

North West Grampians Newsletter

267 Pohlners Road, Laharum 3401
Phone 5383 8207 giliz@laharum.vic.au

February 2010

Edition 146

After 25 years and 146 editions of the North West Grampians Newsletter, it's still going strong! This community newsletter evolved as part of the Laharum Community Centre which was formed in 1985 and disbanded after 2 years in operation.

Initially the newsletter was typed on a typewriter with one double page. Over the years it has progressed to several pages; now a computerised version with two columns; some colour; printed rather than photocopied and on recycled paper, and improved aesthetically. It is produced to improve district communication; bind together the diverse community and keep everyone up-to-date with all activities, meetings and district information.

Funding has varied over the years and I am very grateful for sponsorship, currently from Horsham Rural City Council and Wimmera Catchment Management Authority.

Liz Hopkins

Laharum CFA Training Sessions



Plantation firefighting training sessions on **Thursday February 11**, 7-10pm & **Sunday February 14**, 9am-4pm will be held at Region 17 Office in Horsham.

On **Sunday March 14** is a 'Low-voltage fuse removal' course at Wonwondah from 1.30-5pm. An 'A' class foam training day will be held at Laharum Oval on **Monday March 22** from 7-10pm.

All courses are open to anyone who has completed minimum skills. To secure a spot for any of these training courses, please contact Region 17 office on 1800.608 117 during business hours or your brigade training officer.

Luke Dumesny

Laharum Hall Committee



Our next committee meeting will be held on **Monday February 15**, 8pm at Laharum Hall. We will be discussing future funding to

complete the extensions to the hall.

Judy Berendsen



Unveiling and launch of the sandstone sculpture for the Classics in the Wartook Valley by Kevin Free (pictured) and Melissa Russell

EXHIBITION

Wartook Valley Studio Gallery

Birds of a Feather Work Together

An exhibition resulting from artists supporting and working alongside each other to create a collection of diverse art, ranging from unique mythical ceramic sculptures to textiles, glasswork, paintings and mixed media

Tuesday February 16 - Sunday March 21

10am to 5pm - closed Mondays

For more information call Wartook Valley Studio Gallery on 5383 6243



Patrick Murphy entertaining the crowd at the launch



JUNIOR TENNIS COACHING

Free coaching for Under 15 year olds
Racquets available to borrow

Sunday February 14

10.30am-12noon

Griffiths Sporting Complex Courts, Laharum

Mobile Library



Our next mobile library day is **Wednesday February 17** from 9.30am at Laharum Primary School. Thanks to all those who turned up during the school holidays and kept me company during this quiet time of the year. Everyone is welcome at anytime - it's your library!

With our webpage and catalogue you can borrow any book, DVD, Talking Books, etc that you may require from all over Victoria at no charge and pick it up at the Mobile Library. You only need a (free) membership. Cheers.

Bryan Rohde

Laharum School Parent Club



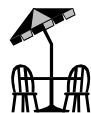
We have all had a nice break over the holidays and now getting right back into the swing of things. Parent Club will be having a 'welcome barbecue' on **Friday February 19** to have a catch up and to welcome our new families to the school.

We have a number of community events planned for the year, the first of which will be a quiz evening - details for this will be sent out at a later date.

Our garden beds have arrived and soon the children will be putting these together and planting a lot of goodies, all of which will be enjoyed throughout the year.

Deirdre Baum

Brimpaen Ladies Social Club



Ninety people attended Australia Day Breakfast and enjoyed an excellent meal followed by an interesting talk by Chris Velthuis about her life and journey to Horsham. A new flag was raised. Thank you to the people who helped make the event so successful and to The Wander Inn for donating first prize voucher in the raffle.

Our AGM will be held on **Tuesday February 23**, 2pm at the Brimpaen Hall. Fundraising and social activities will be decided for 2010. Stall and afternoon – all welcome.

Margo Hamilton

GRAMPIANS TEXTURE

**Saturday-Thursday February 20-25
Halls Gap**

Grampians Texture: part festival - part forum. Fifteen Australians and international tutors are conducting a range of 2 and 4 day workshops covering topics of felting, embroidery, jewellery, printing, stitching, knitting, book making, fabric and fibre manipulation, crochet, devore velvet, basket weaving, wax resist and dyeing plus much more. There are still vacancies in some workshops.

Twilight Market

Saturday February 20, 5-6.30pm

Next to the Visitor Information Centre, Halls Gap. A very special market with over 25 stalls featuring exotic and unusual arts and craft from the tutors and students at Grampians Texture.

Traders Hall – Centennial Hall, Halls Gap

Saturday-Thursday February 20-25

Specialist traders selling supplies for craft makers: fibres, buttons, books, threads, dyes, silk patchwork fabrics and much more. Open 8.30am–5pm.

Exhibitions

Birds of a Feather – Wartook Valley Studio Gallery

Tuesday February 16–Sunday March 21

An exhibition of work including textiles and other mediums by local artists. Open daily (except Monday) from 10am – 5pm.

Cara Mia – Kookaburra Restaurant, Halls Gap

Work by Val Robinson from Mildura. This exhibition combines textiles, found objects and painting exploring themes about pioneer women's stories from the Sunraysia. Open restaurant hours March 19–April 12.

Coming together – Gap Winery

4113 Ararat-Halls Gap Road

An exhibition of work by local felt making group 'Just felt like it'. Open daily 10am–5pm March 19–April 12.

More information on 0428.825971 grampianstexture@gmail.com
www.visithallsgap.com.au/grampianstexture

LAHARUM TENNIS CLUB PREMIERSHIP REUNION

On **Saturday February 27** Laharum Tennis Club is holding a Premiership Reunion to celebrate every premiership Laharum has won. All members of Past Premiership teams have been invited to attend to relive and celebrate their victories.

At 7pm an evening meal will be provided (by Laharum Football Club) after which certificates will be presented to each player and a representative from each team will have an opportunity to speak about their memories from past premierships.

All past and present members and friends are invited to join in the celebrations.

For catering purposes please RSVP by February 15 to:
Deb MacInnes, 1380 Northern Grampians Road, Laharum, 3401 ☎ 5383 8203 or
Carole Bunworth, 1174 Northern Grampians Road, Laharum, 3401 ☎ 5383 8232

Laharum Tennis Club



Welcome back to the business end of the tennis season. Hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas, New Year period and are keen to get back into tennis.

Two weeks ago we had a working bee to tidy up around the courts and erect the shade sail on the alley between the courts. Thank you to Maurie, Bill, Tim and Robert. The shade sail looks great - good job boys! Monday last week we catered for a clearing sale at Remlaw. The day proved to be an excellent fundraiser as it was a lot bigger crowd than we expected. Thanks to Nadine, Heath and Deb Hutch who were run off their feet!

The Football Club has started training at Laharum on Thursday nights so we will require volunteers to 'man' the bar on those nights.

Invitations have been sent out to all premiership players for the 'Premiership Reunion' on **Saturday February 27**. Many of our past members have already replied and are really looking forward to the day. *Everyone* is invited to attend this celebration. No doubt there will be plenty of funny and entertaining yarns to be heard from past years. Should be a great night for all!

Reminder!!!!

Have you paid your subs yet? Subs are payable asap to Treasurer Judy. Happy Hitting!
Deb MacInnes



Kaitlyn Miller – showing her style!

Horsham South Garden Club



Our meeting on **Thursday February 25**, 12noon at Elizabeth Johns' home will be our AGM, election of office bearers and gathering suggestions for this year's meetings. Please bring lunch to share.

Lola Ervin



2010 Art is... elemental festival

March 19-27. The festival will be launched with a performance by the Australian Scholars on **Saturday February 27**, 2010 at 8pm at Wesley Performing Arts Centre, Horsham. Each year the Australian Vocal Scholars Program

provides a selection of young singers with an invaluable opportunity to learn from and perform with singers of world standard. This will be the second year that Art is... has hosted The Scholars. In March 2009 The Scholars supported the performance of world famous soprano, Yvonne Kenny AM, together with Australia's favourite tenor, Roy Best at the Horsham Town Hall.

Tickets are now available for \$35. A booking form can be downloaded by going to the Art is... website at www.artis.com.au or call the office on 5381 0297 and a copy can be sent out.

We hope that you can join us to share in the beautiful feast of arias, songs and ensembles performed by Victoria's most promising young vocalists.

Abby Cooper, Media and Marketing Manager

Brimpaen Craft Group



We will be starting a patchwork project at our next meeting on **Tuesday March 2**, 10am-2pm at Brimpaen Hall. Please bring embroidery cotton, scissors and a sewing needle. We are also having a 'swap day', so bring along your obsolete craft items that other members might like to use!

Our next meeting will be held on **Tuesday April 2** – activity to be decided.

Jill Sinclair



Chris Velthuis speaking at the Brimpaen Australia Day Breakfast

Grampians Wartook Promotion Group

Our next meeting on **Tuesday March 2**, 7pm will be held at The Wander Inn which is our annual meeting. Failure to fill office bearers will see the executive making the decision to close the Group. If this eventuates, any funds remaining will be directed to the Classics in Wartook Valley Committee.

Please come along!

Jenny Hill



CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY SUNDAY MARCH 7

20th Anniversary of Clean Up Australia Day

**Let's help the environment by
cleaning up our area**

Please take care to tie down your rubbish when taking it to the recycling area at Laharum Hall or Mt Zero Transfer Station

Get together with your neighbours and keep our district clean!



WIMMERA HEARING SOCIETY INC.

Free hearing screening will be held on
Friday March 12, 9am-12noon
Laharum Hall

**FUNDED BY REGIONAL HEALTH
STRATEGIES**

For more information contact Sue on
0417.342850



♪ ♪ Local Vocals ♪ ♪

Tuneful tantalising tonsil tickling!!



Laharum Hall

Leader – Merryn Eagle

THURSDAY MARCH 18, 7.30pm

**Please ring Liz on 5383 8207
to confirm arrangements**

Minimal charge

**Come along and join in some singing
in a relaxed, warm & friendly atmosphere -
singing ability not necessary**



Neil Murray at Wartook

Renowned Australian singer, songwriter, poet and writer, Neil Murray will perform at The Wander Inn, Wartook during the Horsham Art is...elemental festival.

Date **Thursday March 25, 6.30pm**
Performance commences 8pm
Cost \$55 per head including meal & performance
\$35 per head performance only
All bookings to be made at Wartook Studio Gallery 5383 6243; credit card payments available.
Wartook Studio Gallery will also have an exhibition relating to the theme 'elemental' which will open prior to the performance – see below for details.

RECYCLING FLOTSAM & JETSAM

Wartook Valley Studio Gallery
Thursday March 25 – Sunday April 11
Open daily 10am – 5pm

Artists are invited by Wartook Valley Studio Gallery to participate in an exhibition that will exhibit a diverse range of work that has been made entirely from rubbish!

With such an enormous mass of waste left to pollute all the elements of our environment, artists have decided to take a significant step in recycling some of the pollutants!

Join them for the official opening on
Thursday March 25 at 6pm.

*The Wander Inn/
Wartook Valley
Studio Gallery*



**Easter Saturday Bush Market
Saturday April 3, 10am–3pm**

Something for everyone!

Stallholders most welcome, cost \$15
Limited trestles available on request

Please phone Jenny on BH 5383 6377



Laharum Under 14 B Boys, Runners-up 2008-09



Family movie

Friday March 26

Movie to be decided

Screening 7pm - Laharum Hall

Free movie and popcorn

Yoga at Laharum Hall



Yoga is in full-swing again! It is very beneficial to the young and also those 'not so young'! It helps maintain a good level of fitness and keeps our bodies flexible. Come along and discover the benefits. Everyone is welcome including those who have not tried yoga before.

Judy Berendsen 5383 6265



Fundraiser event

We are going back to the 60's so come along and have a great time at the **Rock & Roll Night**. The night includes meal (great casseroles); live music featuring John Davey; dancing and an old fashioned supper with \$5 of the cost going towards Classics in Wartook Valley.



Venue: The Wander Inn, Northern Grampians Road

Time: 7pm

Date: **Saturday April 17**

Cost: \$25

Bookings essential - phone Jenny on 5383 6377

Don't forget we have more fun nights in store for you as well. These are:

Monte Carlo Night - May (purchase and play with Monopoly Money followed by a Dutch auction using your winnings)

Red Faces - July - start planning your act now

More details on exact dates and times will be advised in the next newsletter. In the meantime don't forget to pencil these events in your social calendar.

Loretta Emerson

Secretary 5383 6233

Classics in Wartook Valley Festival Committee

Laharum Landcare Group



LANDCARE

At our final meeting for 2009 Bill Gardner led a discussion with Ian Mitchell from Ararat Rural City Council about a biomass electricity generation plant (gasifier) to be installed at Ararat. Bill, and Will Pyke are part of a discussion group looking at the possibility of a similar plant in the Horsham area, using straw and other agricultural 'waste'.

Please contact John Fisher 5383 6263 to discuss summer environmental weeds including blackberry and Bathurst burr.

This year we will be collecting accurate information about where all pest plants and animals occur, so please help us map these problems so we can apply for funds to control them.

Gil Hopkins



Laharum Landcare gasifier meeting December 2009

Laharum Netball Club



Our training sessions will commence on **Tuesday February 16** – venue to be confirmed. Coaches for this season are:
A Grade – Jess Lovel
B Grade – Natalie Oakley
C Grade – Rhonda McNeil

Under 17 – Chris O'Connell

Modifieds – expected to be Karen Griffiths and Jenny Carter.

We need a coach for the Under 15s & 13s, and more players are needed for the Under 13s! Please contact Alistair on 5384 3225 if you can help.

We look forward to a magnificent netball season.

Alistair Griffiths

Laharum CFA



We have been fortunate that we have had a quiet season so far. WorkCo will be going ahead with a new shed for Tanker A in early March. They will be doing the foundation and

construction at no cost.

The new training schedule for this year will be decided after March.

On Mt Victory Road near Meringa Springs another strategic water tank for fire fighting is ready. These tanks are padlocked and keys are in the trucks.

In another month permits for burning should be available - please follow the conditions on the permit. If anyone has heavy stubble that needs burning, please let me know as we would like to burn it for a training exercise.

For sale: one overhead fuel tank, on stand approx. 600L, terrific condition. If interested please contact me on 5383 8218.

Mark Francisco, Captain

The Wander Inn



We are open Tuesdays to Sundays from 10am-5pm for morning and afternoon tea and lunch. We also have available fresh seafood on Friday evenings to 'eat in' or take-way.

Jenny Wilson

Brimpaen Tennis Club



The first round back after the break brought with it some interesting tennis with most of the Brimpaen players not having had a hit since before Christmas. Neither team troubled the scorers but B Special was unlucky to lose.

Hopefully both teams can get a few wins on the board in the remaining games and we will start fresh next season.

Courtney Dunn



Horsham Rural City Council
urban rural balance

The alternate design prepared by Council for the parking arrangements to suit both the community hall and the school at the new Laharum School site has been rejected by the Education Department. I have been advised that the arrangements put forward to the Working Group by Council did not meet Departmental guidelines despite the issue that Council was going to take over responsibility for the maintenance of the access road and car parks.

Dadswells Bridge fire - Council was again very active in supporting the Dadswells Bridge community, CFA and DSE (and Parks Victoria) in controlling what could have been a very dangerous fire and we are pleased that our efforts were well acknowledged. Council pays particular tribute to our emergency services and the pre-planning and cooperation between all agencies again proved positive and resulted in minimal damage to private property. Council will continue to work with the Dadswells Bridge community on the recovery and cleanup work in conjunction with Northern Grampians Shire Council. One timbered bridge was destroyed which will require special effort by both Councils.

Wonwondah/Toolondo road works in conjunction with the Echo Mine development by Iluka are nearing completion and all Council involvement will be finalised by late February.

Code Red fire danger days - Council is aware of the general community confusion and lack of specific information on expectations for Code Red days. Council, the Recovery Manager, Luke Mitten, and me, as Municipal Emergency Resources Officer, are working towards the preparation of clear guidelines, perhaps in conjunction with other regional Councils, for this new initiative. The public are advised that there are no specific reception areas for Code Red days, and these should not be confused with relief centres which are provided when there is a fire incident. There are no Neighbourhood Safer Places (NSPs) required by our Council at present; however, we will work with the CFA to establish these where required for the 2010/11 fire season. There is much work to do in this area.

On days of 'Code Red' fire warning, the waste management facilities in the municipality will not operate.

Winfield Road construction continues to be an issue for users and property owners; but currently it is not on our five year construction program due to other financial commitments. We are aware that the construction of this road should be brought forward and when approved, we would anticipate a five year program for staged construction at a cost of approximately \$150,000 per year. Many residents are not aware that some of this road length is not within the boundaries of the Horsham Rural City Council, but is in Northern Grampians Shire. This further complicates our construction program.

Brimpaen Ladies Social Club organised another very successful Australia Day Breakfast and Council is pleased to sponsor \$200 for this event. I wish readers a safe and fire free season.

David Eltringham



Environmental water flows via Burnt Creek

Environmental water ran down Burnt Creek near Horsham in late October. About 160ML earmarked

for the Wimmera River, instead of flowing from Taylors Lake, flowed to the river via the creek. The flow, part of a 4595ML environmental release for the Wimmera River, ran at 20ML a day until the end of October. Wimmera CMA (WCMA) and GWMWater representatives agreed that a near-full Taylors Lake provided an opportunity to make Wimmera environmental water harvesting and delivery adjustments that complied with WCMA's Wimmera River objectives. WCMA chief executive Marc Thompson said key criteria for environmental water-release planning were to:

- Protect existing high-value areas, or areas in good condition; and
- Restore areas where the highest environmental benefit will be achieved for the resource invested and there is strong community commitment towards long-term improvement in waterway health.

Marc Thompson said WCMA would continue to work with landowners to protect and enhance the environmental values of Burnt Creek health.

Rare bottlebrush & Platypus benefits from MacKenzie flow

An environmental water release in the MacKenzie River is helping provide relief for a threatened platypus population. WCMA is releasing water into a sensitive refuge area of the river until May as part of an ongoing operation to improve habitat for threatened wildlife.

The impact of drought on the regional platypus population captured considerable attention last year after research suggested there was a possibility of localised extinction of the species. Follow-up trapping surveys, while establishing individual platypus were still alive in Wimmera waterways, confirmed the unique mammal was under threat in the region. The threat to platypuses, relatively resilient animals, reflected a threat to overall aquatic eco-systems in the river.

The authority is using an environmental allocation from Lake Wartook to give an 18km stretch of the MacKenzie River a drink between Dad and Dave Weir and Distribution Heads near Laharum. The release strategy is designed to mimic a summer-autumn flow pattern and involves a 490ML release from Lake Wartook. This flow follows on from the 1,000ML environmental water release that ended in October 2009, giving stands of rare Wimmera bottlebrush near Wonwondah their first river drink since 2005.

Australian botanist Neil Marriott discovered the Wimmera bottlebrush, which has distinctive pink-mauve flowers, identifying it as a species unique to the Wimmera in 2005. He estimated at the time that some plants growing along more than 12km of the MacKenzie River were between 80-100 years old. The bottlebrush *Callistemon*



wimmerensis, is undergoing assessment for listing under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

2010 Calendar - Wimmera CMA's 2010 Wimmera Environmental Planning Calendar, out now, highlights facts and figures about the Wimmera's natural environment. The calendar focuses on plants and animals indigenous to the region and features winning artworks from the 2009 Wimmera Kids Conference.

The Wimmera has lost more than 70% of native vegetation cover since the arrival of Europeans. This loss of habitat, along with the introduction of pest plants and animals, has caused the extinction of many indigenous species or led to many of them becoming threatened or endangered.

2010 calendars are available from WCMA office.

Bronwyn Bant

Threatened Species Group

Anyone interested in being involved in the threatened species surveys, please contact Pauline Rudolph on 5362 0754 Tues, Wed & Thurs only or email pauline.rudolph@dse.vic.gov.au.

Stan Parfett

Wimmera Rural Skills Connect

Tim Martin is Project Manager for the Wimmera region. He assists farming families and agribusiness employees to develop skills, and access employment opportunities across the region. He also helps farmers to gain formal qualifications so they have the option to work part-time or occasionally away from their farm, helping boost the family budget.

Anyone interested in this project please contact Tim Martin 0429.957643 or AH 5383 6229.

Laharum Primary School

LAH-ARUM Primary School
Welcome back everyone! We have had an absolutely wonderful start to the new school year - everyone is working so well. Students are very settled in both classrooms and are embracing all the changes of the new year.

We welcome our new Prep students: Oliver, Jim and Sophie and Jade in Year 1.

We now have our interactive whiteboards installed which have been an absolute hit. They are so motivational for staff and students alike. The capabilities and potential for teaching and learning opportunities are endless.

We look forward to a very exciting and busy year.

Robyn Jones, Principal

BUSHFIRE INFORMATION LINE

Dial 1800.240667

Parks Victoria



The busy and hot summer period has seen many Parks Victoria staff out in the park regularly patrolling popular visitor sites and campgrounds. Day

visitors seem to be making up the majority of visits as campgrounds remained relatively quiet throughout January.

Visitor services - Many roads and tracks throughout the park have recently had trees cleared, signs replaced and maintenance grading carried out. Annual bridge inspections have also been completed on many public roads and tracks. Dry conditions have increased dust and corrugation levels on many roads, and we await rain before any major grading can be carried out.

Maintenance works have been carried out at Wannon campground over the past few months which has included the replanting of trees which were removed as part of a 'tree risk' program within the park. It is hoped the newly planted garden beds will in time provide more private and segregated camp sites for campers. Other works at the site include the installation of a new toilet block, relocated from Plantation campground, and the installation of a water tank to provide a much needed water supply at the site.

Natural Values Management - Field services officer Adam Tribe has been busy working on a 6 week program with Conservation Volunteers to eradicate outbreaks of Sallow Wattle (*Acacia longifolia*) around Lake Bellfield and in the northern area of the park. Sallow wattle produces dense thickets which may impede access, and can also be a major factor in increasing the intensity of fire behaviour. The dense thickets can also choke the growth of understory plants, significantly reducing species richness. It is hoped this program will significantly impact on the spread of the 'native weed'.

Fire - Over the past month, fire crews have been busy clearing access along firelines throughout the north-eastern, central and southern areas of the park. Fire dam status and access has also been a priority. More recently, crews have been busy patrolling and mopping up after the Dadswell's Bridge fire. Started by lightning, this fire moved extremely quickly but crews worked through the night to halt the fire before it damaged homes around Dadswell's Bridge township.

Tammy Schoo

Wartook Christian Home Meeting



Our group meets every Friday evening from 7pm – venues vary. Any resident of Laharum, Wartook or Brimpaen is welcome to join our meetings. Good supportive fellowship is assured.

Please ring Garry on 5383 6368 or Peter on 5383 6334 for more information.

Garry Newman

Are you interested in doing a Beginners Computer Course next term? Expressions of Interest are being taken - contact Deb MacInnes on 5383 8203 or Work 0428.838203

LAHARUM COMMUNITY LINKS OFFICE LAHARUM HALL

Open Wednesday mornings 9am-1pm
providing the following services:

- * Computer use
- * Internet access
- * Emailing
- * Printing
- * Photocopying
- * Faxing
- * Laminating



Enquiries to Deb MacInnes
Home 5383 8203 Mobile 0428.838203
Email: debbie.macinnes@hrcc.vic.gov.au
Laharum Community Links Office
Phone 5383 6224 Fax 5383 6225

**PREPARE.
ACT.
SURVIVE.**



Your Bushfire Survival Kit

Copies of this comprehensive kit can be picked up at CFA Office, 19 McLachlan Street, Horsham.

The kit includes:

- Understanding your environment
- Household bushfire site assessment
- Preparing your property
- Leaving early
- Defending your property
- Understanding fire danger ratings

and much more. CFA website is: www.cfa.vic.gov.au

Expressions of Interest

For a Community Weight Loss Group

\$49 for 12 week challenge

Including nutrition education; weight loss coaching & support; weekly weigh & measures; prizes & rewards; confidentiality.

If any men or women are interested, classes can be arranged once a week at the Laharum Hall

Call Wendy on 5383 6220 to register your interest or email: wartookg@bordnet.com.au

**Photos and articles for this newsletter
are always appreciated**

Laharum Preschool



We're off!!!! This year we have great numbers with nearly all spaces full. Our official enrolment is 13 children with a healthy number of 5 four year olds. We also have 5 three year olds, so next years enrolments look good too. Both sessions only have one place left.

Tracie and I started setting up the room with an emphasis on the beach theme. We will be playing with a lot of water and sand and will be working on a giant octopus which will be a group project over the next few weeks.

Late last year I was lucky enough to spend \$4,000 on equipment from a government grant. I purchased a climbing wall, a variety of swings, stacks of new puzzles and new construction sets; amongst many other bits and pieces. The children will be able to enjoy this new gear throughout the year. As always, I still appreciate any donations of toys and equipment that you might be able to spare - so keep it coming! Thanks Jen Carter for the recent toys, etc.

Our canaries, vegie garden and plants survived the summer break and I would sincerely like to thank Babs Winfield for looking after them. Also thanks to Bea Sykes for being 'Fish Carer' over the holidays. It's great to have people in our community who are able to take on these roles. Our plants and animals at kinder are very important to us!

This year we can look forward to many visitors coming to kinder like Thingle Toodle, Wags the Beagle, and community services such as the fire truck and police car. We will also have some excursions into the hospital, ambulance station and possibly to the wildlife park when we explore our native animals theme.

The committee will also be working hard with some major fundraising activities over the coming months, and your support with our fundraising activities is also greatly appreciated.

So here we go for another exciting year ahead at kinder!

Jo Bone

Bravura Cleaning Service

- Steam cleaning carpets and upholstery
- Window washing
- Vacant house cleaning
- Vacant blocks mown



Contact Conrad on 0488.435 083

Conrad and Amanda Winfield

*Opinions expressed in articles appearing in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor.
For further information or discussion please contact the author of the article.*

LOCAL WEBSITES

Is it the Christmas/New Year break or disinterest? Nobody seems to have contacted our internet sites at www.laharum.vic.au and www.wartook.vic.au to put in any local or group information. It's a good time to do it now!

The following many advantages of internet communication should more than compensate for the time needed to use our community websites:

- ☑ Achievable
- ☑ Cost effective
- ☑ Easily edited and updated
- ☑ Expands appreciation of community
- ☑ Immediate
- ☑ Interactive
- ☑ Open access
- ☑ Paperless
- ☑ Provides geographical email addresses
- ☑ Technologically advanced
- ☑ World Wide promotion



Individuals or community organisations interested in contributing to our community websites with notices, information or sharing links should use the 'Contact' option on the site to express an interest. I will then contact you regarding training, access and publishing materials.

David Thompson

Riding for the Disabled



Horsham RDA starts with a bang this year. We decided that it would be beneficial for all our volunteers and horses to have a training session to hone our skills before the riders descend on us. It was then decided that both Wednesday and Friday volunteers would benefit from training together, and then... well it's grown a bit like Topsy from there!

It has now turned into something of a regional training session, as volunteers from Stawell, Maryborough and Bendigo RDA Centres will also be joining us. This will make it a great opportunity for meeting other like-minded people with a passion for RDA, as well as swapping information and experiences; so increasing the benefit of the day by a significant factor.

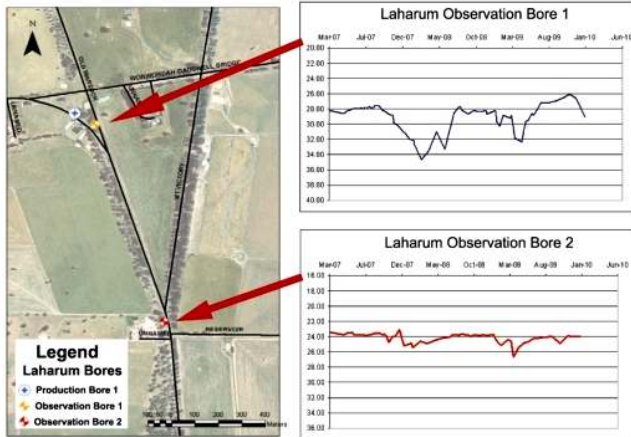
The day will start at 9am with a general meeting and a chance for volunteers to have some input into the running of the Centre, before we kick off at 11am with the 'hands-on' training to ensure that people and horses can work smoothly and safely during the riding sessions. A video will be shown during the BYO lunch and then some more practical stuff in the afternoon, including a section on the carriage driving arm of our program.

Anyone who is interested in becoming a volunteer with Horsham RDA or simply would like to find out what we do is very welcome to join us at the Riverside Equestrian Centre in Riverside Road, Horsham on **Wednesday February 10** at 11am (or 9am if you want). You will be very welcome.

For any more information about our rallies or RDA, contact Tina Pallot on 5382 2346, or our President Jan Hutton-Croser 0429.935 382.

Tina Pallot

Laharum bore update



GWMWater continues to monitor the groundwater levels at the Laharum bore field on a regular basis.

Production Bore 1 has continued to be used over recent months. Operation periods have been from 12 to 24 hours a day with a maximum daily extraction rate of 1.7 ML per day. Production Bores 2 and 3 remain unused over this period.

The total daily groundwater contribution into the Mt Zero storage has varied between 10% and 20% over the last month. This is expected to continue over the drier months ahead.

Water levels adjacent to the extractions are showing a response to this ongoing pumping (refer to Laharum Observation Bore 1 graph). This is a normal response and water levels are expected to recover when the pump is switched off.

GWMWater will continue to provide regular updates on bore levels in the Laharum area. If you require more information, please contact our Sustainable Resources Division on 1300 656 961.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Users of the recycle bins at Laharum Hall please make sure all materials are put in the bins.

Anything left on the ground will not be collected!

This newsletter is printed on 100% recycled paper - helping towards reducing Australian landfill

Johno's Bricklaying



Bricklaying, rendering, concreting, tiling, paving, small building jobs, bobcat - post holes, small tip truck

Phone Johno on 0419.116 711 or AH 5383 6285

FOR SALE

Stanley Waterford slow combustion large wood stove in good order – outside is white enamel

\$500 – was \$2,000 new

Ring Joyce Bolwell on 0438.398266

FOR SALE

PEA STRAW

Please ring Leigh on 5383 6307

Need printing?

Why pay more than necessary?

Sometimes smaller is better



Thanks to advances in technology you can now get quality printing done in quantities that suit you. No need to order more than you really need to get a good price.

You probably don't always need thousands of business cards, or letterheads, or brochures, or books, or ... whatever. So why pay for a large run if you don't really need to? Short run printing makes sense.

Vickers Printing, 7 Olga Ave. Horsham Tel 5382 3110

Check out the websites

www.laharum.vic.au

and

www.wartook.vic.au

If you misplace your newsletter or your friends/family would like to read it - it's on the website.

See how you can change your email address to: @laharum.vic.au or @wartook.vic.au

Community Building Initiative Laharum/Wartook Community Links News

The Laharum Community Hall upgrade and refurbishment has been completed.

The Hall now includes space suitable for:

- Meetings – large and small
- Tourist Information
- Offices
- Office rooms for visiting health services/consulting rooms
- Adult learning
- Preschool/Playgroup/After school care?
- Public access computers/photocopier/printer/fax/laminator
- Functions

Unfortunately funding did not allow for floor coverings and air conditioning and these items will be added as soon as possible. All funds from the grants have now been spent except money to employ a facilitator for 5 hours per week until the end of February this year.

Plans to relocate the newly refurbished building to Cameron Oval to link up with the brand new school and other community facilities is included in the master planning process, but no suitable funding is available at this stage.

Plans to have a launch are being looked into and this should happen within the next couple of months. The office at Laharum Hall is now set up and as from the start of February, the phone line and internet will be connected to the office. It will be open one morning per week on Wednesdays from 9am-1pm and will be offering services such as:

- Computer use
- Internet access
- Printing
- Photocopying
- Faxing
- Laminating

The Activities Program is to continue and now that the facility is completed, it will now be possible to provide a wider range of programs. If anyone has any suggestions for health services, activities or adult education courses for next term, please let me know.

It is now possible to advertise Laharum Hall to health service providers and also as a venue for meetings and conferences.

Deb MacInnes

Laharum Community Links facilitator Ph. 5383 8203 Work 0428.838203 Email: debbie.macinnes@hrcc.vic.gov.au



LAHARUM / WARTOOK ACTIVITIES PROGRAM FEBRUARY/MARCH 2010

Date & Time	Venue	Activity
Sunday February 14 10.30am–12noon	Griffiths Sporting Complex Courts	Junior Tennis Coaching morning - free coaching for Under 15 years Racquets will be available to borrow
Friday March 12 9am-12noon	Laharum Hall	Hearing Tests - Wimmera Hearing Society Inc will be conducting FREE hearing screenings providing referral and information relating to hearing loss. No appointment necessary
Thursday March 18 7.30pm	Laharum Hall	Local Vocals. Community sing-along just for fun. Minimal charge Please ring Liz on 5383 8207 to confirm arrangements
Friday March 26 7pm	Laharum Hall	Movie Night - family movie to be decided. Movie screens at 7pm. Free movie and popcorn
	<i>Expressions of interest for → →</i>	Computer Course with tutor Helen Mills - next term Anyone interested in a Beginners Course please let me know

LAHARUM FIRE BRIGADE TRUCK ROSTER

February – August 2010



WEEK STARTING	LAHARUM TANKER		TANKER A	
	DRIVER	CREW	DRIVER	CREW
07/02/10	Don Sudholz	Judy Johnson	Maurie Dumesny	Neil Seymour
14/02/10	Chris Vincent	Barry Berendsen	Brendan Dunn	Peter Dunn
21/02/10	Ed Johnson	Bruce McInnes	Cam Ellifson	Alex Ellifson
28/02/10	John Fisher	Paul van der Plank	Robert Jess	John McIntyre
07/03/10	Bruce Winfield	Colin Flack	Luke Dumesny	Jenny Dumesny
14/03/10	Deb MacInnes	Caroline Geue	Bill Gardner	Judy Gardner
21/03/10	Alison White	Vikki Stevens	Dale McIntyre	Damien Knight
28/03/10	Brad Geue	Roger MacInnes	Mal Griffiths	Tim Martin
04/04/10	Hugh Russell	Howard Black	Rob Launder	Andy Crawford
11/04/10	Leigh Mibus	Pat Mibus	Gary Staehr	Gil Hopkins
18/04/10	Alan Arnott	Norm Booth	Trevor Winfield	Ray Zippel
25/04/10	Will Pyke	Francoise van der Plank	Mark Francisco	Campbell Trewin
02/05/10	Jim Carter	Rob McInnes	Maurie Dumesny	Neil Seymour
09/05/10	Andrew Bos	Steve Suter	Brendan Dunn	Peter Dunn
16/05/10	Don Sudholz	Judy Johnson	Cam Ellifson	Alex Ellifson
23/05/10	Chris Vincent	Barry Berendsen	Robert Jess	John McIntyre
30/05/10	Ed Johnson	Bruce McInnes	Luke Dumesny	Jenny Dumesny
06/06/10	John Fisher	Paul van der Plank	Bill Gardner	Judy Gardner
13/06/10	Bruce Winfield	Colin Flack	Dale McIntyre	Damien Knight
20/06/10	Deb MacInnes	Caroline Geue	Mal Griffiths	Tim Martin
27/06/10	Alison White	Vikki Stevens	Rob Launder	Andy Crawford
04/07/10	Brad Geue	Roger MacInnes	Gary Staehr	Gil Hopkins
11/07/10	Hugh Russell	Howard Black	Trevor Winfield	Ray Zippel
18/07/10	Leigh Mibus	Pat Mibus	Mark Francisco	Campbell Trewin
25/07/10	Alan Arnott	Norm Booth	Maurie Dumesny	Neil Seymour
01/08/10	Will Pyke	Francoise van der Plank	Brendan Dunn	Peter Dunn
08/08/10	Jim Carter	Rob McInnes	Cam Ellifson	Alex Ellifson
15/08/10	Don Sudholz	Judy Johnson	Maurie Dumesny	Neil Seymour
22/08/10	Chris Vincent	Barry Berendsen	Mal Griffiths	Tim Martin
29/08/10	Ed Johnson	Bruce McInnes	Bill Gardner	Judy Gardner

The trucks need to be driven 30km a week. Anyone with a heavy rigid licence can take the trucks for a run – please mark your turn on your calendar. If you notice a fault with the truck during the run, please notify Mark Francisco immediately and always complete the log book at the end of your run. Thanks!

North West Grampians Newsletter - Community Calendar of Events 2010

February

Thursday	11	7-10pm	CFA Plantation firefighting training - Region 17 Horsham
Sunday	14	9am-4pm	“ “ “ “ “
“	14	10.30am-12pm	Junior Tennis Coaching – Griffiths Sporting Complex
Monday	15	8pm	Laharum Hall Committee - Laharum Hall
Tuesday	16		Laharum Netball Club training begins
Friday	19		Laharum School Parent Club
Tuesday	23	2pm	Brimpaen Ladies Social Club – Brimpaen Hall
Thursday	25	12noon	Horsham South Garden Club
Saturday	27	7pm	Laharum Tennis Club Premiership Reunion – Laharum
“	27	8pm	Art Is.... elemental – Australian Vocal Scholars – Wesley

March

Tuesday	2	10am-2pm	Brimpaen Craft Group – Brimpaen Hall
“	2	7pm	Grampians Wartook Promotion Group – The Wander Inn
Sunday		7	Clean Up Australia Day
Friday	12	9am-12noon	Wimmera Hearing Society – Laharum Hall
Sunday	14	1.30-5pm	CFA low-voltage fuse removal course – Wonwondah
Thursday	18	7.30pm	'Local Vocals' – Laharum Hall
Monday	22	7-10pm	CFA 'A' class foam training – Laharum oval
Thursday	25	6.30pm	Neil Murray at The Wander Inn – Art Is.... elemental
Friday	26	7pm	Family Movie night – Laharum Hall

April

Tuesday	2	10am-2pm	Brimpaen Craft Group
Saturday	3	10am-3pm	Easter Saturday Bush Market – Wander Inn/Studio Gallery
Saturday	17	7pm	Classics in Wartook Valley – The Wander Inn

Yoga - Wednesdays 7.30-9.15pm – Laharum Hall

Mobile Library - Wednesday February 17 (1st and 3rd Wednesdays - Laharum PS from 9.30am)

Wartook Christian Home Meeting – Fridays from 7pm - venues vary

Grampians Texture - Saturday-Thursday February 20-25 – Halls Gap

Birds of a Feather Exhibition - Tuesday February 16–Sunday March 21 – Wartook Studio Gallery

Art Is... Elemental Festival – Friday March 19-Saturday March 27

Recycling Flotsam & Jetsam – Thursday March 25-Sunday April 11 – Wartook Valley Studio Gallery

North West Grampians Fire Brigade News

A quick guide for pet owners

CFA encourages all people who live near bush, grassland or coastal areas to develop a Bushfire Survival Plan. For pet owners, this includes planning for the safety and survival of your pets. Whether pets are at home with you, or brought along on holidays, you will need to plan and prepare for their safety.

Prepare a Bushfire Survival Plan for your pets

Make sure your pets are identified with a collar identification tag and/or a microchip.

Include a second or emergency contact on your pet's microchip and identification tag registration. It is critical that this information is current and that the nominated person lives outside your district, perhaps in an area which is not bushfire-prone. Make sure all contact information corresponding to your pet's council and microchip/tag registration is current. Contact your council to update pet registration details and contact your microchip register to update your pet's microchip contact information. You can find out which microchip register your pet is registered with by checking your microchip registration certificate or you can call the National Pet Register for assistance on 1300 734 738.

Practise how you will relocate your pets should you decide to leave early. Make a list of where you could house your pets if you decide to leave early. This may include boarding kennels, a relative/friend's place or you may decide to keep them with you.

Discuss with neighbours how your pets will be protected in case you are not at home/cannot make it home during a bushfire threat. Keep in regular contact with your neighbours during the bushfire season to advise them of your movements.

If you take your pets on holiday into a bushfire-prone area, make sure you prepare for their safety, along with yours, in the event of a fire.

Have a bushfire relocation kit (see below) prepared and stored for your pets within easy reach so you are ready to leave early.

Prepare a Pet Bushfire Relocation Kit

Your Pet Bushfire Relocation Kit should include: food and water, a bowl for each pet, a second collar and lead, a carrier for cats and smaller pets, bedding and a woollen blanket, a pet first aid kit – seek your vet's advice, a favourite toy, any medications your pet is taking, plus a typed list of them, your pet's medical history including, proof of vaccination, your vet's contact details.

Personal safety during bushfires

It is important to put your own safety before the safety of your pets. Many deaths during bushfires occur when people are caught out in the open and exposed to radiant heat from the fire. If you cannot locate or contain your pets, it is important to seek shelter for yourself before it is too late. Radiant heat can kill, but cannot penetrate through solid objects, so it is critical to shield yourself by: Seeking shelter inside a building – preferably a well-prepared house. Wearing appropriate personal protective clothing made of natural fibres like long-sleeved overalls or a long sleeved shirt and trousers made of cotton. Synthetic materials should not be worn.

[For more information on personal bushfire safety and to prepare your bushfire plan, visit the CFA website at www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au) or call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667 to order your Fire Ready Kit.

What to do in an emergency

Relocate your pets early. Having your pets relocated to a safer area will mean one less thing to worry about if you choose to stay and defend your home. If you plan to relocate your pets, remember you will need to move them well in advance of fire threatening your property. If you do not have friends or family outside the area that can care for your pet, consider placing your pets in a boarding facility. If you stay to defend your home and you choose to keep your pets with you, it's important to confine your pets early. Pets are safest inside a secure room, on a lead or in carriers. Make sure you have wet towels and woollen blankets available to cover and protect your pets. Make sure they have plenty of water to drink. If you relocate with your pets, make sure they are secured with a collar and lead or confined in a carrier for cats and smaller pets. Make sure the carriers are clearly labelled with your contact details.

Pet Identification

It is important that your pets are micro chipped and wearing a collar identification tag at all times. Identification needs to be current and all contact information must be kept up to date. If you live in a bushfire-prone area, it is important to have a second/emergency contact linked to your pet's record that is outside the area. The National Pet Register provides free identification for cats and dogs. Visit www.petregister.com.au or call 1300 734 738. The National Pet Register pet recovery service is staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

After the fire

If your pets have suffered burn injuries during a fire, they must receive immediate veterinary treatment. As soon as possible, take your pets to the nearest veterinary clinic or animal shelter.

Caring for your pet in hot weather

Heat stress in dogs and cats occurs when they are unable to maintain their normal body temperature on a hot day. On all hot days, especially on forecast days of Severe, Extreme or Code Red (catastrophic) fire danger, it is important that you keep your pets as cool as possible. Keeping a pet comfortable on a hot day is your responsibility. Look for the warning signs. Signs that an animal is suffering heat stress are: excessive panting, salivating and pets may also whine or seem agitated. In cases of severe heat stress or heat stroke, pets may stop panting and vomit. If your pet exhibits any of these symptoms a vet should be consulted immediately. Keep your local veterinarian's contact details available. Confirm their availability after hours and on weekends.

10 tips for keeping your pets cool on hot days

- Have fresh, cold water available at all times
- Ensure your pet has shade at all times or bring your pets inside into a cool room
- Wipe your pet down with a cool, damp towel or leave wet towels out for your pet to lie on
- Wet your dog with cool water several times throughout the heat of the day
- Consider buying a wading pool for your dog
- For cats, rub damp hands over their coat or along their tummy
- Place ice blocks in your pet's water bowl
- Place ice in a pillow case and place it near your pet
- Consider having your dog clipped if their coat is long and thick
- Never leave your pet in a vehicle on a hot day.