

# Berringa Community News

Summer 2023

News and views from the residents of Bellbridge,

Bethanga, Granya & Talgarno

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## Have you seen the new mural in Bethanga?

Painted on the southern wall of the Bethanga General Store facing onto the new children's park is the nature inspired masterpiece.

The mural brings to life what was a drab shaded wall and supplies the children's park with a bit of imaginative whimsy.

With the amazing help of Australian Business Volunteers we were able to secure a NAB foundation Community Grant to help beautify our town centre. We were lucky enough to have the talented Albury illustrator and muralist, Kristina Greenwood design and paint the 'Happy Wanderer's mural' incorporating locally found plants and insects including

- Checked Cuckoo Bee
- Metallic Jewel Beetle
- Kurrajong Bag Moth
- Red Eye Cicada
- Heliotrope Moth

Australian Painted Lady

Happy Wanderer

I hope you all enjoy this new addition to the town.

*Felicity*



# COMMUNITY REPORTS

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

## 3 Cemeteries Project

**Honouring lives, celebrating memories.  
Our history lives here**

The Cemeteries of Talgarno, Granya and Bethanga have been successful in obtaining support from Emergency Recovery Victoria to run an event at each cemetery in the autumn of 2024.

The Trusts of each cemetery will offer to the community, family and friends of the deceased in our cemeteries, the opportunity to participate in a guided tour of each cemetery, learn of its history from a local historian and meet the ministerial appointed Trust Members.

The next edition of the Berringa News will include more details.

For more information please call Julie de Hennin 0412433499 (Talgarno), Ross Mitchell 0418215076 (Bethanga) or David Wortmann 0428816657 (Granya).



## TWILIGHT CHRISTMAS MARKET

TALGARNO RECREATIONAL RESERVE  
Saturday December 2nd 4pm - 8pm

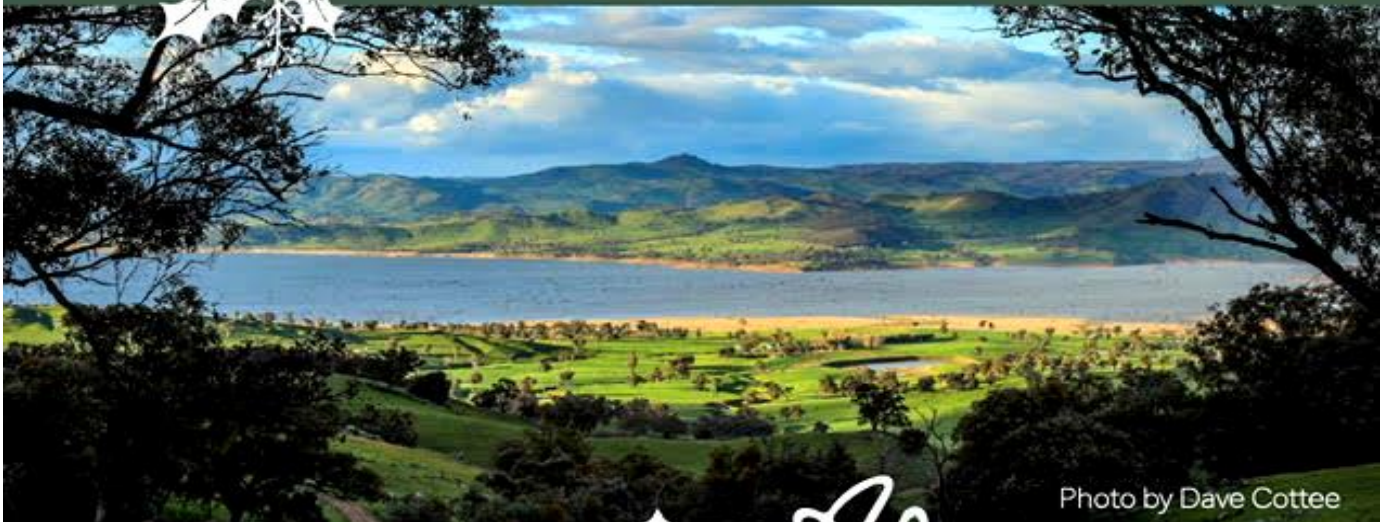





Photo by Dave Cottee

 BERRINGAPENINSULA  
 @PENINSULA\_SEASONAL\_MARKETS  
 PENINSULASEASONALMARKETS@GMAIL.COM

GOLD COIN DONATION ON ENTRY



 Bar Open  
 Live Music  
 Free kids activities

Food trucks and coffee vans

# Working dog School

Talgarno played host to a different kind of school on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September this year. The Green family generously provided their time, home and property (including sheep) as the working dog school grounds. Well known trainer Gary White was head teacher with 40 humans and around 15 dogs coming to learn and observe this unique craft.

The dog school encourages dog handlers to train their dogs in a safe, controlled environment. "We are big on animal welfare and these clinics teach the handlers how to work stock with less pressure, noise and everyone's (sheep, dog and human) safety in mind" Jono Green commented.

The event was coordinated and funded by Red Cross as an opportunity to create social engagement and to connect with people within rural communities through an activity of interest. Funding for the event was part of the recovery response to the 2019-2020 fires. Red Cross staff were in attendance to offer advice and support in planning for fires.

The Talgarno Primary School parent committee did a fantastic job catering the event, and no one left hungry.

Karen Green commented that "it was an absolute privilege to host this in our region as Gary is a multi-Australian champion dog trialer and runs these clinics all over the world".

The community can look forward to further working dog schools as the Green's will be hosting Gary White for a two-day clinic in May 2024.



# A Visit to Remember

As a core part of our Australian history and traditions, it's never too early to engage with Remembrance Day. A simple poppy worn, a gentle story or a handshake from a soldier was just enough for the children at Bellbridge Early Learning Years Centre (BELYC).

Remembrance Day 2023 at BELYC was marked with a visit from Officers from the Army Logistic Training Centre, Bandiana. Major (MAJ) Mark Robinson and Captain Paras Lohani wowed the children by rolling into the car park in a camouflage G-Wagon, taking a knee and introducing themselves to the children. From there, the children were able to explore the vehicle, ask questions and learn a little about what soldiers do.

"They loved it," BELYC Team Leader Janet Langdon said.

"I loved seeing the kids' faces when the truck rolled up and then when Paras bent down, talking to the children, it was just brilliant."



Once back in the new outdoor area, MAJ Robinson read "Lest We forget" by Kerry Brown, provided by Kinder Educator, Cathy Cooke. The picture book aims to explain the feelings around Remembrance Day in terms a child can understand and relate to.

Before the Officers departed, they were presented with two handcrafted poppy wreaths from the children, which they humbly accepted.

"We pause and reflect on the day of Remembrance Day, but it's another to actually pass the torch to those that come after us," MAJ Robinson said.

"It's very encouraging to see that strength coming through to support the soldiers that support them."

With several Defence families attending BELYC, the centre hopes to welcome more visits from soldiers on special days like Remembrance Day and Anzac Day.



## The Way We Were - Les Cole

I hope this story brings back memories of a time past to some of our local readers, written by Janet Floyd after a visit to Les Cole, before he moved to Melbourne.

### LES Cole

Leslie William Cole was born in January 1920 in Albury, the first child of William James Cole and Gwendoline Fair. Les spent most of his childhood living with his grandparents in Bethanga, Victoria. In 1934 when he finished school, Les moved into Wodonga.

His first job was at Mates timber yard. He later worked for Mylons of Wodonga driving taxis and buses. In 1939 after completing militia training, Les applied to enlist with the RAAF and eventually trained as an aircraft mechanic. He was posted to the 6th Squadron, serving in Port Moresby, Milne Bay and Goodenough Island before returning to the RAAF base in Sale, Victoria. On discharge, Les returned to Wodonga and resumed working with Mylons. After a range of jobs, Les and his wife Lorna operated a shop in Ariel Street and he was

involved in a confectionary company which was eventually bought out by Red Tulip.

In the community, Les was a founding member of Wodonga Lions Club. He also joined the Civil Defence which was a predecessor of the SES. He became the Communications Officer and trained other members. Les became the first controller of the Wodonga Branch of the State Emergency Service, a position he held for 17 years. The new SES headquarters was named in his honour. In retirement he also worked as a volunteer community driver. Les was also named Wodonga Citizen of the Year in 1984

Les continued living in Wodonga until the age of 103 in 2023, when he moved to Melbourne to be closer to his children.

He gave us a Shoe Horn from Dalgliesh Brothers Shoe Warehouse, which was opposite the Shire Hall in High Street, Wodonga and opened in October 1926. Do you have any more information about this business? We would love to add to our Victorian Collections site.

Marie Elliot  
President  
Wodonga & District Historical Society.

# Bethanga Post Office

MON-FRI 9AM TO 4PM  
SAT 9AM TO 12PM  
CLOSED PUB HOLS

ph. 0419 651 859

now located in  
The store next door  
2 Bridge Street  
Bethanga

## Summer Golf at Bethanga

For many years Bethanga Golf Club has closed over the summer months. The main reason for this is to let the course go to hay, which is then sold to support the Springdale Rec Reserve.

However this year with some out of the box thinking from the Presidents and Vice Presidents of the Golf Club and Rec Reserve, and great work from both Committees there is a summer course open for your golfing pleasure. With the hay still growing you can now play a revised nine holes. The course is open and there is a new score card reflecting the new lay out.

All are welcome, a committee member can sort you out some clubs to borrow if you want to come and try (email [hello@bethangagolfclub.com](mailto:hello@bethangagolfclub.com)). It's a beautiful way to have some early or late exercise on those hot days, a great opportunity to connect with new and old friends, have some family fun or just come down and enjoy a walk.

Keep an eye on the Facebook page for upcoming social events as well.

Jacki Eckert



# Hypnotic Night in Talgarno

Talgarno Recreation Reserve was buzzing with excitement last weekend as it played host to a unique and entertaining fundraiser. The event, organised by the community, featured renowned hypnotherapist Mat Shirley, who mesmerised the audience with his incredible skills.

support and are grateful for everyone who contributed to making the event a resounding success. Proceeds from the fundraiser will go towards the fire pit area at the reserve.

*Jill Pearson*

The fundraiser, held in the reserve's undercover area, saw a total of nine enthusiastic kids and seven adults participating in the hypnosis session. The event was filled with laughter and amazement as Mat took the participants on a journey through their imaginations.

From ninjas and zoo animals to musicians and even experiencing labor pains, the hypnosis session had it all. The audience was captivated as they witnessed the participants transform into lice-picking monkeys, forgetful children, and even individuals catching a big fish.

The success of the event was made possible by the support of the community members. Volunteers helped with various tasks such as salad making, set up, clean up, cooking the BBQ, and running the bar. Henri's Bakery in Wodonga also contributed to the cause by generously donating bread for the event.

Mat Shirley, the star of the evening, entertained the crowd with his incredible talent and left everyone wanting more. The organisers expressed their gratitude to Mat for his participation and for making the event a memorable one.

The overwhelming response and positive feedback from the attendees have already sparked excitement for next year's fundraiser. The community is eagerly looking forward to hosting another hypnosis event at Talgarno Recreation Reserve, promising even more fun and surprises.

The success of this fundraiser not only brought the community together but also raised funds for a worthy cause. We are proud of the community's



## Fortnightly Newsletter

Do you want to be the first to know the latest Council news, project updates, event details and more?

We're pleased to announce that we are launching a fortnightly e-newsletter that we can send straight to your inbox.

to sign up visit [mailchi.mp/towong/subscribe](mailto:mailchi.mp/towong/subscribe)

Our first edition will be reaching you on 27 January 2023 - stay tuned!



# News from Talgarno Recreation Reserve Committee of Management (CoM)

It's been a busy time at the Recreation Reserve. We are finally starting to see things progressing on many fronts. The Three Halls project is at last underway and insulation has been installed in the roof. The kitchen has been gutted and given a new vinyl floor in preparation for its reincarnation as a commercial kitchen/small meeting room. The gas bottle storage has been re-located to allow installation of solar batteries. A site has been prepared for the water tank adjacent to the shelter with the tank to be installed in early December. All the remaining works are to be completed by the end of February.

The playground has been improved by the removal of the dangerous soft-fall edging and the relocation of the concord.

Don and Marita Elliot gave the Committee the opportunity to cater for their well-attended clearing sale with many in the community donating cakes, slices, sandwiches and their time making this a great fundraiser. Along with generous donations from Peter Ruaro and the Elliots, this raised over \$1000.

The Hypnosis night organised by the fund-raising sub-committee was supported by many community members and was a great success exposing talents that had previously been hidden in our midst. It raised over \$700 thanks to generous donations of food and services from the community and the hypnotist!

The CoM has decided that it will devote funds raised at these two events to construct a rock wall surrounding the fire pit at the shelter.

The tennis courts are getting extensive use and the lighting issues which caused frustration are now largely overcome. The tennis club is still in the process of deciding what they want done about the club-house which was flooded as a result of the project. There are still a few issues remaining including the holes at the bottom of the fence and the tennis club is waiting for these to be resolved.

Towong Shire has indicated that they would like to see public toilets located on the reserve and the CoM will shortly be seeking the views of the community in this regard.

If anybody in the community has any comment or question for the Recreation Reserve Committee, please contact me (0419 609 042) or our Secretary, Mari Jones (0418 693 535). Our next meeting will be at the Hall, 10 AM, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024 although this may be re-scheduled.

*Greg Hayes and Mari Jones*

*On behalf of the Talgarno Recreation Reserve Committee of Management*

## The 3 Halls Project



The halls in Bethanga, Granya and Talgarno were successful in obtaining a half million dollar grant from Emergency Recovery Victoria in February 2022. After all the paperwork with the appointment of project managers and building contractors we are now seeing something happening at each of the halls.

It has caused some short-term changes to the use of the halls but TVN-on-Country, the head contractor, is working with each hall to minimise disruption.

The works are expected to be largely completed by Christmas, but all the halls should be complete by the end of February 2024



## Light up Christmas

Christmas lights will on at the Eades at 1444 Carlyle St, Granya, at 8:30 from 11 December until Christmas night.

## RESPOND project – Towong – Keeping our Kids Healthy!

Tallangatta Health Service, in partnership with Towong Shire, Corryong Health and Deakin University, is participating in the RESPOND project.

To date, 3 community workshops have been held to raise awareness about the project which focuses on solutions to barriers faced in our community surrounding healthy eating & active living, specifically among children.

## Home Care Packages

A home care package (HCP) is a government funded option for care and coordinated support at home for older people across Australia.

Tallangatta Health Service is an approved provider offering care management for all new and existing home care package care recipients.

Contact us today to find out about:

- ◆ How to contact My Aged Care and utilise the online portal for information regarding home care packages
- ◆ How to access a home care package
- ◆ How to make the most of your home care package while ensuring your goals and needs are priority
- ◆ The most common concerns relating to a home care package
- ◆ What if you are already receiving services in your home?
- ◆ How can I change my current provider?
- ◆ How to have information sent out to you

Please call Lauren on 02 6071 5238 or email: [homecarepackages@ths.org.au](mailto:homecarepackages@ths.org.au)

## Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP)

My Aged Care assists senior Australians with access to the CHSP which provides Government subsidised home support services to people aged 65 years and over (50 years and over for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people). The goal of these services is not only to have people age at home but to also ensure people feel safe and supported in their home.

Tallangatta Health Service can assist to support you at home with the following services:

- ◆ Domestic Assistance
- ◆ District Nursing
- ◆ Property and garden Maintenance
- ◆ Social support (Individual and groups)

- ◆ Respite
- ◆ Meal preparation or Meals on wheels
- ◆ Personal care

Please call My Aged Care on **1800 200 422** to register your interest to receive these supports at home. Alternatively, you can do it online <https://www.myagedcare.gov.au/make-a-referral>

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Tallangatta Health Service, My Community and Home Care on 02 6071 5238.

## We Reached Our Goal of \$500 – Thank you!



October was Breast Cancer Awareness Month, typically celebrated throughout the nation by "wearing pink".

The Staff Health and Wellbeing Committee chose to support the

McGrath Foundation, and are very pleased to announce that they reached their goal of raising \$500, thanks to staff and the wider community. The McGrath Foundation is a breast cancer support and education charity in Australia, which raises money to place McGrath Breast Care Nurses in communities across Australia and increase breast health awareness.

Support for this worthy cause was much appreciated, and through wearing pink, breast cancer awareness continues to increase.

## COVID-19

We are seeing an increase in COVID-19 cases in our community and we have experienced an outbreak in Bolga Court. The outbreak has been contained however for the immediate future we will ask you to wear a mask when visiting either Lakeview or Bolga Court. Visitors to Bolga Court may also be asked to provide evidence of a negative Rapid Antigen Test (RAT).

- ◆ Visiting hours are between **12.30 pm and 4.30 pm**
- ◆ Anyone who has tested positive or been in close contact in the last 7 days for COVID-19 should not enter the facility
- ◆ You will be asked if you are free of COVID-19 symptoms

Vaccinations are still a useful tool in preventing the spread of COVID-19. There are several providers across North East Victoria (Medical Clinics and Pharmacies) offering COVID-19 vaccinations: [https://www.murrayphn.org.au/vaccination\\_ne/](https://www.murrayphn.org.au/vaccination_ne/)

Please remember to observe good hand hygiene and stay home if unwell.



## Tallangatta Medical Centre – Christmas and New Year

The Tallangatta Medical Centre will close between Christmas and New Year's Day.

Monday 25 December 2023 – **CLOSED** Public Holiday

Tuesday 26 December 2023 - **CLOSED** Public Holiday

Wednesday 27 December 2023 – **CLOSED**

Thursday 28 December 2023 – **CLOSED**

Friday 29 December 2023 – **CLOSED**

Monday 1 January 2024 – **CLOSED** Public Holiday

Tuesday 2 January 2024 – **OPEN** to resume normal operations

Dorevitch Pathology is closed between 23<sup>rd</sup> December and 5<sup>th</sup> January.

Re-opens Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024.



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

An invitation is extended to all members of the community to attend the AGM of Tallangatta Health Service

**Tuesday 5 December commencing at 2.30pm in the Activity Centre**

Please RSVP by 1 December.

Phone 02 6071 5200 or email [Denise.Gigliotti@ths.org.au](mailto:Denise.Gigliotti@ths.org.au)

## Health Care Workers Wanted

Are you passionate about helping people in the community?

Do you have a Certificate III in Individual Support, or Certificate II in Aged Care, or Certificate IV in Disability?

Tallangatta Health Service wants to hear from you.

We are seeking suitably qualified applicants for the role of Health Care Worker-Community. You would be assisting our consumers to remain living independently in their own homes, providing assistance with personal care, social support, respite, transport and domestic assistance. Fleet vehicles provided.

For more information please contact Maree Peters on 02 6071 5238.

## Fire Restrictions announced for the Towong shire

The Fire Danger Period began on Monday, 27 November for Towong Shire

The El Niño weather pattern means Victorians can expect a hotter and drier summer than recent years, and communities should begin preparing their properties and creating a Bushfire Survival Plan.

CFA Deputy Chief Officer North East Ross Sullivan said across the region we are seeing grass dry out significantly, with vegetation now presenting a yellow colour, indicating an increased fire risk to North East communities.

“As we head into summer, fuel loads are becoming greater, so we are asking residents to clean up their properties,” DCO Sullivan said.

“All it takes is some basic maintenance such as clearing your gutters, picking up loose leaves and twigs, pruning tree branches so they aren't overhanging the roof of your property, or even just keeping your lawn under 10cm tall.

“While CFA's 52,000 members are poised to respond and support communities this bushfire season, they're urging people to use common sense and take responsibility for preventing fires.

# Berringa Peninsula Community Network (BPCN)



BPCN has completed its third year.

Here is the report card on our achievements this year.

The BPCN invited community groups, local businesses, and community members to get together on 7 November 2022 at Bethanga

Hall to find out what events or projects are planned that could benefit from some financial support and uncover ideas for new opportunities to build or bring the community together.

Around 40 participants representing the five communities and 15 community groups attended along with a representative from Emergency Recovery Victoria and three from Towong Shire Council.

The following Ideas were also put forward and actioned.

- Bush dance – held in February funded by Towong Shire Council
- Community Christmas trees - The Lake Hume Rotary Club agreed to donate Christmas trees for each community, but wet weather prevented access to their trees. Towong Shire sourced alternative suppliers.
- Peninsula Market support acts - funded by a Towong Shire grant
- Bellbridge walking track upgrades carried out by Towong Shire

Currently being actioned

- Mower and trailer available for use by multiple community groups - a potential funding source has been identified. BPCN is working with interested groups to scope the requirements.
- Mental health project – building capacity in the community through training accidental counsellors, potentially to be linked with suicide awareness, mental health first aid and Men's Shed – Red cross will run workshop in the new year
- Arts and history – working with local groups to advance ideas
- Activities calendar, community noticeboard, information brochures, community website – currently being developed potentially as online presence and welcome pack for new residents.

Ideas still on the watch list

- Boat club get-together
- Bethanga to Bay walking track
- Bethanga Recreation reserve facilities upgrade
- Interpretive signage for Bethanga

## Grants

After the presentation BPCN was allocated \$10,000 of Emergency Recovery Victoria (ERV) funding to support local events that encourage community connectedness

and social cohesion. In February 2023 community groups were invited to apply for a grant. BPCN received applications from 8 groups for 11 events with a combined cost of \$33,359 and allocated \$21,964.

We allocated \$9140 to 8 events and all but one has happened.

- Talgarno Tennis Club, Come and Try Day and 8-week adult coaching program in September.
- Bethanga Tennis Club, Smash, Bash & Sizzle - Come try day in April 2023.
- Bethanga & District Golf Club, High Tea, Hats and Hits Twilight Golf 2023 May 2023.
- Granya CFA, Community BBQ mid-month Saturdays - ongoing
- Bethanga Primary School, Bethanga Primary School Art Show August 2023
- Talgarno Recreation Reserve Mothers' Day sip & paint high tea in May, Kids Disco night in September, Community trivia night still to be held.

ERV allocated additional funding for events to be determined by the Upper Murray CRC Chairs committee. Two grant applicants were successfully referred by BPCN

- Rotary Club of Bellbridge Lake Hume applied for funding to enhance the annual Bellbridge Carols by Candlelight in December
- A joint application from the three Berringa Peninsula Cemeteries – Bethanga, Granya and Talgarno for Events to be held in autumn 2024 that celebrate the history and heritage of our area

In January we became an incorporated association which enables us to auspice organisations seeking funding

## Community Emergency Management Plans

BPCN is coordinating the development of individual community emergency management plans for Bellbridge, Bethanga, Granya/Bungil and Talgarno. Plans will cover fire preparedness; storms and flooding; community and personal disasters.

## Community Representation

We have been community representatives on the Great River Road Project, branding of Lake Hume, Placemaking for Bethanga and Bellbridge, Bellbridge Boat-house project and the 3 Halls project.

**We are holding our AGM on Monday 4 December 6,30 pm at Bethanga Recreation Reserve.**

**If you are interested in joining the committee or being involved in our activities, please come along**

*Julie Miller  
Chair*

*berringapcn@gmail.com  
0419 339 679*

# Prospects for the Season Ahead

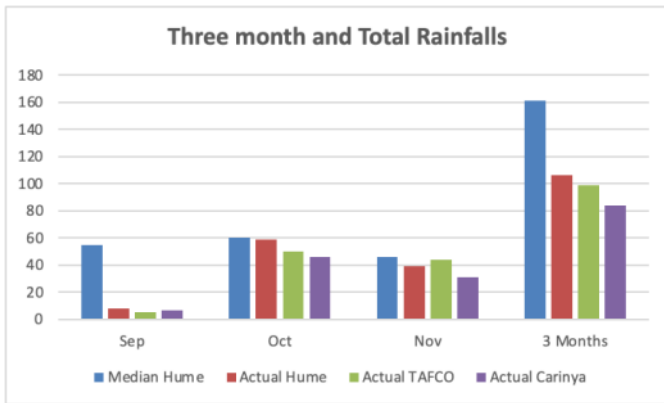
Thank you to Greg Hayes who has agreed to regularly contribute weather related articles for Berringa Community News readers.



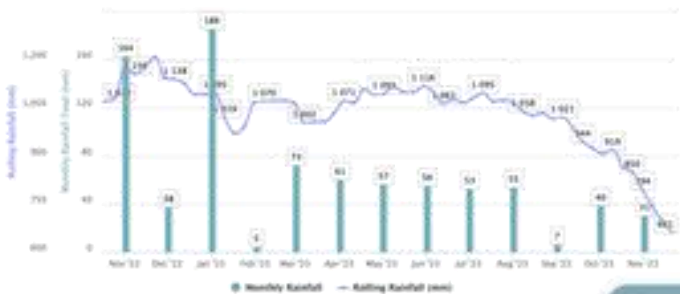
## Rainfall Round-up

BOM expected that we would get less than average rainfall over spring and they got it right.

The historical median rainfall for Spring (Sep - Nov) is 161 mm. The actual rainfall (up to November 21) for Hume Reservoir was 106 mm, or 66% of median. Jim & Julie de Hennin had 99 mm and we had 84mm. The September rainfall of 8 mm was the driest since 1946 and close to the driest on record which was 5.4 mm. The low rainfall was the result of persistent high pressure areas across Victoria blocking any rain-bearing fronts. This weather pattern was driven by the El Niño and the positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) that developed as predicted.



The rolling 12- month rainfall has fallen dramatically to 661 mm and our dream run of high rainfall has ended. The rolling 12-month rainfall at Carinya is shown below.



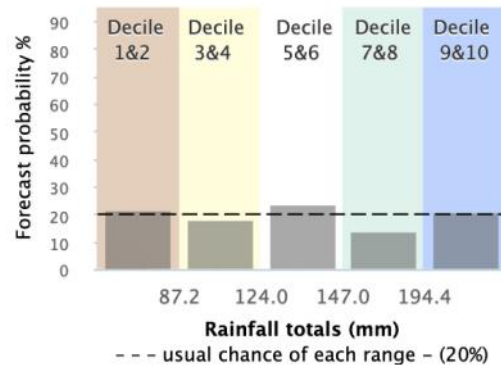
September was not only dry but about 4 degrees warmer than normal. Global warming continues and worldwide sea temperatures have been the highest on record for the past 6 months. This is leading to an increase in extreme heat and more of our rainfall coming from short duration, high intensity storms.

## Prospects for Summer (December to end February)

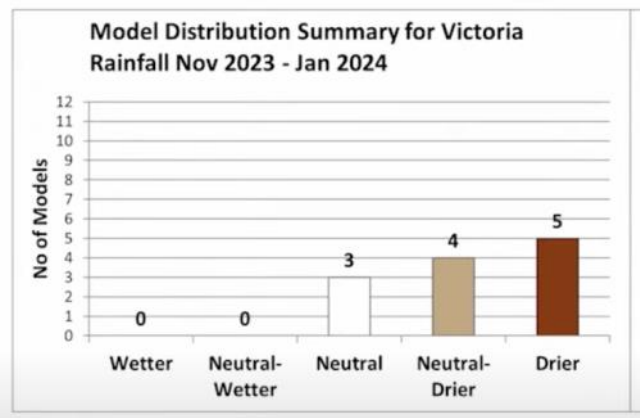
The current El Niño event is expected to continue until April at a moderate strength. In the Indian Ocean, the IOD is strongly positive but expected to end by December. BOM forecasts that much of Australia will be drier than usual but that rainfall in our part of the country will be very close to normal, around 130 mm over the three months. Days and nights are likely to be hotter than normal over this summer.

Outlook for December to February at Talgarno

Rainfall		
Historical median	133.1 mm	
Chance of unusually dry (< 87.2 mm)	22 %	☆☆☆
Chance of above median (> 133.1 mm)	47 %	☆☆☆
Chance of unusually wet (> 194.4 mm)	21 %	☆☆☆



Five out of 12 models reviewed by Dale Grey indicate drier conditions between November and January.



Overall, it's a better forecast for us than expected.

Greg Hayes

# The Year in Review

## Annual Report 2022/23

### From the Mayor

It is with great pleasure and a sense of accomplishment that I present to you the Towong Shire Council Annual Report for 2022/23.

I am immensely proud of the progress we have made over the past year. The dedication and collaborative spirit of our Council has paved the way for achievements that benefit our communities every day.

This year has been marked by the continued delivery of an expansive capital works program. We were pleased to commence works on a number of significant projects, some of which will span multiple years:

- Corryong Saleyards redevelopment
- Heavy Vehicle Bypass upgrade (Corryong)
- Revitalisation of Hanson Street and the Corryong CBD
- Bellbridge Walking Track and Exercise Equipment
- Mitta Mitta Streetscape upgrades
- Cudgewa Avenue of Honour
- Corryong Aerodrome 24 hour aviation fuel service
- Wisers Creek Road upgrade
- Smythe's Road and Little Snowy Creek bridge upgrades (Eskdale)

With our eyes firmly on the future, we commenced master planning exercises for Mt Elliot and Lake Hume as well as town-based place making for Bellbridge, Bethanga, Corryong, Mitta Mitta and Tallangatta. We also adopted a number of strategic plans including; Agriculture Strategic Plan, Recreation Strategy and Mobile and Internet Strategy. Collectively, these documents provide us with a clear roadmap of community priorities and also the evidence required to help secure government funding to deliver on these plans.

In the face of multiple emergency and extreme weather events over the last four years we continued to support our communities with a range of recovery services including roadside hubs and rebuild support. In addition, we have continued with our commitment to advocate for better connectivity and were pleased to secure commitment for the construction of phone towers in Burrowye and Koetong.

With a particular focus on families, we saw the delivery of a range of programs and events across the Shire, including an expanded library program, school holiday skill clinics, family movie nights and community walk and talks.

We know that the condition of roads is important to our community. In this financial year we invested \$1.6 million across our 1183km local road network on resurfacing, repairs and general maintenance, and next year we have committed to increasing this to \$1.8 million. However, with flood damage severely impacting the 500km of roads across our Shire managed by VicRoads, we also continued our strong advocacy to state members and ministers for increased spending by the State Government.

In other advocacy campaigns, we travelled to Canberra to meet with federal ministers, Minister Kristy McBain - Minister for Local Government and Regional Development and Minister for Early Childhood Minister Anne Aly. High on the agenda was the need for additional early years services for the Upper Murray and increased funding for road maintenance.

In our pledge to improve communications and customer service we were proud to launch our fortnightly digital newsletter and have also adopted a series of improvements to our customer request system to help us to monitor and respond to community inquiries.

In closing, I invite each of you to explore this annual report and celebrate the collective achievements of our community. It is a testament to what we can accomplish when we work together with a shared vision for the future.

### Councillors' Reflection



Mayor Andrew Whitehead

"I'm proud of the work we're doing at a local level to support national issues like housing. This year we've reduced the approval time for planning permits to support development across the Shire and I'm optimistic that next year our work with the State Government will have a real impact on housing availability."



Cr Aaron Scales

"As a Councillor for 11 years, I was excited to see so many infrastructure and community services projects being delivered to our communities. Whilst some have not all gone to plan, the 'little council that could' is delivering amazing results for our ratepayers."



Cr Peter Dikschei

"The official opening of Playles Hill has been a real highlight for me this year. It's a symbol of our community's strength, unity and resilience and stands as a testament to what can be achieved when Council and community work together on a shared vision."



Cr David Wortmann

"I'm proud of the big investment decisions we're making now that will help build the resilience of communities in the future - projects that ensure community halls have solar and batteries for power and water during an emergency will be the legacy of the black summer fires."



Cr Denise Anderson

"I am excited to see the Great River Road nearing completion and the boat club project in Bellbridge shovel ready - the enthusiasm and collaboration of our communities has been key in getting us to this stage. I'm looking forward to this continuing as we create the 'gateway' to the spectacular Towong Shire"

## Council in 2023



10,788  
phone calls answered



3,329  
library books loaned



11,282  
service requests logged



\$1.6m  
spent fixing our roads



278  
new trees planted



186  
supported community  
events or activities



120,133  
bins collected



190  
kinder enrolments

## Snapshots across the Shire



### Berringa Peninsula

Bellbridge, Bethanga, Georges Creek, Granya, Talgarno

We unveiled a fresh walking path and outdoor exercise equipment along the Bellbridge foreshore, marking the completion of Stage 1 in the Bellbridge Walking Track project.

With the assistance of our youngest community members, we proudly introduced a vibrant new playground in Bethanga, ensuring years of enjoyment for all.

We're excited to have transformed the Bellbridge Boathouse project from an excellent idea to a shovel-ready project. This involved developing a final design and a solid business model, making it investment ready.



### Upper Murray

Berrigama, Corryong, Cudgewa, Nariel Valley, Tintaldra, Walwa, Biggara

This year we commenced construction on the Corryong CBD Streetscape project. Progress moved at a slower pace than we'd hoped in the early stages as we worked to overcome early challenges. We're excited for things to move a little more smoothly after the Christmas break and to deliver a project that promises to rejuvenate the heart of Corryong.

The upgrade of the Heavy Vehicle Bypass (Corryong) is close to wrapping up – trucks will be diverted off Hanson Street in 2024!

We worked with community to prepare a Streetscape Plan for Tintaldra and Cudgewa which aims to improve safety, functionality, aesthetics, connectivity, pedestrian amenity and traffic movement within the towns.



### Mitta Valley

Dartmouth, Eskdale, Mitta Mitta

This year, we completed the construction phase of the Mitta Streetscape project. The town's natural charm and character remain beautifully intact, now complemented by enhanced facilities for safety and convenience.

As part of our commitment to the community, we've made progress on plans for the Dartmouth Splash Park. Engaging with our local community in the consultation process, we're thrilled to announce that this project is set to become a reality next year.

We've taken steps to enhance safety during times of emergency in the Mitta Valley. Two new heavy load limit bridges on Smythe's Road and Little Snowy Creek in Eskdale are now in place. These bridges are designed to provide better access during flooding and fire events.



### West

Bullioh, Koetong, Tallangatta, Tallangatta Valley

Throughout this year, we've been focusing on enhancing our road infrastructure, aiming to ensure smooth and safe journeys for both visitors and residents across the Shire. We've made ongoing improvements to Yabba Road and Lake Road in Tallangatta Valley.

Not only did we complete the construction work for the Towong Street East upgrade, featuring road sealing, widened southern lanes, upgraded kerbs and drainage, but we also laid down brand-new footpaths.

On top of these physical transformations, we commenced work on creating the Tallangatta Place Plan. Your voices have been instrumental in shaping the vision for the future of our community, allowing us to develop projects and initiatives that align with your aspirations.

# COMMUNITY NOTICES

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

## Wymah Ferry

### Operating hours

7am – 8pm

### During daylight saving

6am – 9pm  
(NB no meal closure times)

### OUTSIDE THESE HOURS

Ring the contractor,  
6020 2038

For information on bridge and ferry  
closures: [www.livetraffic.com](http://www.livetraffic.com)

## DYSONS CORRYONG BUS & FREIGHT

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

Daily Monday to Friday

Dysons Corryong Bus & Freight  
0427 240 077

## Women's Health Clinics

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

All ages welcome

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

Sue Reid 6071 5270

## Talgarno Hall and BBQ Shelter

Hall and BBQ Shelter is available for Hire

Functions and Meetings held by local and non- local pa-  
trons welcomed

Chairs and Tables available for hire

For more information please email [Talgarnorecreation-  
serve@gmail.com](mailto:Talgarnorecreation-serve@gmail.com) or phone (02)60201134

## Bethanga Soldiers Memorial Hall

Hall and Supper Room Available for Hire

Functions and Meetings

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

## Granya Hall

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

Community Meeting \$30 (hire only)

For all catering information and availability please contact

Bob Cowan or Sharyn Terlich

Bob Cowan  
0448 474 669 [rcowan@bordnet.com.au](mailto:rcowan@bordnet.com.au)

Sharyn Terlich  
0411 299 911 [shalinda56@yahoo.com.au](mailto:shalinda56@yahoo.com.au)

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

**Open all hours for everyone at the Talgarno Hall.**

## Bonegilla Hall

Hall available for hire.

**Craft Group** held every Thursday  
10am-2pm.

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

Anyone interested in Zumba  
classes?

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

## Maternal & Child Health

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

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

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

## Babies



Michael and Bert Wood of Talgarno are excited to announce the birth of their 4th grandchild, **Theodore Michael Gurses**, second son for Maddy Wood and Tolga Gurses, little brother for Jude



Introducing **Amelie May Jones** Born 12th September, first child of Russell and Maricelle Jones. Proud grandparents Hugh and Nene Green (Talgarno) and Trevor and Judith Jones (Bethanga)

## In Memorium

### Leslie Norman Eddington

9 June, 1941 - 21 September, 2023



Les was born on 9 June 1941 at the Merri Bek Hospital, Brunswick, to Mona, a florist and Alfred, a butcher. His education began at Essendon Grammar School and continued at Ashby Primary School, Geelong where he became a lifelong 'cat supporter'! Happy family holidays were spent at Granya and the appeal of country life and job

security enticed the 'Eddos' to move there in 1951, in time for the '52 bushfires. Les completed his primary

years at the local primary school with the Stars and the Webbs and Peter Sutherland was a mate when he completed his education at Albury Grammar. Because he boarded at the school through the week, his weekends were spent at Granya fishing, ferreting, shooting, playing footy & tennis and training for athletics which turned him into the well-rounded country lad that we all got to know and love! Partnering Shirley Gadd in the mixed tennis team, resulted in considerable success on the Upper Murray Grand Slam Circuit which included tournaments at Cudgewa, Ournie, Walwa, Jingellic, Guys' Forest, Bungil and Talmalmo!

Les started work with the McCulloch Carrying Company, off-loading goods at Eddie Unger's Walwa Café. He helped supply the locals with some of the '60's essentials - Turf, Craven A, Ready Rub Tobacco and a range of lollies for the kids. The van was the lifeblood of the Upper Murray! Les, however, had bigger plans and in 1964 he was recruited into the Victoria Police Force and began training at the Police Depot in St Kilda Rd. His first

posting was Russell Street, then Moonee Ponds and later he transferred to the Dawson Street Mobile Traffic Section. There he became an instructor at the Car School and later at the Police Motorcycle School. Many rider and mentoring skills were gained here, where he was a member of the Police Precision Motorcycle Show Riding Team. His love of bikes was lifelong!

At this time, Shirley Gadd reappeared on the scene and they were married on August 27, 1966 in Albury. The reception was a splash-up do at The New Albury in the luxurious Windsor Room and the special couple scrubbed up well, Les in the classic svelte dinner suit and Shirl in a beautiful self-designed and made '60's classic daisy-themed frock!

The Eddos set-up house in Oak Park where Shirl continued teaching Domestic Science at Glenroy High School and where they eventually produced their best work, Kelby on August 22, 1970 and Davin on 10<sup>th</sup> August, 1972. Planning to move back to the bush, they snapped up a transfer to Wodonga in 1973. Les continued his career in the Mobile Traffic Branch on both bikes and patrol cars.

After 2 years in town, they bought 10 acres on Huon Creek Rd. and built their dream home where the boys had a happy rural childhood with lots of animals, fresh air, space & sport. In 1983 they sold their 'toy farm' and built a new home, 'Bayside' at Bellbridge where they

spent 33 happy years. After 25 years of service in the Police Force and a few back problems, Les decided to resign in 1989 and seek another career, without the limits of shift work. He found a temporary position as a bus driver and supervisor with a sheltered workshop in Albury. A school bus run from Bellbridge to Bethanga, with the bus thrown in, came on the market in 1992 - it was a job made in heaven for Les, which he enjoyed for the rest of his working life.

Life in Bellbridge was wonderful! They became real 'boaties' and were keen sports people and hosts extraordinaire! They loved a night out and were into concerts and ukelele music. Camping regularly with family and friends, they'd get kitted out in the best costumes for all sorts of celebrations and loved polishing up the latest jalopy for the next car rally!

Extensive travel throughout Australia in their caravan and Winnebago as well as internationally, resulted in some amazing experiences, photos and mementos. It was a great life shared with a host of mates and a loving family. It was a life well-lived! Relatively recently they downsized at 42 Golf Links Avenue in town, which was just right and the perfect spot to relax and reminisce about a job well done.

*An edited version of Geoff Gadd's eulogy, with thanks.*

Di Singline

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6026 4223





# PLAYGROUP

Come along to Berringa Playgroup for a **Mother Goose session, socialising and outdoor play!**

Hosted by Bethanga Primary School alternate Mondays (excl public holidays) during Victorian school terms.

Dates: 17 July, 31 July, 14 August, 28 August, 11 September, 9 October, 23 October, 20 November, 4 December and 18 December

Time: 9.30am to 11.00am

Contact: Bethanga PS on 02 6026 4263 or Belle Ozalins on 0438 959 407 or Kate Singline on 0422 725 147

Come and join in the **FUN!**

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## Bethanga Hotel



Email: [bethangahotel@outlook.com](mailto:bethangahotel@outlook.com)  
[www.bethangahotel.com](http://www.bethangahotel.com)  
 02 6026 4214

### WE ARE OPEN!

Thank you so much to everyone for hanging in there with us. We appreciate all the love and support we have received so far.

#### OPENING HOURS:

Mon + Tue: closed

Wed + Thur + Fri: 4pm till late

Sat + Sun: 11:30am till late

Thursday night dinner - pizza - 5pm till 8pm

Friday night dinner - full menu - 5pm till 8pm

Saturday and Sunday lunch - full menu - 12pm till 2pm

Saturday dinner - full menu - 5pm till 8pm

Please be patient with us while we figure out our groove! Bookings are essential as limited space is available.

Please call 6026 4142 to book!

# BETHANGA

## ART IN THE AFTERNOON

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

Join our Facebook group by scanning the QR code below or follow [www.berringacommunity.com](http://www.berringacommunity.com) to receive updates.

## TOWONG SHIRE COUNCIL

Visit [www.towong.vic.gov.au](http://www.towong.vic.gov.au) or find us on Facebook for news and information that can help you make the most out of living in Towong Shire.

Questions, concerns, feedback?  
 Please contact us:  
 32 Towong Street (PO Box 55)  
 Tallangatta 3700  
 T 02 6071 5100  
 E [info@towong.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@towong.vic.gov.au)

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# CLUBS AND GROUPS

## BERRINGA CERT



### Epidemic Thunderstorm Asthma

People who have asthma or hay fever can get severe asthma symptoms during grass pollen season when high amounts of grass pollen in the air combine with a certain type of thunderstorm. In extreme events, people with no history of asthma may be impacted.

Epidemic thunderstorm asthma is when many people develop asthma symptoms over a short period of time. Whilst these events are uncommon and don't occur every year, they can happen during grass pollen season from October through December. Thunderstorm asthma can affect those with a history of asthma and/or hay fever – especially people who experience wheezing or coughing with their hay fever.

All people with any risk of thunderstorm asthma should:

- Understand what they can do to help protect themselves during grass pollen season.
- Where possible, avoid being outside during thunderstorms from October through December – especially in the wind gusts that come before the storm. Go inside and close your doors and windows, and if you have your air conditioner on, turn it to recirculate. Have an asthma action plan (if advised to by your GP and developed with them) and know [asthma first aid](#).
- Have appropriate reliever medication available in grass pollen season and be aware of how to use it - ideally with a spacer.
- Be alert to and act on the development of asthma symptoms as explained in your asthma action plan if you have one, or if you don't, use asthma first aid. Check the epidemic thunderstorm asthma forecast during the grass pollen season at [VicEmergency](#).

More info available at: <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/conditionsandtreatments/thunderstorm-asthma>

### The Victorian Virtual Emergency Department

It is a public health service run out of Northern Health in Melbourne for non-life-threatening emergencies.

If you are experiencing symptoms and you think you might need medical attention and your usual GP/health service might be closed or not available rather than call an ambulance or go to the emergency department you can contact VVED. These symptoms might be things like pain, vomiting, urinary infection and influenza.

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

No referral is necessary. Ring 03 8405 8815 Option 3

### Defibrillators

Following the CFA donating defibs to the Talgarno Brigade the Talgarno Brigade gave CERT a defib that was purchased with a grant some years ago. In the next few weeks this defib will be installed in the new bus shelter at the end of Wisers Creek Road, Talgarno. The CERT committee has purchased another defib that will be presented to the Bethanga Golf Club to be installed to provide 24 hour community access. More details of the location will be provided soon.

There are already 6 public access defibrillators available 24/7 on the Berringa Peninsula They are all registered with 000 through Ambulance Victoria. In the event of a cardiac arrest, 000 operators will advise the caller of the location of the nearest available defibrillator.

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

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

**Defibrillators are available 24/7 in a white box on the front walls of**  
**Bethanga General Store**  
**Bethanga Recreation Reserve pavilion**  
**Bellbridge Community Centre**  
**Bellbridge Foreshore Bus stop (near fish)**  
**Granya Hall**  
**Talgarno Hall**

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

### ROTARY CLUB OF BELLBRIDGE LAKE HUME INC.

#### Christmas Carols

The Christmas Carols will be held at the Lake Hume Boat Club Bellbridge commencing at 6.30 pm. Santa will be in attendance as well as a choir singing Christmas carols. A free Barbeque will be available as well as a free balloon maker and face painter for the kids.

The Rotary Club of Bellbridge Lake Hume acknowledges the support of Berringa Peninsula Community Network for providing funding for the event through Emergency Recovery Victoria.

## Australia Day

Australia Day celebrations will be held at the Lake Hume Boat Club Bellbridge on Friday 26 January 2024 commencing with a free breakfast at 8.00 am. A flag-raising ceremony will be conducted with the TS Naval Cadets in attendance. Awards will follow and possibly Naturalisation Certificate presentations.

The Club is seeking nominations from the community for the following categories:

- \*Citizen of the year
- \*Young Citizen of the Year
- \*Community Event of the Year
- \*Community Participation Award

Nominations close Thursday 22 December 2023

Nomination forms are available from the Bethanga General Store and Post Office or can be downloaded from Towong Shire's website at [www.towong.vic.gov/visitors/whats-on/](http://www.towong.vic.gov/visitors/whats-on/)

## Lake Hume Cycle Challenge

The Lake Hume Cycle Challenge will be held on Sunday 11 February 2024 with all events commencing and finishing at the Ebden Reserve Lake Hume. There are five cycle events ranging from long-distance to family-run, catering to all levels of fitness and enjoyment. The events are:

- ◆ 114 km Lake Hume Challenge commencing at 7.00 am
- ◆ 78 km Bethanga Beast commencing at 7.00 am
- ◆ 64 km Tangambalanga-Sandy Creek loop commencing at 8.15 am
- ◆ 42 km Tallangatta Rail Trail loop commencing at 8.15

am

- ◆ Kiewa River Family Fun commencing at 9.00 am

All rides have the same start/finish point at Ebden Reserve on Lake Hume on the Wodonga side of the lake. All proceeds go to Albury Wodonga Regional Cancer Centre Trust.

Team challenge is an extra at nil cost. To maximise the donation to the cancer centre, cycle clubs, cycle groups, sports clubs, schools, workplaces or groups of friends or family are encouraged to register as a team.

Team members can enter any of the five rides and it will count as a single team. The winner will be the team whose combined members paid the largest total of registration fees plus donations.

Free drinks and sausage sizzle are available at the finish area. Toilets and refreshments are available along each cycle circuit. It is a fun cycle, not a race.

Gold Star Sponsor is Jayco Albury Wodonga - your one-stop RV shop. Other sponsors include the Commercial Club, Albury and Wodonga City Councils, Roadside North East, webmatrix, and JC Butko Engineering to name a few.

For enrolment and more information visit the Lake Hume Cycle Challenge website.

## Lake Hume Fishing Classic

The event was conducted on the weekend of October 21 and 22 2023 by the Rotary Club in partnership with the Commercial Club Fishing Group. The event was a great success, Fish numbers caught and released were good and over 350 entrants enjoyed a great weekend with a great number of family groups participating and winning prizes.

*Regards  
Andrew Christy*

# WEDDING AND CORPORATE CATERING

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M: 0407 404 672



## BETHANGA CRICKET CLUB

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

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

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

*Phil Craig, President*  
0427 632 575

## TALGARNO TENNIS CLUB

The tennis season is in full swing and it's fantastic to see so many members of the Talgarno and surrounding community getting in on the action. Most days of any week the new blue tennis courts are being utilised for casual hitting, coaching, pennant tennis or night competition.



Organised action starts each Monday afternoon with coaching for about 25 local kids – a program generously supported by the Rotary Club of Bellbridge Lake Hume. This is followed by an adult coaching program sponsored by the Berringa Peninsula Community Network. All coaching has been conducted by Paul Sykes and both programs will end prior to Christmas – junior coaching will recommence in 2024 and adult coaching may be by popular demand. Anyone interested in joining either of these popular programs should contact the club for more details.



**Tallangatta & Kiewa**  
**VETERINARY CLINICS**

**Bethanga district run**

1<sup>st</sup> Wed of the month

Also the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed of the month during Aug-Oct

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**[www.tallangattavets.com.au](http://www.tallangattavets.com.au)**

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On Tuesday nights, it's all about Fast4 tennis. We currently have 4 teams of 5 players taking part in an 8-week competition. This shortened format of the game has been hugely popular in Talgarno and is perfect for players of all abilities. In each team we have experienced players from Saturday Pennant mixed with juniors and novice adults and, whilst it is a lot of fun, it is also proving to be a great way to get involved in organised competition play. No doubt we will be running more Fast4 in early 2024.



Saturday pennant in the Kiewa & Talgarno District Tennis Association commenced in early October and Talgarno is tracking well in three sections. Led by Brendan Pearson, Section 1 is sitting in third place with an eye on the finals at the end of the season. Section 2 is dominating their division and is sitting on top of their ladder with only one loss – well done captain Genn Hamam! Our junior team

in Section 4 led by Riley Green is currently fifth on the ladder but gathering momentum as the season progresses.

Many thanks to our sponsors – Rural Asset Maintenance, George Stahl Electrical, Bethanga General Store, Leischke Plumbing, Albury Sportspower, Johnsons MME, Cadmac, Monumental Ice Creamery, The Wool Press Granya and the Bethanga Hotel. Your continued support allows us to provide tennis opportunities for the Talgarno region.

Finally, anyone interested in getting involved in tennis in any way, please contact me or Jill Pearson (Treasurer 0412 042 090).

See you on court!

*Club Secretary  
Adam Richardson  
0412 560 833*

## BETHANGA CFA



Fire calls 000

Burn Notifications VICFIRE 1800 668 511

Victorian Bush Fire Information 1800 240

667

All Peninsula Fire Units - UHF 24

## Call Outs



16 September 2023 Sirl Street, Bethanga Reported tree fire. False alarm, good intent

07 November 2023 Kurrajong Gap Rd, Bethanga Single Vehicle MVA. Brigade

assisted Victoria Police with traffic.

9 November 2023 Lake Road, Bellbridge Single Vehicle MVA. Brigade assisted Victoria Police and Ambulance Victoria with traffic control and patient care.

## Group Exercise

### 22 October 2023

The Brigade joined Talgarno and Granya in simulating a complex incident in and around Talgarno. This involved working with our neighbouring brigades, testing our skills and working on incident management. This tied in with a broader Group exercise where other hubs performed similar tasks whilst being managed by an Incident Management Team in Tallangatta. Overall feedback was that members and Brigades achieved their goals and learnt a lot.

## Talgarno Burn Off

### 05 November 2023

The brigade joined Brigades from the Wodonga Group and Tallangatta to assist Talgarno with a roadside burn. This was held to reduce fire risk along the Murray River Road in Talgarno before summer. It proved a great training exercise and allowed crews to, not only reduce the fire risk, but gain great practical experience with real

fire in a controlled environment. It is hoped that the Brigade will be able to hold some burns within our response area in the coming years. If there are any areas that residents would like included in the plan, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the Brigade.



## Fire Safety Essentials

12 November 2023

Our wonderful Community Safety Officer, Mel, joined with Talgarno, Granya and Tallangatta Group in helping present a fire safety essentials session at the Talgarno Fire Station. Topics included emergency plans, property preparation, fire behaviour and warnings and advice.

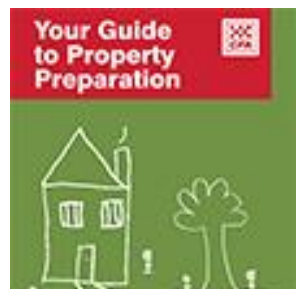
If you'd like to know more, please don't hesitate to get in touch and Mel and her team would love to help.



## Summer Cleanup

It's that time of the year when we all should think about making our property safe for the fire season. This includes cleaning up trees and vegetation and checking gutters and eaves.

The CFA have excellent information available to assist in you in preparing your home. Please visit <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/> for more details.



The brigade is happy to offer advice if you're unsure. Please note, if you intend to burn on your property, please ensure you check with Towong Shire on your responsibilities to reduce the risk of a call-out.

## Vic Emergency App And Website

We encourage everyone to install the Vic Emergency App on your smartphone 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 smartphone, you can access the Vic Emergency website at [www.emergency.vic.gov.au](http://www.emergency.vic.gov.au) or if there is an emergency warning in your area you can listen to your local ABC radio for updates.

## Brigade Training

A 12 month training calendar is being implemented to give our

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members opportunities for regular training. Training is tentatively scheduled for the 1st Thursday of the month but may be alternated to include weekends.

## Brigade Siren

The Brigade is going to begin a monthly test of the Brigade's siren. This will start in December and will be scheduled for the first Sunday of the month at 10:00 am. The Brigade's siren is used for alerting members of a call out and is used in conjunction with individual pagers and other alerting devices.

The siren serves a secondary purpose in notifying the community when the Brigade has responded to a call out. Please rely on the Vic Emergency app and/or website for updated information.

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

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

## Fire Danger Ratings

The new Australian Fire Danger Rating system is coming soon across Australia, so no matter where you are over the fire season you will see the same system used.



There are four levels of fire danger in the new system:

- Moderate - Plan and prepare.
- High - Be ready to act.
- Extreme - Take action now to protect your life and property.
- Catastrophic - For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas.

The new Australian Fire Danger Ratings System is now online and we will be using them in the community. Our road signs are updated and will be updated by our members as required.

Find out more [www.cfa.vic.gov.au/afdrs](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/afdrs)

## Contacts

Shane Bracegirdle, Captain 0459 362 395

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

Jess Ellison, Secretary 0423 614 288

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

Mel Naismith, Community Safety Liaison 0428 191 283

## BETHANGA-TALGARNO JUNIOR CFA BRIGADE

### JOINING THE JUNIOR BRIGADE

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

John Northey

0414 931 442

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

## TALGARNO RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

### Incidents:

The Talgarno Brigade turned out to a car crash at Bethanga, Lake Road.

### Group Training Exercise:

On 22 October, we had a very successful day with Talgarno Brigade combining with both Bethanga and Granya brigades in the form of our group training for members. It resulted in beneficial learning experiences involving strike team roles, crew leaders and appliance operation. The intention of the day was to simulate multiple fires across the whole group.

Thank you to all those involved in coordinating the day, a lot of effort goes into planning team exercises such as this and we appreciate the opportunity to participate.

### Fuel Reduction Burn:

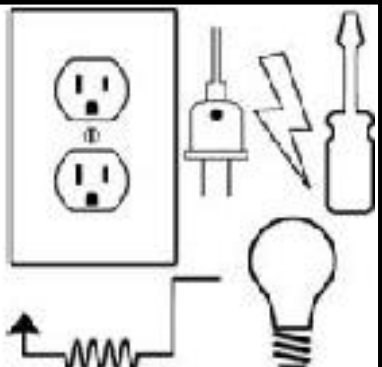
On 5 November we held a fuel reduction burn in our area. We completed burns at Merkel's Reserve and East of the Talgarno Fire Station on Murray River Road in preparation for the upcoming fire season.

Many thanks to Wodonga West, Wodonga CFA, Bonegilla, Bethanga and Tallangatta appliances for their assistance in completing the task.

### Community Safety Day:

On Sunday 12 November, the Talgarno Brigade hosted a Community Safety Day for the Peninsula residents. Community residents were presented with information on

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how best to prepare themselves and their property for the upcoming fire danger period. This was followed by a BBQ lunch (thank you to Graham & Anthea for organising) and a live fire presentation on how a grass fire typically acts and changes depending on fuel, location and weather.

We thank Max Merkel from the Talgarno Brigade and Mel Naismith from Bethanga for coordinating the day. We also thank the presenters Adel, Sharon and David for their time and knowledge.

If any community members are seeking information on preparing their property for the fire season please contact the brigade.

*Michael Elliot, Captain, 0407 201 169*  
*Jess Lieschke Secretary*  
*talgarorbsecretary@gmail.com,*

## BETHANGA RECREATION RESERVE

The flood recovery works at the Bethanga Recreation Reserve have ramped up, with the completion of the following stages:

- ◆ Entrance Crossing, and re-establish stability of creek bank
- ◆ Creek & road restoration adjacent to the tennis courts
- ◆ Cement walkway to pavilion from double gates near tennis courts
- ◆ Drainage around the vicinity of cricket nets
- ◆ Full re-build of a creek crossing in place of the old foot bridge

The old foot bridge was deemed not repairable by engineering standards. We hope the community enjoys the new crossing behind the general store.



### Rural Asset Maintenance

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There are further works planned to be completed so please take care when visiting the Rec Reserve if workers are present.

## BETHANGA GOLF CLUB



Springdale Road Bethanga

The course is open from May – October with annual social and full playing memberships available now, contact us via [hello@bethangagolf.club](mailto:hello@bethangagolf.club) or by Messenger.

The clubrooms can be hired for events. With some events already planned over the year there is a lot of opportunity to really grow this community asset.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for club info, updates and how you can join the fun

<https://www.facebook.com/thebethangagolfclub>

### Opening Hours for Golf - Anytime.

\$10 donation can be placed in the box. Cards and envelopes provided.

Refreshments are available Saturdays and Sundays 12 pm -8 pm.

*Peter Star 0429 436 347*



The grassed area between the kiosk and the tennis courts is zoned as a pedestrian area. Driving on the concrete path is strictly for the delivery of bulk items to the pavilion.

The SR500 has come and gone for another year. Visitor numbers were down this year but that didn't stop the excellent array of donations of Friday night Casseroles, Saturday night roasts and kindly donated deserts from our wonderful community cooks.

One thing is a certainty the SR500 guests commented that we put on the best food & they will be for great hospitality and friendly welcoming by the community.

A HUGE thank you to people of all ages who gave their time to assist with this event, with everyone's help the event ran smoothly. Many hands make light work, and this was evident during the weekend.

The cricket season is well underway with both A & B grade sides fielding competitive teams, with A Grade currently on top of the CAW District ladder.

The pavilion is available for public hire, for availability and bookings please email: [Bethangareserve@gmail.com](mailto:Bethangareserve@gmail.com). or call the numbers below.

### Bethanga Recreation Reserve Committee

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

President – Ross Mitchell

Secretary/Treasurer – Jo Sirl Ph: 0417 198 421

# 9 HOLE GOLF COURSE

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## BONEGILLA HALL CRAFT GROUP

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

## TALGARNO CRAFT GROUP

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

Joan Elliot 0498 208 308

## PALMS

### PENINSULA ACTIVITY, LAUGHTER, MOVEMENT & SOCIABLE

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

**When:** 1st & 3rd Wednesday

**Time:** Starts 2 pm

**Where:** Bethanga Hall

For more information contact the MCHC office on Ph(02) 6071 5238 for further details



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## HUME BOAT CLUB



Our 2023/24 committee team consists of:

Commodore: Jarrod Hay

Vice Commodore: Jack O'Neill

Treasurer/Secretary: Linda Huon

Committee: Kayla Brown, Dean and Megan Medwell, Trent Richards, Matt Smith, Steve and Sandy Cochrane, Richard Cleaver, Michael Martin, Tony Singe, Jan Bennie, Cameron and Nyree Brooks, Mich Lieschke, Scotty Reid, John Parry and Reece Preston.

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**0422 965 024**



# Wises Creek Talgarno Landcare Group

As expected for this time of year, it is really starting to warm up. The days are longer and we have been lucky enough to still get the occasional drop of rain to keep things growing and happy.

In the past quarter some of our members were lucky enough to participate in a field trip to "Goonbill" organised by our Landcare facilitator Simon Feillafe, assisted by Donna Mitch and graciously hosted by Kerry

& Allan Stephenson. The trip focused on - Traditional Uses of Native Plants & Plant Identification, which attendees found very interesting. Everyone was able to appreciate the natural beauty of the property despite it being a bit cold and windy.

Our strategic plan is almost finalised and we look forward to planning in future committee meetings to determine how we can achieve the strategic initiatives within. Once the document is finalised, we will make it available for all members and strongly encourage their participation to help make the plans materialise.

We are looking forward to making our first annual student Landcare award at the Talgarno Primary School's end of year celebration.

If you are not a member already and wish to join us, feel free to any one of our committee below to organise sign up.



## COMMITTEE

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



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## 2023 Council Meetings

Time	Date	Location
10.30am	25 January 2023	Tallangatta
10.30am	22 February 2023	Corryong
1.30pm	22 March 2023	Tallangatta
10.30am	26 April 2023	Corryong
10.30am	31 May 2023	Tallangatta
10.30am	28 June 2023	Corryong
10.30am	26 July 2023	Tallangatta
10.30am	23 August 2023	Corryong
10.30am	27 September 2023	Tallangatta
10.30am	25 October 2023	Corryong
10.30am	22 November 2023	Tallangatta
10.30am	20 December 2023	Corryong

The agenda and requirements for Public Question Time can be found prior to the meeting on our website or by calling 1300 365 222.

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*"When Local Knowledge Really Counts"*

Spring at Bellbridge Early Learning Years Centre (BELYC) is defrosting in our magical new outdoor area, welcoming interesting adults from far and wide and celebrating the important things (and people).

Our completely overhauled outdoor area has been in action since September and facilitated many of our spring activities. It features a huge sandpit, new climbing area, dry creek bed, veggie gardens and more—a true credit to all involved.

October started with a special lesson from Thingle Toodle and Professor Eric Speriment to teach the kids basic road safety - to stop, look, listen and think when near roads.



Spring-cleaning was next on the agenda, with BELYC participating in the community garage sale in a bid to de-clutter and prepare for the many renovations and changes to come (dreams and reality!) Thank you to all who gave up their Sunday morning to assist or take items off our hands.

Nothing says spring like new hair, and Brad was more than keen to lead the charge. Brad sacrificed the majority of his luscious man-bun in the name of Wigs 4 Kids, a touching campaign by Kids with Cancer. The children witnessed this generous act, were able to ask questions and watch a short film on the journey of donated hair.

Hair wasn't just being cut, however, with the kinder kids enjoying 'Hair Salon' - a cute little set-up

where the children were able to unleash their imaginations and style large doll heads as they desired. We would like to say 'no dolls were hurt in the making of this activity,' but for anyone who has had their 'hair done' by a three-year-old... you can only imagine.

From gifting wigs to wearing wigs, one of the highlights of Spring at BELYC was Grandparents Day. Grandmothers, Grandfathers and even a Great-Uncle visited their special little people, joining in with dancing, singing, wearing 'Grandma' wigs, drawing portraits and enjoying a picnic in the new outdoor area. Maggie Moo was a hit, with some fans even having to be restrained by security. A particular thank you to our educator, Di, who brought gorgeous fresh flowers from her mother's garden to thank the Grandparents for coming.



With Halloween alive and well in Bellbridge, BELYC educators kindly donated their time, dressing up and handing out treats to all the skeletons, ghosts, vampires, witches and storm troopers who visited. Many noted Brad's Elsa hair moment really drew the crowds in.

Pirate Pete came to visit come November, along with his ever-popular co-hosts Clancy the Koala and Harry the Dog. Pete's visit was marked with music; singing, dancing and a chance for the children to create their own band using some interesting instruments.

BELYC currently has a wait list for Long Day Care (younger babies and toddlers) but do have some availability in the Kindergarten program.

For more information on BELYC and the programs we run, please contact Janet, Team Leader:

[janet.langdon@towong.vic.gov.au](mailto:janet.langdon@towong.vic.gov.au) or call 02 6026 4373.



Term 4 has been a busy one! Jam packed full of fun, adventures, sporting events, cluster days, creativity and excursions.

Students across all year levels have been spending time each Thursday with local artist Kylie Biltris from Arts Starts Here, creating and building three large sculptures inspired by magical mystical creatures. The sculptures will become a permanent fixture in our gardens.

Gardens seems to be a running theme this term as juniors have created their very own garden beds, planting a number of vegetables and flowers and the seniors gardens are already bursting with baby spinach, snow peas, zucchini and tomatoes. Super impressive!!

Juniors even entered a gardening competition "Love Letter to the Land" run by Jr Land Care Australia - if they win, Costa Georgiadis will visit the school! Fingers crossed!!!!



Due to the scheduled power outage in October we decided to take the opportunity to head into Wodonga for an excursion of the library and the Hyphen Gallery. We had our very own tour guides that showed us around the building, including a gallery walk of the current exhibitions on display, the 3D printer room and a peek into their artist in residence studio space.

After our tour we headed to ten pin bowling before finishing up at the new Ninja Warrior

Park for lunch and a run around.

Every second Wednesday, students have been hitting the Wodonga bowling alley, showcasing their impressive bowling skills and competitive flare! There has been a "unspoken" competition with students vs Mrs Gordon! A lot of of laughter and fun.

We are looking forward to commencement of swimming lessons at Waves in Wodonga at the end of November.

There have been a number of School Cluster Days this term, including TPS hosting a F-2 Science Day. Our senior students were able to use their leadership skills by running the different sessions throughout the day, sessions included students creating and experimenting with foil boats, lava lamps, mini parachutes and using the microscopes.

Downball Australia hosted a fun day at Bethanga, teaching students new skills and techniques.

Students have also participated in a hockey cluster day with Albury Wodonga Hockey.





Money! Money! Money! Students are learning all about money, from identifying different coins and notes, to saving and spending. They have the opportunity each week to earn their own money by doing class room chores each week and reading at home. We have had a number of fun activities for students to save and spend their money on throughout the term, including games, canteen, Movie day and hour market stall day where each student will create something to sell, or provide a service for money.

Students are busy planning, and there has been whisper that there will be a Nintendo switch station, toffee apple stalls, massages, lucky dips and even a guess the lollies in the jar. Should be a fun and eventful afternoon of learning!

Our seniors have been attending transition days across different secondary schools, and we have our foundation transition days coming up at

the school.

Students continue to practice mindfulness and learn about gratitude, empathy and mindfulness as a part of their ongoing engagement with the resilience project.

We have several activities and events coming up including our grade 6 graduation dinner, school Christmas party, Bellbridge Christmas carols, colour run day at Bethanga and our annual day by the weir for the last day of term 4!

Wishing everyone a wonderful, safe summer and Christmas season.



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## Berringa Community News

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

**Deadlines for articles and advertising for 2024/25 editions are:**

Autumn 2024 - 11 February  
 Winter 2024 - 13 May  
 Spring 2024 - 11 August  
 Summer 2024 - 16 November

The newsletter is also available in colour on line at [www.berringacommunitynews.com.au](http://www.berringacommunitynews.com.au)

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Talgarno - Lea Casey	0418 967 953	Bethanga Rec Reserve - David Elder	0408 281 006
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Bob Cat Hire	0429 686 323	Talgarno Primary School	6020 1143
Mini Diggers	0403 838 038	Playgroup	0422 725 147
<b>Farm Services</b>		<b>Sport &amp; Recreation</b>	
Jono Green Farm Services	0422 965 024	Talgarno Tennis Club	0417 228 445
<b>Gardening</b>		Bethanga Tennis Club	0419 436 347
Grouse Grass	0492 183 929	Planned Activity Group	6026 4325
<b>General Stores &amp; PO</b>		Bethanga Golf Club	0429 436 347
Bethanga General Store	6026 4223	Mens Shed Bethanga	0427 632 575
Bethanga PO and Shop Next Door	0419 651 859	Rotary	6026 4338
<b>Hotel</b>		Bethanga Cricket Club	0439 090 333
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*Berringa Community News is a community initiative. Published articles and advertisements are submitted by members of the community and as such are not necessarily the work or views of the editors.*

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

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

### Advertising

Firstly, the Editorial Team wish to thank our advertisers – without your advertisements in our community newsletter – there would be no newsletter!

#### The 2023 Advertising rates

\$120 Full page

\$60 half page

\$40 third page

\$30 quarter page

\$15 Business card size

Classified Advertisements are \$2.00 each.

Half price for fund raising events

### Berringa Community News Distribution

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

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

The newsletter is also available in colour on line at [www.berringacommunitynews.com.au](http://www.berringacommunitynews.com.au)

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11	Lake Hume challenge	20



*The Berringa  
Community News  
team wish  
everyone a happy  
and safe  
Christmas and  
New Year*

This edition of BCN has been printed by



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