

An initiative of the Bonnie Doon Community Group Inc



Keeping **people**
connected

The Bridge

Vol. 18, Issue 1, Summer 2024

In this issue

Meet a NEW Local

Update on the Billy's House Project

Message from the CFA

The Bridge

Editor: Rebecca Oslund

Proof Readers: A.Bird

Cover Photo: Amy Jacobs

Publisher:

Bonnie Doon Community Group Inc.

75 Arnot Street

Phone : (03) 5778 7722

Email : bdccentre@bigpond.com

Printing: District Property Group

Distribution Assistance:

Angela and Arnold Ziedens

Subscriptions and Submissions:

Bonnie Doon Community Centre

Ph. (03) 5778 7722

E. the_bridge_editorial_bd@outlook.com

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Deadline for all additions to Autumn Issue

COB April 15th 2024

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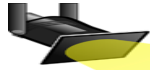
From the Editor

Greetings to our Readers,

The start of another year, and the 18th year of this publication so that is a milestone and something for the Bonnie Doon Community Group Inc to be proud of - having such a longstanding free newsletter for locals. It is supported, thanks to the many local businesses and individuals that make it possible year in and year out. DPG has once again committed to bringing you printing in full colour and that really makes this publication pop! We are indeed grateful for their support, and the support of all our brand partners, collaborating community groups, services and local government.

The summer season has been a strange, wild and wet one so far, the weather playing havoc on many minds and properties. Through it I find myself being reminded of not only the comparison of the fragility of the landscape around us to its resilience but in the importance, the invaluable support one has in living in a beautiful community. I'll share a story... during the worst of the weather I was on holiday and my driveway was washing away. This was noticed by dear friends/neighbours down the road, who not only came to check in on our property, but also went out of their way come rectify the issues for us! It is this amazing display of community spirit, caring hearts and kindness that makes our district so amazing, such an extraordinary place - and so, dear readers, I mostly am reminded it really is the people that make a community, more so than the place!

Rebecca



Spotlight on Innovation

This edition our innovation is a report from the Bonnie Doon Tennis Club President Rachelle on an opportunity that the Bonnie Doon Tennis Club had for their junior members to take part in Tennis Victoria's Hot Shots Program at the Australian Open Tennis in Melbourne...

Bonnie Doon Tennis Club - Australian Open Experience

Report by Rachelle, President Bonnie Doon Tennis Club (BDTC)



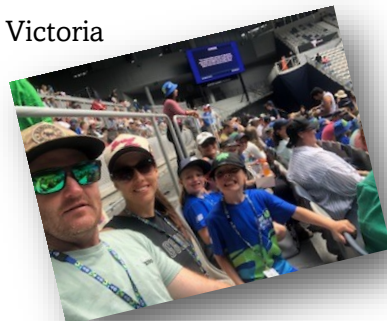
The Bonnie Doon Tennis Club was successful in applying for their junior hot shots participants to take part in Tennis Victoria's 'Hot Shots Program' at the Australian Open.

Six hundred Hot Shots participants from across Victoria enjoyed the atmosphere of the 2024 Open at The Ballpark. The day was full of many fun activities, table tennis, water play, a ninja course and then VIP tickets to watch the AO Tennis being played in John Caine Arena.



This opportunity has given the junior members a day to remember, a reason to continue their joy playing tennis, and they were able to experience courtside what they watch on television every year at the Australian Open! What a great day for all to remember.

Thank you, Tennis Victoria for this amazing opportunity for our Junior Members!



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Meet a Local

This Bridge we meet Aaron, a local bloke who was originally born in Sydney. He has settled here in Bonnie Doon with his wife to raise their young 18-month old daughter in a place he feels offers so many great opportunities in the outdoors.

in 5Qs



Q1. How long have you lived in Bonnie Doon

Aaron has been in the Doon since 2017, and says that initially he was living here part-time after his wife was first to move here. It took until the start of 2020 when he was finally able to leave his life in the city and settle permanently full-time here.

Q2. As a local - What would you like to share about yourself with our Readers?

Aaron spent his high school and early university years studying geology in the countryside before moving to Melbourne and notes that "...it has been awesome to have the opportunity to be back living in the country again..." Adding further that it is a particularly great place to raise kids given that the opportunities to do so much in the outdoors, and he finds that people here are more open and friendly.

Q3. How do you pass the time? (Jobs, hobbies, other not listed interests)

Aaron, a Myotherapist, works at Elevate in Mansfield and manages a farm in Merton. Work aside, Aaron said he enjoys "...Playing dungeons and dragons, building Lego and models, mostly Warhammer 40k, mountain biking and working on my car or tinkering with various things"... often this is whilst listening to music, podcasts or an audio book! Aaron used to play quite a bit of sport and loved frequenting the gym, but notes that has been put to the side of late.

Q4. What is your favourite season in the High Country and Why?

“It used to be the late spring, early summer but I think now it’s more the late autumn and early winter...” because Aaron notes “... there is something about the cold crisp mornings while still being sunny that I enjoy.”

Q5. What are two favourite things that you recommend people try in this area?

Aaron recommends a visit to the Mansfield Zoo if you have kids, or if you are an animal lovers because you can hand feed so many of the animals. His other recommendations are a toss up between eating the ‘Bad Boy Parma’ from the Delatite Hotel or any of the amazing “outdoorsy type stuff” that is possible in the High Country!

In conclusion Aarons adds that he looks forward to being a member of this community for years to come.

Do you know an interesting local or do you want to answer the 5 Qs?

Email us: The_bridge_editorial_bd@outlook.com

NEWS UPDATE ON BILLY’S HOUSE PROJECT

The Bonnie Doon Community Group is still working hard to find money to move Billy’s House to the Community Grounds at 75 Arnot St.

It’s heartening that the FRRR, Mansfield Shire and Bendigo bank have supported the project with financial contributions. Their contributions to this planned project are invaluable to our community in terms of the growth, social cohesion and historical significance of having Billy’s House restored for community use. Thank you to these three notable benefactors for their support.

Unfortunately, building costs are rising by the day and more funds are required to start. The Group was unsuccessful with a recent grant application to the Copland Foundation. However they are currently working on Tiny Towns application at present due end of February.

Anyone who would like to support the project or know of any funding opportunities please email Nola - President@bonniedooncommunity.com

any News

Average Rainfall To FEB 2024	90.1 mm	10.9 days
Total For 2024	183.6 mm	11 days
Total to Today 2022	61.6mm	123 days
Wettest Day	84.0mm	Jan 8
Lowest Temperature	7.5 °C	Jan 27
Highest Temperature	36.2°C	Feb 4

www.eldersweather.com.au/local-forecast/vic/bonnie-doon (viewed 10/02/2024)

In the Know ...

**Lake Eildon
Water Levels:
97.04 %**

[www.g-mwater.com.au/water-operations/
storages/goulburn/lakeeildon](http://www.g-mwater.com.au/water-operations/storages/goulburn/lakeeildon)
(viewed 10/02/2024)

Message from the CFA

Remembering the 2009 fires now 15 years on.

I'm sure every person will remember where they were and what they were doing on Saturday, 7th February, because it changed our State and the lives of thousands of people forever as 173 people lost their lives that day. All members who fought the fires stood bravely against unimaginable conditions, risking their lives to save others during that terrible summer. We will never forget 2009 and the incredible acts of bravery shown by more than 19,000 CFA volunteers and staff involved in the efforts to contain and manage the fires with 78 communities affected and 450,000 hectares of land burnt. **Together we remember.**



We have been very fortunate over the summer so far but February/March can be very hot with extremely hot and windy days so remember property preparation reduces the impact of radiant heat, embers and flames near your buildings and assets. Do you have an emergency kit ready. What would you take with you in the event of a fire risk, from clothes, medicines, mobile phone and charger, water and more – find out what you need to include by visiting www.cfa.vic.gov.au/emergencykit.

We have installed extra Fire Danger Period signs to inform the community and visitors alike. These are situated at Ancona Road, Maintongoon Road and Dry Creek Road and are interchangeable for Total Fire Ban Days. Fire Danger Ratings advise how dangerous a fire could be if one started. The higher the rating the more dangerous the conditions.

The Bonnie Doon Fire Brigade Facebook page is a great source of information for anyone interested in keeping up to date with what our Brigade is doing.

Important contacts everyone needs to know are:-

EMERGENCY	Triple 000
VIC EMERGENCY HOTLINE	1800 226 226
BONNIE DOON CFA FIRE STATION	57 787 488

David Evans
Captain,

david.evans1@members.cfa.vic.gov.au

Media release



Goulburn Valley Water recruiting for new customer panel

7 February 2024

Goulburn Valley Water is calling for customers to provide feedback and help shape future projects and priorities by registering an expression of interest for a new customer panel.

The Customer Accountability Panel will provide a key customer voice to reflect annually on progress across the 2023-28 Price Plan, which sets out GVW's key priorities and projects for the next five years.

GVW Managing Director Steve Capewell said the new panel would be a continuation of the work achieved by customers as part of the previous 2018-23 Price Plan and during consultation and development of the current plan.

"Our customer panels have provided some really important insights and valuable feedback, and we're committed to continuing to have a customer voice as we progress through our current five-year plan," Dr Capewell said.

"We are keen to work with another group of customers who will help us review progress on our commitments, and also contribute their views on future projects over the next couple of years.

"We genuinely want to engage broadly and deeply and so we encourage any customers with an interest in our water future to register their interest in selection on the panel."

The new panel will be drawn from GVW's 54 towns and will include representation from homeowners, tenants, businesses and future customers. It will also include members of the 2018-23 Annual Performance Forum and Customer Carbon Advisory Group to create a balance of fresh insights and prior experience.

The 2023-28 Price Plan is centred on four promises:

- provide reliable water and wastewater services customers can trust
- lead action and partner with communities to grow the region
- care for the environment and adapt to a future impacted by climate variability
- deliver respectful and responsive customer service, balancing affordability, value for money and fairness.

Investment in renewable energy, supporting customers experiencing financial hardship and renewing existing assets and infrastructure to ensure reliable service into the future are three of the major commitments.

For more information or to submit an expression of interest, visit <https://www.gvwater.vic.gov.au/customer-accountability-panel>

The expression of interest deadline is Friday 8 March 2024.

Goulburn Valley Water Media Contact:
Rohan Aldous
Phone: 0447 487 582
Email: rohana@gvwater.vic.gov.au

Remembering & Farewells

Daniel Kennedy

24 April 1973 – 23 Dec 2023

Daniel was a young man who was taken from us suddenly and too early, by cancer.

He had a dry sense of humour and a wicked smile.

His primary interests were working around the farm, his extensive model car and John Wayne memorabilia collections and the Brisbane Lions.

He loved car shows, particularly if they included a Holden Sandman, and attended most of the local events.

He was well supported and will be missed by family, friends and the Mansfield Yooralla and Hospital staff.

RIP Daniel



Mark Traynor

Mark Traynor, my partner and I moved here to Bonnie Doon in 2007 for our tree change. Mark had bought the property in 1997 and when we met in 2000 he first brought me up here to Sonnberg Drive arriving around 9pm at night. Well going down that drive in the pitch dark I thought I would never see my two sons and family again. It was so dark and all I could see in the headlights was a track and trees with bushes all around. The view in the morning was worth the angst as the view was magic.

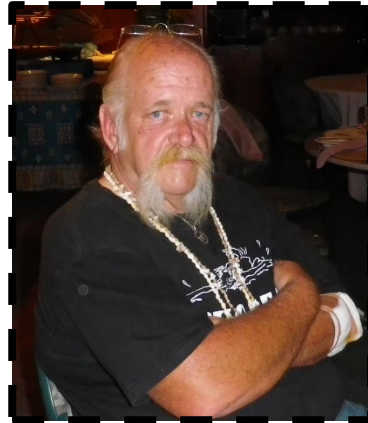
Fast forward to 2007. We moved here in July 2007. Mark and I loved it and no more noises of vehicles going all hours of the day and night along Burwood Highway, just the owls hooting at night and the bird and bush sounds were magical.

We gradually met the people that lived up here permanently like us and those who holidayed up here as often as they could too. Slowly we became regulars in town (Mansfield) and I worked at the Ski Inn Café. Mark became well known for coming to have a coffee with me, bringing our two dogs with him, on a regular basis over the years.

Mark had a fantastic sense of humour and had those girls at Eisner's Pharmacy giggling on many occasions. He became well known in the Peppin Hub Community and we became members.

Mark became one of the 'admin' for the Mansfield Coronavirus support group on Facebook page and kept everyone informed the whole time, of the case numbers, and all the information on the virus at hand every day for the duration. When that finished Mark still added interesting snippets daily and posted places, houses, animals, buildings, art and anything else that he thought would interest the Community and keep us all connected. He continued until about a month before his passing.

In September last year Mark was diagnosed with Stage 4 Lung Cancer and a lump in his cheek was also found to be cancer. Mark underwent Radiotherapy for his face but the chemotherapy really made him ill and he was unable to continue after two sessions. The Doctor was confident he would be okay with Immunotherapy only but sadly it was not to be and he passed away after the short battle on 20th November in Wangaratta Hospital.



May the sun shine warm upon your face, The rains fall soft upon your fields, and the wind always on your back until we meet again,

Remembering & Farewells

Janette Evelyn Hutchinson nee Worsely 'Janny' Hutchinson



Mum was born in Mansfield Hospital in 1939 and was the youngest of five children. She grew up on the family property 'Woodfield' and had many fond memories of riding her horse *Flash* to school in Brankeet, or 'hitching a ride' on Bert Reaper's railway trolley as he clattered past the front gate.

Mum first 'bumped' into Dad while attending Bonnie Doon Primary School during a period

Brankeet was closed. This relationship turned serious in 1960 when water skiing on the lake over summer. Mum and Dad were married in 1964, a partnership that would last almost 60 years.

Mum loved mustering at Woodfield and Tara, on horseback with some four legged helpers she adored. She played tennis for Brankeet & Mansfield. She played pennant golf and was twice runner up in the Mansfield club championship. to council and the thriving business had to be closed as it was not operating on a commercial premise.

Another time, Mum and Winsome decided on a pottery course, which soon turned into a small business. They turned the old horse stable and adjoining workshop at Orange Grove (now the Bonnie Doon pub) into a shop & showroom, aptly named 'Pot Hole'. Unfortunately, their success led to a disgruntled local trader to complain to council and the thriving business had to be closed as it was not operating on a commercial premise.

... 'Janny' Hutchinson

Mum was a keen gardener and fox hunter. She would spend many winter days trudging up and down the steep hills that surrounded Woodfield, Bonnie Doon, and Maindample, carrying her trusty .22 rifle, ammunition, and satchel with a snack and room for any pelts, which she was paid \$60 each for.

Fishing was her enduring passion, she could pull a large trout from the smallest stream in short order. She got a great sense of accomplishment from catching a fish on a fly that she had managed to tie herself.

In later life Mum enjoyed travelling around Australia with Dad in their van, meeting people along the way, and finding that next place she could drop a line. Mum and Dad moved from Glen Creek to Ballina a number of years ago but Woodfield and Bonnie Doon was always home.

After a funeral service at the Recreation Reserve Hall, Mum was laid to rest in peace at Bonnie Doon cemetery.



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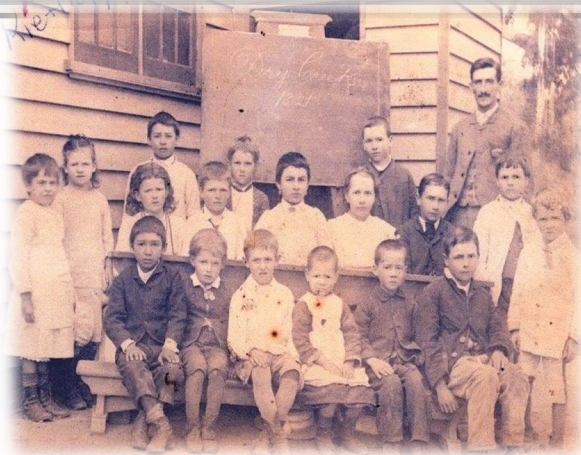
Historic Bonnie Doon: *A Flashback*

Excerpt from 'Historical Aspects of Bonnie Doon' (Pages 20 & 30)

1321 DRY CREEK:

“This began as a Rural School in 1870 during the common school period. Parents erected a slab hut with a bark roof and appointed a teacher, who was paid partly by the Board of Education. Later a grant enabled the school to continue until 1875 when the parents offered a twenty-four foot by twelve foot building to the Department. It began as S.S.1321 Dry Creek on 1st January 1874. Emma Folks was the first Head Teacher. The enrolment was 33 and the average attendance was 19 in 1875. The bar-room of the old public house was leased in 1881. A portable and quarters building on a 5 acre site was established in 1884. Part-time lessons were shared with S.S.2643 Hayfield. It became full-time again in September 1889 but closed in October 1903.”

*This Photo Date is unknown thought to be
Folk children and others related to them*



The above record also confirmed by Vision and Realisation's record is as noted but local history informs that the school was actually in use until the fire in 1923, and this is actually further confirmed by a record on *page 30* of *Historical Aspects of Bonnie Doon* where it notes that “...

“Dry Creek had a hotel and state school. Unfortunately, both of these burnt down in the fire of February 1923 and they were never rebuilt.”

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

March 3rd -Tour De Trail

March 8th- Mansfield Pottery Festival

March 9th- Cobber Stockdog Spectacular

March 9th- Merrijig Rodeo



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