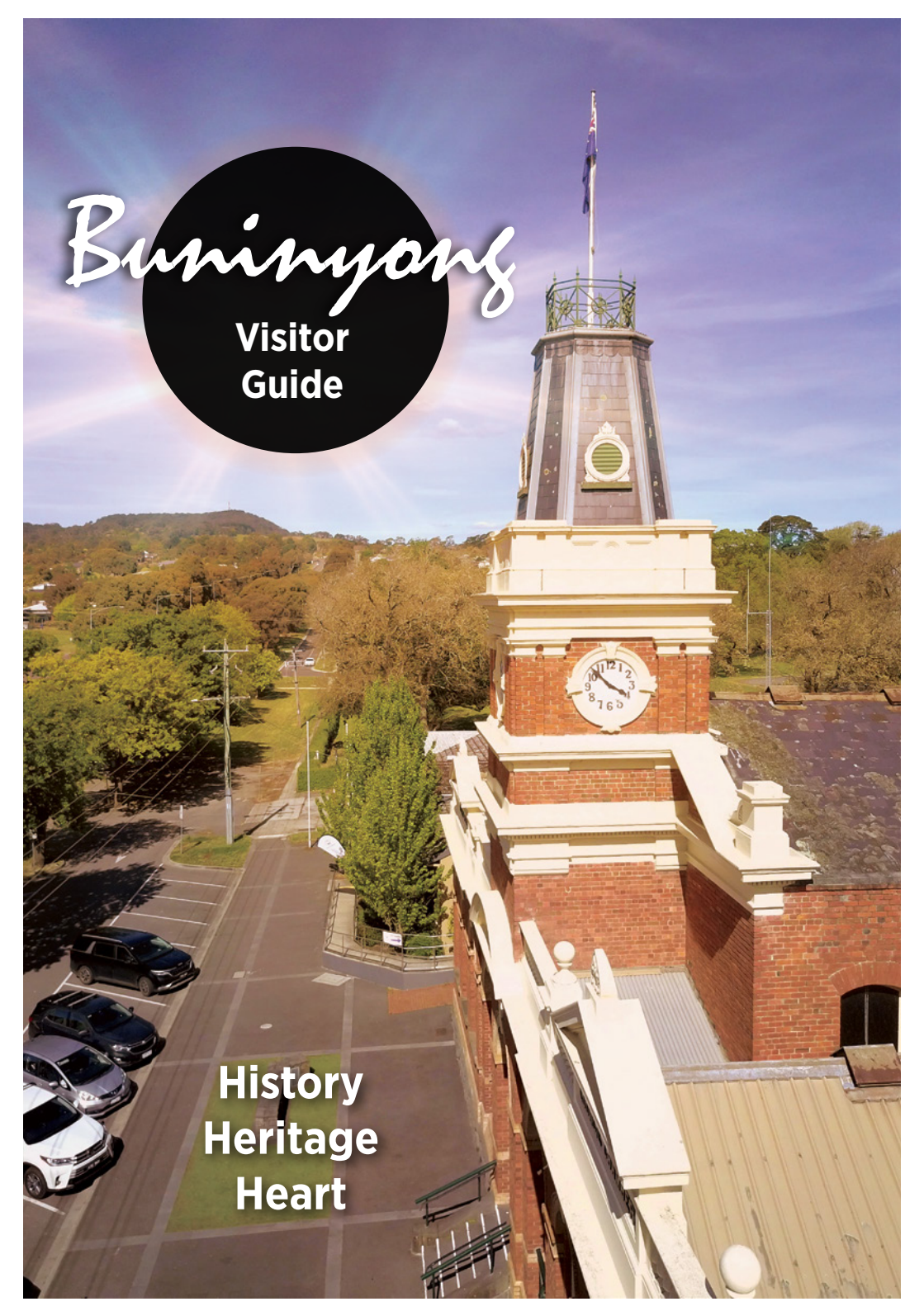


An aerial photograph of Buninyong, Australia, featuring a prominent clock tower. The tower is constructed from red brick with white stone accents and has a clock face on its side. It is topped with a dark, conical roof and a flagpole flying the Australian flag. The surrounding area includes a parking lot with several cars, a road, and lush green trees. In the background, a hill is visible under a clear blue sky with a faint rainbow.

Buninyong

Visitor Guide

History
Heritage
Heart

VISITOR INFORMATION

Staffed by local volunteers, Buninyong's Visitor Information Centre is located in the Old Library, adjacent to Desoza Park in Warrenheip Street. Open every day 11.00am-2.00pm. Phone 5341 8211. Formerly a Library and Mechanics' Institute (1861) the building was a gift to the town by local mill-owner and five-times Mayor, Robert Allen.



Members of the Buninyong & District Historical Society are also available to assist visitors in the Old Court House (part of the former Town Hall complex) in Learmonth Street. Open the third Saturday of each month between 9.30am and 1.00pm, or by appointment. Phone 0439 115 255.

Fifth edition 2024

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This publication, a project of the Buninyong Library Trust Inc., has been funded by:



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The first people and the traditional owners of the district around Buninyong were the Wadawurrung people. Their country took in the area from the Great Dividing Range in the north, to the coast in the south, and from the Werribee River in the east to Airey's Inlet in the west. Buninyong's original name was a Wadawurrung word *Bun-a-nyong*.

The first white settlers came in 1838 when the Learmonth brothers set up a sheep station nearby. By 1841 sawyers and wood cutters were building huts and stores in the village.

The area was transformed after August 1851 when a local blacksmith Thomas Hiscock discovered gold at a spot west of the village. This set off huge gold rushes.

About two km west of the village a stone memorial cairn recording this discovery is erected (on the north side of the Midland Highway opposite the cemetery) at the corner of Hiscock Gully Road. About 500 m further along that road, plaques and historical signage mark the exact spot where gold was first discovered by Hiscock, and where later a huge gold mine was established.

During the mid-1800s the population here reached some 10,000 people.

An easy 15 minute drive from Ballarat (via the Geelong Road or via the Midland Highway), Buninyong retains many historic buildings (see the *Blue Plaques Trail* information on pp 14-15) which now are incorporated into a thriving business and residential community with a very strong sense of its special character and heritage.



The Avenue Buninyong

Buninyong's Avenue of Honour

Buninyong's World War I Memorial Avenue of Honour was planted in 1917 to mark the deeds of local men and women who had enlisted and fought in that War and who came from the districts comprising the former Shire of Buninyong.

The Avenue of mature deciduous trees, stretches for about 2km on both sides of Learmonth Street (Midland Hwy) from Inglis St in the east, to adjacent to the western end of the golf course at the western end of the village.

The Avenue was restored in 2017 and the local RSL commemorated the 167 soldiers from the district who died in World War I by dedicating a tree to each in the Avenue. It is now possible to walk along the Avenue to read, on each plaque, many details of a serviceman who gave his life in that War.

Other information can be seen on the interpretative signage to be found outside the RSL Park opposite the Crown Hotel.



Centenary March 2017

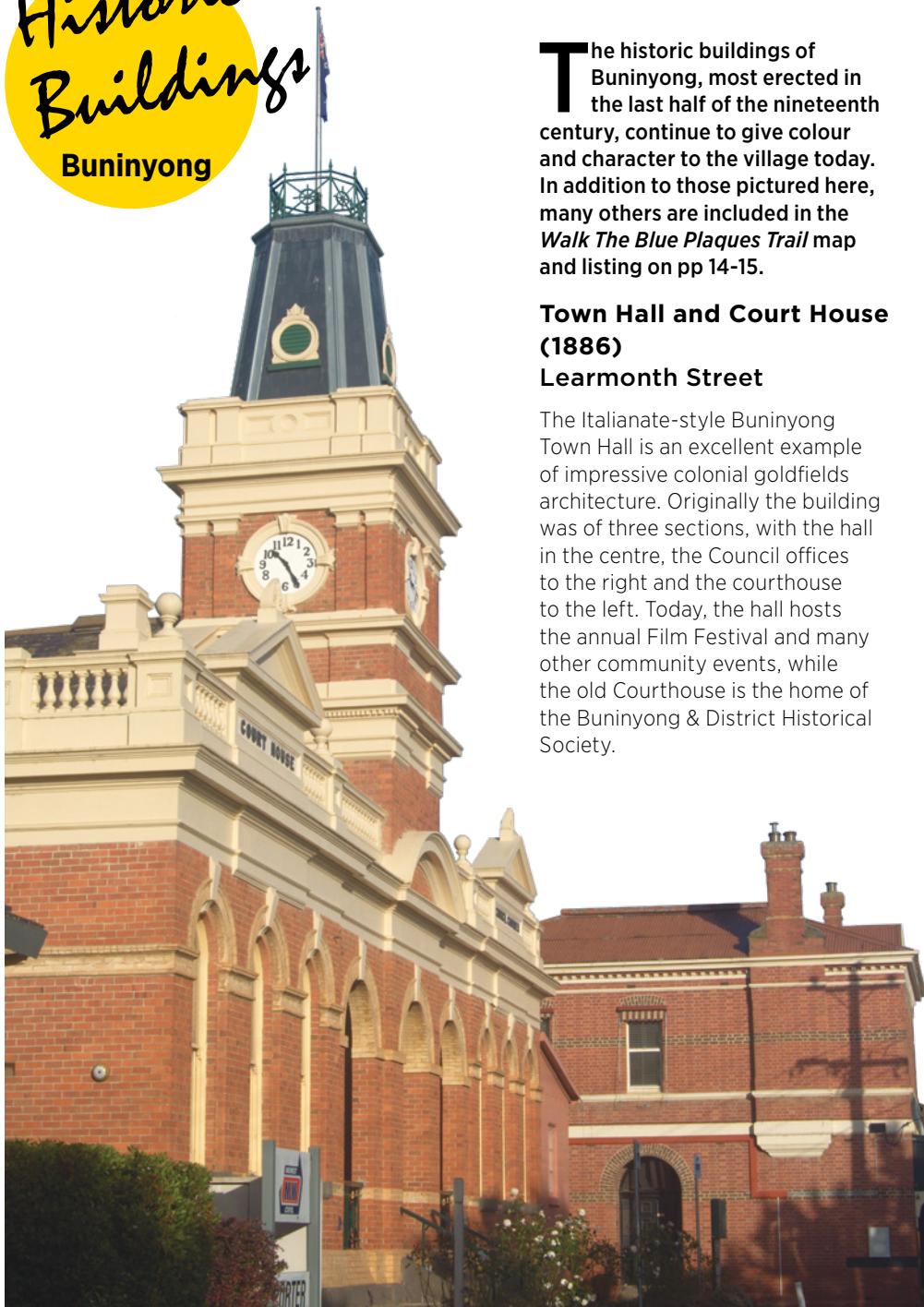
Historic Buildings

Buninyong

The historic buildings of Buninyong, most erected in the last half of the nineteenth century, continue to give colour and character to the village today. In addition to those pictured here, many others are included in the *Walk The Blue Plaques Trail* map and listing on pp 14-15.

Town Hall and Court House (1886) Learmonth Street

The Italianate-style Buninyong Town Hall is an excellent example of impressive colonial goldfields architecture. Originally the building was of three sections, with the hall in the centre, the Council offices to the right and the courthouse to the left. Today, the hall hosts the annual Film Festival and many other community events, while the old Courthouse is the home of the Buninyong & District Historical Society.





Adams' Store (1852) **Learmonth Street**

This iconic weatherboard building, originally a store and bakery, was built by John Adams who, from 1855, was also Buninyong's postmaster. Other later owners were J. W. Wilson, Percy Lyne, and the Eames family who operated the bakery and store from about 1930 to 1989. In recent years the store and adjacent building have been converted to business premises.



Old Police Court House (1858) **Cornish Street**

Built of sandstone on the site of the early police camp set up to administer law and order on the local goldfields, it fell into disuse when the new Court House opened in 1886. Later it was used as a butter factory and then a council works depot. The restored Court House was opened in 1995.



Eagle Hotel (1858) **Warrenheip Street**

This ornate gold-boom building is classified by the National Trust, and has columns and various carved heads on the facade. After the fire of 1899 it continued as a hotel until 1917. Since then it has had many commercial occupants.





National Bank (1866) Learmonth Street

Banking services started in Buninyong in 1859 when the National Bank of Australasia opened an agency at the corner of Learmonth and Warrenheip Streets. The bank purchased the site from John Adams who conducted the bakery and general store next door. The present fine building was opened in 1866. It was closed as a bank in 1974.



Old Post Office (1874) Learmonth Street

Replacing many smaller unofficial post offices, this building served as the Buninyong Post Office from 1874 until it closed in 2000. It is now a private residence. The current post office is in Warrenheip Street.



Crown Hotel (1885) Warrenheip Street

The original (1851) two story wooden hotel on this site was home to many civic events and meetings. But it was destroyed by fire in 1884. The present brick hotel was quickly rebuilt and has operated continuously since then.



Whykes' Butcher's Shop (1893) Learmonth Street

The Whykes family purveyed meat to the residents of Buninyong from 1864 until 2000. The landmark two-storey red brick building is now a coffee shop/bistro.



Buninyong Botanic Gardens (1862)

Scott Street

Buninyong's peaceful Botanic Gardens have an interesting link to Melbourne's own Royal Botanic Gardens. When ten acres of land were reserved in Scott Street in 1861, many specimens of trees and plants were donated by the famous Ferdinand von Mueller of the Melbourne gardens.

With the upper and lower sections divided by an embankment on Cornish Street, the Botanic Gardens have many interesting features. The upper section centres on the small lake, known as the Gong, with walking paths leading up the hill towards the historic Catholic Church.

On the southern side of the Gong can be seen the old bluestone brewery where beer was brewed from 1855 to 1873.

The lower gardens feature towering trees, graceful shrubs and quiet walkways, plus an ornamental pool and island, the historic Victoria rotunda (erected as a memorial to Queen Victoria following her death in 1901), and an old swimming pool formerly fed by the spring waters of the Gong and now converted into sunken gardens.

In the southeast-corner, there is the restored old sandstone Courthouse, now the home of the community group Friends of Buninyong Botanic Gardens.



The Gong



Botanic Gardens



Desoza Park Warrenheip Street

The park was named after mining entrepreneur and local benefactor Henry Desoza referred to as *The Gold King*. Take a stroll along the banks of Union Jack Creek and discover this park's peaceful tracks winding through mature exotic and native trees. In the area of the park nearest to Warrenheip Street there are the remains of the shaft and mullock heap of the old Crown Mine. The mine's air vent (capped in 1991) is in the grounds at the rear of the Old Library.

At the far western end of the park, about opposite Cathcart Street, the creek was formerly the site of old miners' dams, the town's reservoir and a large tannery commenced by local saddler, Andrew Davies in the 1850s and later operated by R Graham & Sons. It closed in 1927.

Churches & Cemeteries

Buninyong

Buninyong's churches are mostly nineteenth century small village-style churches, some built from bluestone quarried from, or bricks made in the area. Each has fascinating links to the founders of the village who came from Scotland, England and Ireland in the years from 1838.

St Peter and Paul's Catholic Church (1858), Fiskien Street

Tucked away on a knoll in Fiskien Street is the oldest of Buninyong's existing churches with its foundation stone dated 1853. The area's first Catholic school, operated on the site from 1851. A new adjoining church, with brilliant modern stained glass was opened in 2014.

Uniting Church (1860) Learmonth Street

A landmark in Learmonth Street, originally this was the Presbyterian Church and was served by Buninyong's first Minister, the Rev Thomas Hastie from 1847 to 1888. Look for his commemoration in the church's beautiful stained glass window.

Holy Trinity Anglican Church (1862), Warrenheip Street

This classic village-style small bluestone church is located in a beautiful treed setting on the corner of Warrenheip and Scott Streets. Look for the marble memorial plaque dedicated to its first priest, the Rev Garrett Russell. The redbrick building to the rear was built in 1857 and operated as a denominational school until 1872.

Methodist Church (1865) Warrenheip Street

A little further along Warrenheip Street, the red brick church replaced a wooden one built in 1853, and which operated until the establishment of the Uniting Church in 1974. It is now a private residence.



Catholic Church



Uniting Church



Anglican Church



Buninyong Cemetery, 1852

Buninyong's historic cemetery, located on the Midland Hwy about three km west of the village centre, was the second-registered inland cemetery in Victoria. Its first recorded burial was in 1852.

Typical of gold-mining areas, many early deaths in Buninyong were caused by unhygienic conditions; women dying in childbirth, men killed in mining accidents and rampant childhood diseases. The beautifully maintained and historic cemetery straddles a small creek and ponds, and is where most of the district's rich and poor have been buried since the 1850s.

Divided into lawn and monumental sections, there is also an interesting section where Chinese miners and others are buried.

Dotted through the older parts of the cemetery are 40 plaques adjacent to 'notable' graves. A colour booklet is available at the cemetery and at the Visitor Centre in downtown Buninyong.

In the south-east corner is the quiet Dell of Memories in memory of persons buried or whose ashes are located elsewhere.

Full burial records and grave locations can be found at buninyongcemetery.com.au



The Old Burial Ground

On Learmonth Street, 200m west of the old Post Office, look for a detailed sign behind a white picket fence. Here is Buninyong's Old Burial Ground, the oldest in the Goldfields region. But you'd never know it was there unless you knew where to look.

While the first burial took place in this cemetery around 1837, the site was abandoned in the 1850s and no record of who is buried here has survived. Look for the plaque on the stone and the memorial *bunya* *bunya* tree.

Coffee Food & Wine

Buninyong

Buninyong is fast becoming a must-visit hot spot for wining and dining, especially for those who enjoy their coffee or tea or food in an historic setting or *al fresco* under the famous street vines.

There are four 'coffee' shops in the village – each with its distinctive setting and special offerings of drinks, cakes, light food, tasty café meals or all-day breakfasts.

Two licensed restaurants offer relaxed casual dining, along with the historic pub, a bakery, and three hot-food takeaway shops.

Try one of the following for casual or fast food, coffee or a restaurant meal.

Buninyong Bakehouse

318 Warrenheip St, 5341 2199. Seven days, 7.00am-4.00pm, Public holidays 7.00am-4.00pm. Coffee, cool drinks and a huge range of home-made pastries, breads, slices and cakes. Breakfasts or lunches to eat in or take-away. Wholesale orders welcome.

Buninyong Fish & Chips

304 Warrenheip Street, 5341 2210. Seven days 11.30am-8.00pm. Traditional take-away meals of fish and chips, hamburgers and fried, grilled and steamed foods.

Buninyong Pizza & Hamburger House

322 Learmonth Street, 5341 2112. Mon 5.00pm-9.00pm, Tue-Sun 10.00am-9.00pm. Large range of takeaway pizzas, hamburgers, fish and chips, chicken or lamb souvlaki and other Lebanese fast foods.



Dynamite Café

Crown Hotel

402 Learmonth Street, 5341 3402. Wed-Sun Lunch 12.00pm-2.00pm, Dinner 6.00pm-8.00pm. The village's landmark hotel (1885) offers many dining options from a la carte meals in the Dining Room to casual meals in the Bar or on the sundeck or beer garden.

Dynamite Café

409 Warrenheip Street, 0402 181 943. Mon-Fri 8.00am-4.30pm, Sat 8.00am-3.00pm, Sun 9.00am-3.00pm. Coffee and light meals from the deli fridge. Home-made cakes and pastries. Dogs welcome on the sun deck. Check out the huge range of cycling gear.

Espresso Depot

315 Learmonth Street, 0433 613 294. Mon-Fri 6.00am-4.00pm. Sat-Sun 7.00am-4.00pm. Adjacent to the Town Hall in an historic former butcher's shop (1893). Licensed coffee shop offers light lunches, breads and fine foods inside or *al fresco* under the shady vines.

Kawa Japanese Sushi

403 Learmonth Street (adjacent Post Office), 5301 3026. Mon-Fri 8.00am-5.00pm. Wide range of top-quality sushi, chicken/beef rice dishes, dim sims, gyozas, curry puffs, pork buns, miso soup, corn and chicken soup and seaweed salads.

Maggie & Kate

4/405 Learmonth Street, 5341 2208. Mon-Fri 6.30am-2.00pm. Sat-Sun 7.30am-1.00pm. Next to the Post Office, this cosy modern café serves Allpress coffee and local food products. Eat in or people-watch at one of our al fresco tables, or take away house-made breakfasts, light lunches, cakes and catering.

Red Door Pizzeria

405 Warrenheip Street, 5341 8235. Wed-Sun 12.00pm-9.00pm. Dine-in or take-away wood-fired pizzas. Licensed, with fine wines and boutique beers. Relax in the dining room of the historic (1865) grocer's shop or dine al fresco in the garden area. Live music.

The Shared Table

317 Learmonth Street, 5374 2076, bookings@thesharedtable.com.au. Lunch Thu-Sun 11.30am-2.30pm. Dinner Thu-Sat 5.30pm-late. Enjoy a curated, award-winning menu of snacks, plates and sweet treats with Asian and Northern European flavours heroing local produce. Dine in the modern restaurant or al fresco under the street vines. Fully licensed.

Yummy Kitchen

320 Learmonth Street, 5341 8203. Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat 11.00am-3.00pm. Thu, Sun 4.00pm-9.00pm. Huge menu of take-away or eat-in Asian entrees, noodle dishes, rice dishes, and soups. Main dishes include chicken, beef, prawn, or vegetarian choices.



Red Door Pizzeria



The Shared Table

A nearby winery

A local winery, quite eclectic and memorable, is worth a visit during a stay in Buninyong. It can be found after a drive of about 10 minutes south along the Midland Highway towards Geelong, turning right at Platts Road, Scotsburn. No silver service, but great wines, snacks and friendly people.

Mount Buninyong Winery

Platts Rd, Scotsburn. Take Midland Hwy, then first road on right just past the Scotsburn School, then 2km. 5341 8360. Open Fri-Sun 11.00am-5pm. Enjoy a meal of gourmet wood-fired pizza in the quirkiest wine tasting rooms you will ever see.

Explore

Mount Buninyong

Formed from an extinct volcano, Mt Buninyong is one of the most recognisable features of the goldfields region, rising some 745m above sea level. An early settler in the district, Thomas Learmonth scaled it in 1837 and from its vantage point was able to see Geelong to the south, the Grampians to the west and the rich volcanic plains and the Pyrenees beyond Ballarat to the north.

Retaining much of its native vegetation cover, the mountain's messmate and manna gum trees are a significant koala habitat. Springs at the foot of the mountain were important as a water supply in the years following the establishment of Buninyong in 1841. Scoria stones from the ancient eruption of the volcano are to be seen in the many dry-stone walls and fences in the district.

Access to the picnic reserve in the crater, and to the summit with its look-out and fire spotting tower, is by sealed road and is just three km from the Buninyong village. There are spectacular views from the roads, car park and especially from the tower.





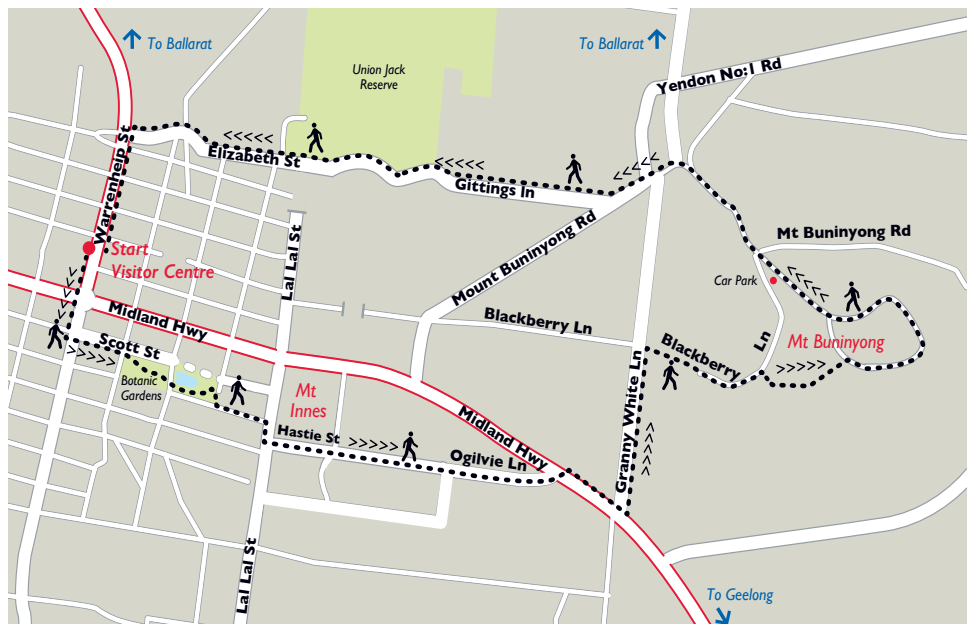
MOUNT BUNINYONG CIRCUIT TRAIL

Start – Old Library. Time: 3.5 hours. Distance: 10 km. Conditions – Medium/hilly; some steep and unpaved sections.

From the Old Library/Visitor Centre, walk south along Warrenheip St, pass the roundabout, and turn left at Scott Street. Enter the Botanic Gardens at the white gates. Then follow the *Goldfields Track* posts alongside of the Gong (lake) continuing to Lal Lal Street. Cross there, look for the marker posts and walk over Mt Innes, then along Ogilvy Lane to the Midland Hwy.

Cross the highway, walk along the road verge for short distance to Granny Whites Lane, turn left and then right at the corner of Blackberry Lane, and follow the posts to the top of the mountain. Return via the Zig-Zag track and the Crater Walk to the car park at the foot of the mountain. Walk down Mt Buninyong Rd and turn right into Gittings Lane.

Pass the Union Jack Reserve, and walk a further 750m, via Elizabeth St, to reach the Ballarat-Geelong Road. Turn left and walk back to the Old Library.



Walk

The Blue Plaque Trail

HISTORIC TOWNSHIP WALK

Start/finish – Old Library. Time: 1.5 hours. Distance: 4 km. Conditions – mostly paved, gently undulating.

This walk around the township gives a good sense of the history, important buildings and the community 'feel' of this charming village. On the map (opposite) are more than 40 sites of interest dating from the mid-1800s. Each has a blue *Historic Buildings of Buninyong* plaque affixed to it. These provide interesting historical information about the building or location.

Started in 2013, Buninyong's Blue Plaques Trail project resulted from cooperative work of the Buninyong & District Community Association and the Buninyong & District Historical Society with funding from the Buninyong Community Bank.



1. The Old Library/Mechanics' Institute (1861)
2. Middleton's Ironmongery & Garage (c1873)
3. Clifton Villa (1859)
4. Glencairn (c 1855)
5. Old Tannery Site
6. Old Burial Ground (1840s)
7. Thomas Hiscock's Cottage (1851)
8. Old Post Office (1874)
9. Crown Hotel (1885)
10. Former National Bank (1866)
11. Adams/Eames Store & Bakery (1852)
12. Whykes' Butch
13. Town Hall & Co
14. Old Fire Station
15. Uniting Church
16. Former Nugge
17. Catholic Church
18. The Gong (186
19. Old Brewery (1
20. Kingshill (1857
21. Old Police Cou
22. State School (1
23. Queen Victoria
24. Mrs Carey's Co



1. Farmers Shop (1893)
 2. Court House (1886)
 3. n (1872)
 4. (1860)
 5. t Hotel (1854)
 6. h (1858)
 7. l)
 8. 1855)
 9.)
 10. rt House (1858)
 11. 1873)
 12. Rotunda (1901)
 13. ttage Hospital (1880)

25. Old Manse (1886)
 26. Police House & Stables (1887)
 27. Camellia Cottage (1886)
 28. Netherby (c1860)
 29. Holy Trinity Anglican Church (1862)
 30. Old Vicarage (1857)
 31. Former Methodist Church (1865)
 32. Havilah Cottage (1875)
 33. Site of old Buninyong Hotel (1853)
 34. St Alban's Cottage (1873)
 35. Dr Longden's House (1898)
 36. Caffrey's Blacksmith & Coachbuilder (c1860)

37. Isaac's Grocer Store (c1882)
 38. Brydon & Hedrick Store (c1850)
 39. Buninyong Coffee Palace (1899)
 40. Howard's Bootmaker (1899)
 41. Former Eagle Hotel (1858)
 42. Whykes Grocery Store (1865)
 43. Mrs Phillips' Cottage (c1890)

Other plaques are at Mossmont (1860) in Winter Street, Fassifern (1880) in Herriott Street, and at Brim Brim (1860) in Lal Lal Street.

Shop Buninyong

There is an interesting range of specialty shops and businesses in Buninyong. Take time to browse stores specialising in boutique clothing, or bicycles, or books and a wide range of gifts. And there is plenty more.

The pharmacy and post office are open on Saturday mornings to assist locals and visitors.



Bellisime Cosmetics

308a Warrenheip Street, 0499 533 272. Tue, Wed, Fri 9.00am-5.00pm. Thu 9.00am-8.00pm. Sat 9.00am-2.00pm. Aesthetic and dermal treatments. Facial rejuvenation, lip filler, anti-wrinkle injections by registered cosmetic nurse.

Buninyong Butcher

405 Warrenheip Street, 5341 2149. Mon-Fri 8.00am-5.00pm. Sat 8.00am-12.00pm. Wide range of meats, chicken, fish and small goods all with friendly service from real butchers.

Buninyong Community Bank

401 Warrenheip Street, 5341 8066. Mon-Fri 9.00am-5.00pm. Customers love the friendly service at this full-service bank. It supports many community groups, events and charities in Buninyong and the wider district.

Buninyong Gift House

408a Warrenheip Street, 0408 116 202. Thur-Sun 10.00am-4.00pm. Discover a curated selection of fashion, beauty, jewellery, stationery, ceramics, homewares, textiles, toys designed and made by local artisans.

Buninyong Hair & Beauty

401a Warrenheip Street, 5301 3008. Mon-Wed 10.00am-5.00pm. Thu-Sun 10.00am-4.00pm. Full range of hair-styling and hair accessories. Beauty services including waxing, tinting, spray tanning, make up and henna brows.

Buninyong Newsagency

501 Warrenheip Street, 5341 2154. Mon-Sat 5.00am-8.00pm. Sun 6.00am-8.00pm. Newspapers, magazines, stationery, ATM, Myki top-up, fresh flowers, BP petrol, car wash, dog wash, Bpay, phone credit.

Dynamite Cycles

409 Warrenheip Street, 0402 181 943. Mon-Fri 9.00am-5.30pm. Sat 9.00am-1.00pm. Cycles, cycle accessories, cycle fitting and repairs, motor cycle parts and repairs, cycling and casual clothing.



Lions Litter Op Shop



Lions Book Cottage

Foodworks Supermarket

310 Learmonth Street, 5341 3263. Seven days, 7.00am-8.00pm. Groceries, meat, fruit, smallgoods. Large delicatessen section. Liquor department. All things food and drink for home or picnic.

Ilios Skin

307a Learmonth Street, 5341 3078. Tue and Thu 10.00am-8.00pm, Wed, Fri, Sat 9.00am-5.00pm. Quaint beauty studio for all things beauty including waxing, sugaring, laser hair removal, nails, make-up, massage, spray tan and paramedical skin treatment.

Lana Rose

326 Learmonth Street, 0438 003 512. Tue-11.00am-4.00pm, Wed, Thu, Fri 10.00am-5.00pm. Sat 10.00am-3.00pm. Rockabilly and Pinup fashion for all seasons. Handbags, women's wallets purses and accessories.

Lions Litter Op Shop

202 Warrenheip Street, 0407 048 159. Thur-Fri 10.00am-3.00pm, Sat 10.00am-2.00pm. This little shop on the north end of town is full of pre-loved clothes, homewares, toys and bric-a-brac at bargain prices.

Lions Book Cottage

406 Warrenheip Street, opposite the post office, 0429 118 545. Wed-Thu 11.00am-4.00pm, Fri 12.00pm- 5.00pm, Sat 10.00am-3.00pm. The best little second-hand bookshop in Australia. This historic 1850s cottage is jam-packed with thousands of near-new books and other collectibles at bargain prices.



Real butchers



Gifts galore

Post Office, Buninyong

2/403 Warrenheip Street, 5341 8273. Mon-Fri 7.30am-5.00pm, Sat 9.00am-11.00am. Full postal services, banking and bill payments, ID service, passport applications, giftware, gift vouchers, key cutting.

Seahorse Cottage Wellbeing Centre

1/511 Warrenheip Street, 5367 1991. Wed-Fri 9.30am-5.30pm, Sat-Sun 9.00am-2.00pm. Natural therapies, wide range of crystals, gemstones, incense, oils, books and much more.

Stone Real Estate Ballarat

513 Warrenheip Street, 5341 2200. Mon-Fri 9.00am-5.00pm. The local real estate office with the best and biggest range of district residential and rural properties and land. Check the window display, or call in for a chat with Stu or Fiona.

UFS Dispensary

376 Learmonth Street, 5341 2121. Mon-Fri 9.00am-5.30pm, Sat 9.00am-12.00pm. Prescriptions, medications and medical reviews, beauty and health-care products, giftware, testing and disposal services.

Walk

Union Jack Reserve

From the Old Library, walk (or drive) north along Warrenheip St. After five blocks, turn right into Elizabeth Street and proceed 750m to the Union Jack Reserve entrance.

Start – Old Library.

Short Loop Walk: Time: 50 minutes. Distance: 4 km. Gently undulating.

Long Loop Walk: Time: 100 mins. Distance: 6 km. Conditions – undulating/ steeper section near the Locomotive Hill Mine site.

Wide formed tracks, well-signed.

Walkers should stay on marked tracks within the Reserve as there are deep mine shafts, some not easily visible.

The Reserve was named after the English, Irish and Scottish miners who discovered gold there in 1857. Administered by Parks Victoria, the Union Jack Reserve covers some 72 hectares and provides a home for a diverse range of bird life and flora and fauna.

The walking trails, with regular numbered informative guide posts, pass many old mining relics such as mine shafts and sluice channels. On the longer walk you will see the shafts and tunnels of the *Locomotive Hill Mine* site area where two miners lost their lives in 1933. Find the historic plaques there.



Drive

Buninyong & District



Bluestone station, Lal Lal



St Sava Monastery



Garibaldi School

Visitors to the Buninyong district should try some of the easy, short-distance drives to local sights and places of interest. The scenic drive around Mt Buninyong's crater and summit of one of the Western districts extinct volcanoes is a must. At some 745 m above sea level there are great views in all directions. The fit or brave can climb the fire tower for a spectacular panoramic outlook.

Other close-by possibilities include:

- the *Scotsburn/Clarendon* district, with the 1884 wooden Scotsburn Union Church (still used for services), the Mount Buninyong winery, and the old Clarendon Hotel (1856), at the junction of the road to Lal Lal. This was a former stopping point for Cobb & Co coaches and is now a private residence. The old Clarendon cemetery about two km further (on RHS) is worth a visit.
- the *Lal Lal* district has an historic bluestone railway station, hotel, the jam-packed second-hand yard, the Falls and picnic ground, ruins of the historic blast furnace, the Moorabool Falls and Bungal Dam. Wind farms are now much in evidence.
- the *Elaine* district. Turn off the highway to see the large station property *Narmbool*, now surrounded by wind turbines, and a few km further on the exotic St Sava Serbian Orthodox Monastery (pictured) which is just past the not-to-be missed Serbian cemetery on the left. Just past Elaine, the *Farmgate Shop* also is worth a visit.
- the *Garibaldi/Mt Mercer* district with highlights being the old Garibaldi school (pictured), and a little further on, the impressive Mt Mercer Wind Farm.





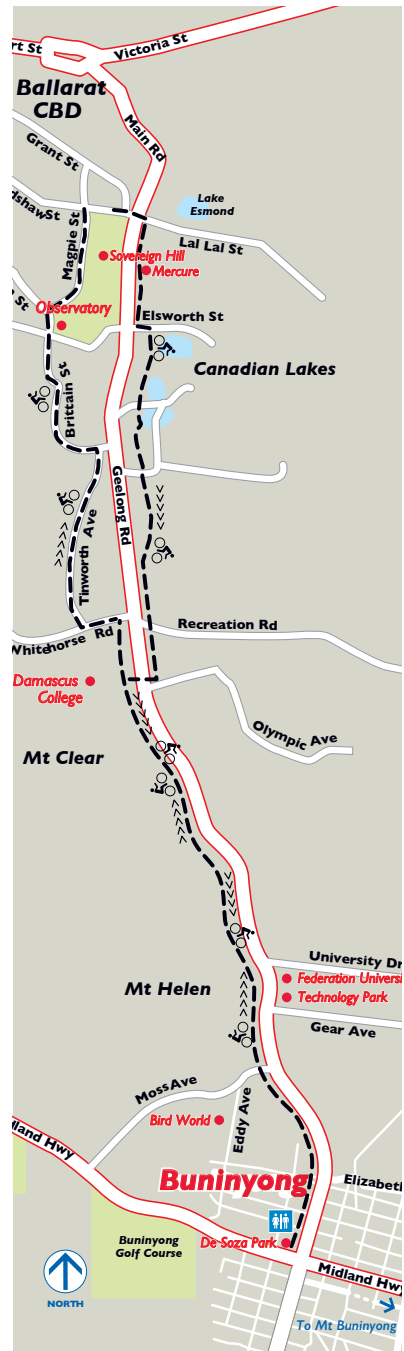
Ride Ballarat to Buninyong: an easy 22 km loop

Starting at Poverty Point, adjacent to the Sovereign Hill car park, this ride to Buninyong is mostly via sealed bike paths and quiet streets. Cross Main Rd, go behind the *Kambei Japanese Restaurant* and follow the trail which then passes through the grounds of the large *Mercure* complex on Main Road. Soon you will pick up the lovely Canadian Creek bike path which follows the creek along a green corridor, across wetlands, through areas of bushland, and, after Mt Clear passes near Federation University. Cross to the western side of the highway and enjoy the sealed cycle path down into Buninyong.

After arriving in the village, try a coffee and bike talk with other cyclists at one of Buninyong's four coffee shops.

For keen cyclists a visit to the Dynamite Cycle Shop & Café on Warrenheip Street is a must!

The return path along the dedicated cycle path is back through Mt Helen (call in for a look at the rustic *Bird World*), and Mt Clear. On Tinworth Ave you will see the major *Castlemaine Goldfields* mining project, and after joining onto Magpie St you will pass the *Ballarat Observatory* and the upper boundary of the famous *Sovereign Hill* tourist precinct.



Championship Mountain Circuit Challenges Cyclists

For 19 years, between 2005 and 2024, Buninyong hosted the Cycling Australia Road National Championships.

Keen amateur and professional cyclists still regularly tackle the testing 11.6km mountain circuit which spans picturesque hillside country, farming and rural homestead areas, and a circuit of Federation University.

The winding descent back into Buninyong along Geelong Road provides a thrill for cyclists of all abilities.



Cycle, walk or drive to Bird World. A unique, hidden local attraction – but easy to reach by cycle, car, or by walking the 2km or so along the paved track – is to be found just off the Geelong Road back towards Ballarat (see map opposite).

Ballarat Bird World

408 Eddy Avenue, Mount Helen, 0409 002 527. Open Mon, Fri, Sat, Sun 10.00am-5.00pm. Open public holidays and school holidays.

Located close to Buninyong, this attraction features a range of colourful birds, especially cockatoos and native parrots. Photo opportunities are available at selected times. Stroll on the raised walkways through landscaped gardens to view the many exhibits in a free flight aviary.

Also on site are the three life-sized animatronic dinosaurs and a children's fossil dig table, a timber puzzle maze and nine-hole mini golf.

Easy parking and on-site shop/kiosk.





Buninyong offers a varied range of accommodation options, many of the B & B style, along with several Airbnb properties

These include:



Camellia Cottage

Buninyong Country Cottage

This two bedroom cottage is in south Buninyong and can be found on AirBnB.

Camellia Cottage

The secluded guest wing of historic Camellia Cottage offers elegant accommodation in the heart of Buninyong. Contact Gavin or Rosemary Pike.

Warrenheip Street, Buninyong
0407 051 384
camellia-cottage.com.au

Emu Lodge Country Retreat

Perfect for families or groups of up to five in a fully self-contained unit on 25 acres. On quiet road with views and abundant wildlife. Breakfast

19 Lorikeet Court, Lal Lal
5341 7655 or 0400 892 614
airbnb.com.au.emulodge

Kerry's Studio

One bedroom studio on elevated block with views of Mt Buninyong.

Simpson Street Buninyong
airbnb.com

Lal Lal Falls Cottage

Right in the heart of the Lal Lal village near the old railway station and former country pub, this cottage has a woodfire and a spa.

42 Lal Lal Falls Road, Lal Lal
0407 717 626 or 0423 733 740
airbnb.com – Lal Lal Falls Cottage

Mingara Park

A cosy getaway with beautiful countryside views. Stroll through the farm and meet the friendly goats and miniature cattle.

Scotsburn
mingarapark.com.au

Monteith's Mountain Den on Mt Buninyong

Located on the northern slopes of Mt Buninyong with stunning views, there are beautiful walking and riding tracks on your doorstep

monteiths.com.au



The Railway Carriage

Mozzas B & B

In a quiet street next to farmland, with free wi-fi and a continental or vegetarian breakfast. Guests rate it highly.

506 Barkly St, Buninyong
0438 498 231
airbnb.com.au – Mozzas

Rosie's Cottage

Comfortable accommodation at affordable rates in a scenic setting. Contact Sonya Sutcliffe.

0417 168 456
sutcliffesonya@gmail.com

The Railway Carriage

The Railway Carriage offers couples a lovely place to stay in a rural setting a few minutes from Buninyong. Plenty of space and all mod cons. Warmed by a slow-combustion unit and cooled by two ACs.

Scotchman's Lead Road, Buninyong
0419 114 934
Airbnb



The Ridge

The Ridge – Mt Buninyong

A modern, purpose-designed self-contained apartment offers couples luxury amenities, panoramic views, and a gracious garden setting.

694 Yankee Flat Road, Buninyong
5341 3087
the-ridge.com.au

Yarrabee, Buninyong

Modern, comfortable whole house, 2 BR, 2 bath, lounge/dining, study, garage, beautiful garden, all amenities and comforts. Quiet retreat in downtown Buninyong. Excellent value.

airbnb.com – Yarrabee

Yuille Cottage

Situated at the rear of a private central-Buninyong home in a lovely garden setting, this one bedroom self-contained cottage contains a queen-size bed (and additional pull-out sofa bed) with high quality linen and towels. AC and heating.

Yuille Street, Buninyong
Yuille Cottage – HomeAway/Stayz



Visitors to Buninyong might take advantage of the township's many sporting and recreational facilities.

- 1 Golfers are welcome to try out the splendid 18 hole Buninyong golf course with its watered couched fairways and fast grass greens. On the western fringe of the village, it has clubs and carts available for hire and great discount deals are available. 4311 3805
- 2 The local bowling club nestled on the southern fringe of the Botanic Gardens along Inglis Street has superb facilities and welcomes visiting bowlers. 5341 3577
- 3 The solar-heated swimming pool, on Forest Street, is popular in summer with both locals and visitors.
- 4 Also in Forest Street are great facilities for youth with the skate-park, bump bike track and Parkour facilities.
- 5 A little further along Forest Street is a modern tennis complex.
- 6 Great sportsgrounds facilities are nearby.
- 7 Smaller kids will enjoy the playground facilities in Desoza Park on Warrenheip Street, where there even is a Toddlers' Corner designed for the under-fives.
- 8 The first-class Royal Park soccer fields and facilities are to be found on Warrenheip Street about 1 km south of the village roundabout.

Quiet and popular play/picnic areas are in Desoza Park, in the Botanic Gardens in Scott Street, at the crater of the extinct volcano, Mount Buninyong, and at the Lal Lal Falls Reserve.



Youth space



Buninyong Golf Club



Picnic spots



Heated pool



Buninyong Bowling Club





There are two easy routes to drive to Buninyong from central Ballarat. Each takes about 15 minutes by car.

The first is via Main Road /Geelong Road past Sovereign Hill and then about 11 km.

The other is to follow Doveton Street (which becomes Albert St and then the Midland Hwy)...through Sebastopol...past the Buninyong Cemetery and golf course to the Buninyong village.

An easy alternative is to take the #21 bus from central Ballarat. Pick it up at the Ballarat Railway Station or along the way. Route 21 bus time-tables are at

ptv.vic.gov.au/route/15169/21





Autumn, Warrenheip Street

MORE ABOUT THE VILLAGE

To get a great visual 'feel' for the village and the district have a look at *Beauty, Bounty, Buninyong – You Tube*. Produced by the Buninyong Business Network, the two vignettes (30 seconds and 80 seconds long) give a collage of memorable impressions and images.

Or have a look on the web at:

BUNINYONG COMMUNITY WEBSITE

buninyong.vic.au

BUNINYONG & DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

buninyongcommunityassociation.com.au

BUNINYONG CEMETERY

buninyongcemetery.com.au

FRIENDS OF BUNINYONG BOTANIC GARDENS

buninyongbotanicgardensfriends.org.au

BUNINYONG & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

home.vicnet.net.au/buninhis/

