain linking the bollards. Our thanks go to those who have kept the area looking good by mowing and weeding from time to time.

The work on current projects will include some fencing and re-vegetation on the farms of those that put their hands up to do some Landcare work. If you are interested in future projects please contact our project manager Simon Feillafe (0438190999) who will be able to tell you the sort of support that we can apply for in future.

*Greg Hayes
Secretary.*



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The start of the year has been very eventful!

The centre reopened after the Christmas break with many new and old faces alike attending. The 3 and 4 year old preschool programme commenced on the 31st January and it was wonderful to see so many happy and excited faces.

The children particularly enjoyed the 'cold ice play' activity where they helped melt the ice to reveal some frozen treasures. There were also lots of dramatic play in the home corner, where the children were dressing up and serving each other food. Already we have been seeing lots of little friendships forming among the group.



The children in the long day care room have been practising their walking and balancing skills with the aid of some added stepping stones and beams. They have been very pleased with their achievements.

The day care group has also been busy making craft objects out of a range of materials with some children desperate to take them home to show off, rather than leave them as part of the centres display!

Coming soon will be a 'family tree' project which aims to promote the learning outcome of "sense of identity" and "connection to the wider world".

The parents committee are preparing for a big year ahead, building on the successes from last year. As well as many social events, the group will oversee the installation of a dry creek bed and some veggie garden beds in the outdoor area.

Date for the diary!

If you'd like to be part of the committee or just show your support as a member of the group, the parent committee AGM will be held on **Monday 2nd March at 7pm at the centre**. All are most welcome to attend. The stronger our membership base, the more we can represent your views and the better we'll be able to support the work of the centre.

So if you'd like to know more about what the group does and have any ideas and suggestions of what is needed at the centre, please either join us at the AGM or get in touch via Facebook (Bellbridge Early Years Parents Page)!

Bethanga Primary School

School Values

RAPPORT – **R**espect **A**cceptance **P**ersistence
Pride **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.



What a great start to the 2020 school year we have had! Our students have settled in beautifully despite the hot weather, including our 6 Foundation students.

At the end of 2019, we explored ways of identifying our two classes without reference to senior/junior, littlies/biggies, top/bottom (given the change in our class structures in 2020). Students brainstormed ideas for names that had meaning and that could be used beyond this cohort. Our classes are 'Millewa' (taught by Mrs Saunders) which means 'Murray River' in Aboriginal and 'Mudgee' (taught by Mrs Wood and Mrs Grove) which means 'nest in the hills'. This year we also welcome new staff to Bethanga Primary - Georgie Macaulay (Integration Aide) and Mrs Bailee Smith (Classroom Teacher).



We have got a huge amount of construction works taking place at school - we look forward to sharing photos and inviting the local community to an official opening event in Term 2.



Welcome to 2020! The beginning of each year brings new adventures, new student enrolments and much, much taller and mature existing students. This year we have two new Foundation students Billie Hall and Mia Kotzur. They have been very excited to attend their first few weeks of school! They already know how to change their reader bags, pack their bags ready for home time and follow the rules of the school. Welcome girls to the Talgarno Primary School family.

We have welcomed two new staff members into our classroom this term, Captain Pete and Kim Roebuck. Captain Pete will be continuing MSL lessons with students one-on-one and also delivering a whole school lesson on a Monday morning. Mrs Roebuck is in our classroom delivering small group literacy intervention and is in our classrooms Monday and Wednesday from 9-12pm.

Our students are looking very smart in their new uniforms. These new uniforms will be rolled out this year and the old uniform will be phased out by the end of next year.

Our staff/visitor toilets have finally arrived! They should be operational within two weeks and look terrific.



Breakfast Club

Our brand new breakfast club has been a big hit with the students. It is now running everyday from 8:40-

9.00am. The students have the choice of muesli, Weet-bix, Cheerio's, Two Fruits and fresh apples and oranges. We are able to order fresh supplies twice a term. All the food is donated and delivered by Foodbank. It does not matter if the children have had breakfast or not, they are still welcome to attend each day.

Community Coffee Morning

We will be running our community coffee mornings again this year. They will run from 9.30-11am on Thursday mornings during weeks 2,4,6,8 & 10 of each term. All community members are welcome to attend. Bring along a plate to share and there are plenty of activities for the kids to do! Please contact the school for more details.



Welcome Mia & Billie



Keep an eye out for our Grade 6 students wearing their new shirts!

What's on

- Year 5/6 camp: **18th-20th March**
- Harmony Day: **20th March**
- Labour Day holiday—**9th March**
- Last day of term—**27th March**
- MACC Van (art) - **every 2nd Mon**
- Assembly/coffee morn: **every 2nd Thurs**
- Cooking: **Fridays**
- Indonesian: **Thursdays**
- MARC Van: **every 2nd Thurs**
- Music—**every 2nd Wed**

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Bethanga PO	6026 4214	Planned Activity Group	6026 4325
Hotel		Bethanga Golf Club	6026 4927
Bethanga Hotel	6026 4214	Bethanga Pony Club	0414 612 918
Granya Hotel	6072 9548	Mens Shed Bethanga	6026 4418
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		Community Workouts Bethanga	0412 432 798
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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 PO or Bethanga General Store. For those in Granya with PO boxes copies are available in the community mailbox at the Granya Hall.

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

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

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COMING EVENTS

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23	Granya Museum Lunch	
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8	Talgarno CFA BBQ	20
10	DEADLINE BERRINGA NEWS WINTER EDITION	
18	Talgarno CFA 80th Anniversary	20
19	AGM Bethanga Landcare	25



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.

Editorial Team- Julie Miller (6020 1107), Elizabeth Wood, Di Singline (6026 4248) Kerrie Stephenson, Julie de Hennin, Lea Casey

Treasurer- Kerrie Stephenson 6020 1146

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