

# North West Grampians Newsletter Inc

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April 2010

Edition 147

*As the North West Grampians Newsletter is now incorporated, I can apply for funds in excess of \$1,000 when needed.*

*I appreciate all your articles, photos and input which are the foundation of this community newsletter.*

*Liz Hopkins*

## Laharum CFA



The fire season is coming to an end but it still has potential to cause problems, so take care!

Laharum Tanker A shed is still in progress. If all goes to plan WorkCo will be starting in early April.

VicRoads is organising a contractor to cut fallen timber along the Northern Grampians Road from MacInnes Road to Laharum CFA shed. The brigade is responsible for removing the cut timber and a working bee will be organised soon. We will conduct a cool controlled burn on this section after Easter. Thanks to those who have offered stubbles for a training exercise.

Region 17 Rural Championships were held at Dock Lake Reserve on Sunday March 14. We had two adult and two junior teams - a fun day was had by all. Big thanks to Maurice Dumesny for all his hard work in organising the teams and training.

Our next brigade meeting will be a bi-annual meeting and office bearers will be elected. It will be held at Laharum Football rooms on **Wednesday March 31**, 7.30pm. All welcome.

**Mark Francisco, Captain**



Laharum Primary School Helping Hands Committee



Laharum Tennis Club Reunion - Team 1965/66  
Back: Ivan Smith, Jean Combe, Jenny Geue, Laurie Crouch  
Front: Wallace Reynolds, Lois MacInnes, Graham McTavish



## Wartook

The Wander Inn  
& Studio Gallery

### Easter Market Day

Saturday 3rd April

Delightful Market Day with lots of  
Family Fun, Honey, Charity Stalls  
Antiques, Produce, Crafts, Jewellery  
Preserves, Quality Bric a Brac,  
Books, Plants & Lots more.

**10 am-3 pm**

Stall Holders Welcome  
For all enquiries Ph: Jenny Wilson  
Work 53 836 377  
Email: [wartookg@netconnect.com.au](mailto:wartookg@netconnect.com.au)

The inspiring Artists Studio Gallery is open from 10 - 5  
for your enjoyment. The Restaurant 10am until late.  
2637 Nthn Grampians Rd, WARTOOK VALLEY, GRAMPIANS

## GARAGE SALE

**Easter Saturday April 3, 9am-1pm**  
**2037 Northern Grampians Road,**  
**Laharum**

Home gym, golf gear, gravity hot water service,  
old tools, bric-a-brac and more  
Linda & Howard Black 5383 6277

## Brimpaen Craft Group



**Tuesday April 6**, 10am-2.30pm at  
Brimpaen Hall. We will continue with  
our patchwork – please bring morning  
tea and lunch.

**Tuesday May 4** – a day out in Stawell  
visiting the craft shop. Contact me on 5382 5559 for  
details.

**Jill Sinclair**



## Laharum Landcare Group

Bill Gardner and Will Pyke are part of a  
working group trying to achieve a  
biomass electricity plant using straw as  
fuel, and working on a Feasibility Study.

We need information from Laharum-Wartook  
people about any infestations of 'noxious'  
environmental weeds, or rabbit warrens so we can  
apply for funding for control of these pests. Please  
tell John Fisher on 5383 6263.

Our group was successful in gaining some  
funds for revegetation projects (mostly near  
waterways), so if you have land that you would like  
considered, please tell Gil on 5383 8207 immediately,  
as the projects need to start.

Next meeting will be **Tuesday April 13**, 8pm  
at Laharum Hall.

**Gil Hopkins**

## Brimpaen CFA



Our bi-annual meeting will be held on  
**Wednesday April 14** at Brimpaen Hall.  
Check papers for details closer to the  
date.

**Andrew Chincarini**

## Mobile Library



The Mobile Library will be back at  
Laharum Primary School on the following  
Wednesdays: **April 14, 28 & May 12, 26**.  
All welcome - see you there!

**Bryan Rohde**

## Yoga at Laharum Hall



Yoga will resume on **Wednesday April 14**  
after the school holidays - come along and  
discover the benefits! *Everyone* is welcome  
including those who have not tried yoga  
before.

**Judy Berendsen** 5383 6265

## AUSKICK



**Starts Friday April 16, 5pm**  
**Laharum Football Oval**

To register please contact  
**Brian Burke** 5381 2669; 0417.539723,  
**Pat Hennon** 5384 4204; 0428.844204 or

Register on-line now at  
[www.afauskick.com.au](http://www.afauskick.com.au)



## 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 - Friday May 14** - purchase  
and play with Monopoly Money followed by a Dutch  
auction using your winnings (see full details).

**Red Faces - Friday July 16** - *start planning your  
act now!*

Please put these dates and events in your  
social calendar.

**Loretta Emerson**

Secretary 5383 6233

Classics in Wartook Valley Festival Committee



**Laharum Tennis Club Reunion – Team 1970/71**  
**Barry Arnott, Libby Peucker, Wallace Reynolds,**  
**Hazel Exell and Laurie Crouch**

## Laharum Hall Committee



Laharum Hall continues to be upgraded, with air-conditioning now in most of the new extension. We are applying for funds to

completely finish the extension so we can use it as much as possible.

It's great to see Deb MacInnes continues to organise health checks, film and activity nights, and has 'the office' available on Wednesday mornings. We are looking for funds so this can continue.

With the piped water coming, the Hall will have more tanks and greater fire protection, and this will also give us the potential for better landscaping.

The new extension will be 'Opened' on **Sunday April 18** at 2pm with afternoon tea to follow. All our community is very welcome. Please come!

**Gil Hopkins**

### Opening of Laharum Hall extensions & Review of Laharum-Wartook Community Action Plan

**Sunday April 18, 2pm**

Afternoon tea to follow  
**Laharum Hall**

Contact Deb on 5383 8203 or 0428.838203

## Wonwondah Landcare Group



The biodiversity pond constructed some time ago just south of the Wonwondah Hall will be fenced and made ready for the water from the pipeline. It will be planted with species of plants to attract wildlife and a viewing seat will be put in place.

The fencing trailer has been in the Dadswells Bridge area assisting the people recently affected by the fire that burnt their fences, and a number of working bees were held.

Guest speaker at our last meeting was Dean Johns from Incitec Pivot and he covered many issues from pricing to product availability for this year.

Some members have started installing water supply infrastructure for their properties as many water meters are being installed. All water will have to be through the meter and water carting will cease.

Next meeting is planned for **Tuesday April 20**, 7.30pm at Guest's dairy.  
**Chris Guest**

## Grampians Wartook Promotion Group

At our recent AGM, new office bearers were elected. President - Alan Arnott and Secretary - Vikki Stevens. We continue to meet the third Tuesday of the month. Our next meeting will be held on **Tuesday April 20** at The Wander Inn.  
**Jenny Hill**

## Horsham South Garden Club



**Thursday April 22** – trip to Wail Nursery. Leave Kmart car park at 10.30am - take own lunch and chair. 2pm visit Blake's Nursery at Pimpinio.

**Thursday May 27** – visit to Mohair farm. Leave car park at 10.30am - tour of farm and homesteads. Birthday lunch menu to be decided.  
**Lola Ervin**



### Family movie

**Friday April 23**

Movie to be decided

Screening 7pm - Laharum Hall  
Cost \$2 per person

## Brimpaen Ladies Social Club



**Tuesday April 27**, 2pm at Brimpaen Hall – 'Val's trip'. Stall and afternoon tea.



**Tuesday May 25**, 2pm at Brimpaen Hall – stall fundraiser for cancer research. Wear something pink!

**Margo Hamilton**

## The Wander Inn



Open Tuesdays to Sundays from 10am-5pm for morning and afternoon teas and lunch - fresh seafood available on Friday evenings to 'eat in' or take-away.

Our Mother's Day luncheon is on **Sunday May 9**, 12.30pm – bookings are essential.  
**Jenny Wilson**

### Mothers Day Luncheon

**SUNDAY MAY 9, 12.30PM**

**The Wander Inn**

Roast and sweets

Cost: \$22

Bookings essential ☎ 5383 6377



### Local Vocals

Laharum Hall

**Leader – Merryn Eagle**

**THURSDAY MAY 20, 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**

## Laharum Hall & Classics in Wartook Valley Committees joint fundraising event

When: **Friday May 14, 7pm**

What: **Monte Carlo night**

Where: **Laharum Hall**

Price: **\$30 which includes  
meal and monopoly money**



Please join us and have some fun and raise money for the community. Meal and monopoly money to gamble with are provided. More monopoly money can be purchased if needed.

Games: Two up, Pontoon, Roulette, Spinning wheel, Texas Hold'em; all and others

At the end of the night winnings will be used to bid at a Dutch auction.

Please book for catering purposes by ringing Judy Berendsen 5383 6265 or Loretta Emerson 5383 6233.

The Committees will also be organising a Red Faces Night on Friday July 16.  
*Start planning your act now!*

### LEVEL 1 FIRST AID

**Tuesday April 13 & 20, 7-9pm**

**Laharum Hall**

**Tutor: Ian Clough**

**Cost \$40**

**Ring Deb on 5383 8203 to register**



### Biggest Morning Tea

**Thursday May 27**

**11.30 am for lunch**

**Donation \$15**

**Laharum Hall**

**'Bring and buy stall'**

**Invite your friends along!**

**Let's get together for a cancer-free future**

RSVP May 24 for catering purposes

☎ Liz 5383 8207 or

☎ Judy 5383 8288

*Supporting research into the causes of cancer*

### RED FACES NIGHT

**Friday July 16**

**Start planning your act now!**

## Laharum School Parent Club



Laharum Primary School Parent Club held their AGM on March 5 with the following results:

President: Jenny McInnes; Vice

President: Jenny Gaulke; Treasurer: Wendy

McInnes; Secretary: Jenny Carter; Helping Hands

Liaison: Bea Sykes and Jenny Gaulke; Uniform

Coordinator: Caroline Geue; Staff Liaison: Deirdre

Baum. It was pleasing to see so many in attendance

and record the support of those who could not attend

on the day.

Our first project for the year will be a stall at the Wartook Easter Market Day. We recognise this as being great publicity for our school and thank the parents who have made themselves available to 'man' and supply the stall.

During the first week of second term parents will help with the construction and preparation of garden beds. The children will be able to cultivate a variety of produce to be used in their cooking exploits for the year. With the help of local artists the students will also delve into the art of Mosaic to decorate some pots purchased for the garden. We welcome the public to drop by to see our garden development any time next term.

We are also planning the following for 2010, but dates could change: Tentative Dates are:

May 7 Bike Ride

May 14 or 15 Quiz Night

June 2 Over 60's/Grandparents Lunch

August 13 School Disco

September 3 School Sports

October 8 Fun Run Night

November 11 Long Lunch & Photographic Competition

December 16 Presentation Day – Family Day

Overall we are looking forward to bringing to the community lots of opportunities to be involved with Laharum Primary School. We hope you are able to participate when they come around.

**Jenny Carter, Secretary**



*Under 12 Girls tennis team*

*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.*

## Laharum Tennis Club



The 2009/2010 tennis season has wound up and while there were no premierships all grades were competitive and had a very enjoyable season. A Grade, B Grade and the Under 14 Boys finished in the final four, but unfortunately no one made it to the grand final.

The Premiership Reunion in February was a highlight of the season. Over 100 people attended the reunion to celebrate and remember every premiership Laharum has won since 1952.

On Sunday March 21 we held our combined presentation day with the cricket club. Congratulations to the trophy winners for winning the most games in each grade. They were:

A Special Mens:	Gary Hallam
A Special Ladies:	Brooke MacInnes
B Special Mens:	Jack Shields
B Special Ladies:	Jenelle Apostolopolous
B Grade Navy Mens:	Alex Ellifson
B Grade Navy Ladies:	Nadine Miller
B Grade Red Mens:	Maurice Dumesny
B Grade Red Ladies:	Chantelle Cox
Under 14 B Boys:	Billy Shields
Under 12 C Girls:	Alana Carter

Special prizes were given to Jean Hallam and Lois MacInnes for being dedicated supporters for the season and Billy Shields received a prize and a special mention for filling in for all four senior grades.

**Deb MacInnes**

## Laharum Cricket Club



Our season came to a sudden halt with all three teams being beaten in the semi-finals. But the fact that we made the finals in all three grades was a terrific result for the club.

Our U/16 team was gallant in defeat and really had the undefeated West Wimmera Powerhouse on the back foot in the game at Nhill. A gallant 30 'not out' by Brandon Campbell and some fantastic bowling and fielding by the boys to have the opposition six wickets down before they passed us, were the highlights of the match. All of the boys are looking forward to next season, that's for sure! Thanks John and Jane for all of the commitment to both junior teams - the club and parents of the boys really appreciate your efforts.

C Grade was so close to making the grand final and only fell six runs short of defeating the top team. Great bowling by Brad Johnson and Darcy Wills helped shoot the Saints out for 99. Col Flack's wonderful innings of 49 was more than half of our score as too many batsmen made too few runs.

B Grade had St Michaels 6 for 70 at one stage due to good tight bowling by our boys, but their tail wagged to make 200. Unfortunately it wasn't one of our better batting displays as we were bundled out for a paltry 96.

The club would like to thank all players for the commitment they have shown this season and we hope to see everyone back in October.

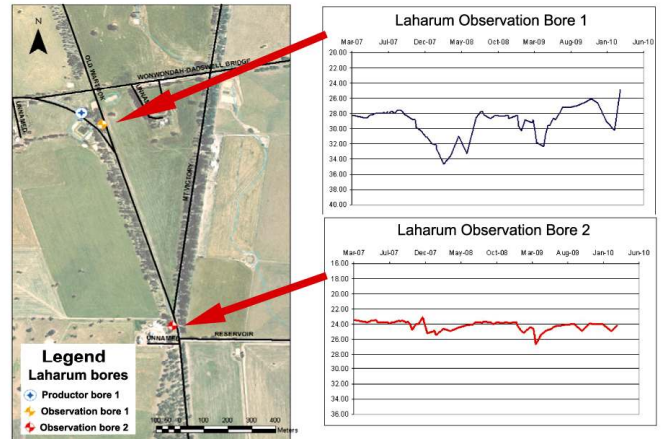
**Peter Levey**

## Laharum bore update



**GWMWater**

Update 22 March 2010



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

Production Bore 1 has been used in recent months, at a flow rate of between 0-1 ML per day. Production Bores 2 and 3 have remained unused over this period.

Water levels adjacent to the extractions are showing a response to the reduced pumping (refer to Laharum Observation Bore graph 1). This is a normal response and water levels can be expected to climb leading into the wetter months.

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 659 961.



Council has started the Estimates Program for 2010/11 budget. It has also released the Sustainability Strategy and this can be found on Horsham Rural City Council website on [www.hrcc.vic.gov.au](http://www.hrcc.vic.gov.au).

Wonwondah/Toolondo road works are complete and Iluka operations at 'Echo' near Nurrabiell have commenced.

**David Eltringham**

## CFA Combined Regions 17 & 4 Rural Championships

This was held at Dock Lake on Sunday March 14. Laharum 11-13 year olds retained their aggregate cup for a second year. Our 11-15 juniors and seniors weren't so lucky this year. Green Lake was runners-up in the senior aggregate trophy just behind Lubeck, the eventual winners.

Thanks to all juniors, seniors and parents for their support again this year.

**Maurice Dumesny**



## Wimmera CMA Volunteer Monitors

Wimmera CMA would like to thank everyone in the Northern

Grampians area for supporting our first 'Finding Frogs' Census for 2010. We were fortunate to have some frog-friendly rainfall in March to coincide with the census and we've received a terrific number of



reports from the local region. The Northern Grampians represents one of our most important census areas due to its winning combination of enthusiastic monitors and relatively large frog

populations. Fingers crossed now for August! (Photo shows a Growling Grass Frog near the MacKenzie River).

A big thanks also to those who helped us map water quality across the Wimmera River systems by providing water samples for our CMA Field Days presentation. Visitors to the CMA marquee gained a quick and easy understanding of the link between Northern Grampians waterways and some of the most valuable wildlife habitat within the Wimmera catchment. Samples provided by locals indicated how EC values increased tenfold from the MacKenzie at Zumsteins to its Wimmera River entry point.

The number of helpers in the Northern Grampians involved in CMA monitoring programs has recently increased compared to previous years. We'd really like this to continue! Water quality, frog, habitat, and bird monitoring – chat to me about any of these programs and get involved!

Wildlife Health Surveillance Victoria, an initiative of Melbourne University, is also keen for reports of sick and dead wildlife (not road kill). More information is available from Joel at the Wimmera CMA on 5382 1544.

**Joel Boyd**

### Autumn – a time for action!

Autumn has turned off the heater, brought moisture to the Wimmera and cooled us all down in preparation for, hopefully, a wet winter. But it's no time to put the feet up and relax. In fact, the change in season means its action stations across the region.

Returning or protecting natural vegetation to our landscape is fundamental to achieving long-term regional health and sustainability and there are plenty of well-organised activities turning this vision into reality. Wimmera Catchment Biolink projects, targeting massive areas of the catchment, are steadily gaining momentum.

Driving forces behind these projects are popular annual plant-out weekends organised by passionate and dedicated Landcare organisations. Planning and preparations for plant-outs in all WCMA regions in July and August are well underway with an objective to plant 100,000 trees.

The weekends have evolved into more than simply pulling on the gumboots and getting the hands dirty. They are full-scale community and cultural events where volunteers from a diverse range of backgrounds travel hundreds of kilometres to mix with rural communities.



*Volunteers take a well-earned break during last years Project Platypus Plant-out Weekend*

### Plant-out calendar for this year – more details in June newsletter:

- July 3 - Grampians to Little Desert Biolink
- July 17/18 - Project Platypus Plant out 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday
- July 31/August 1 - Yarrilinks Plant out Weekend
- August 14/15 - Hindmarsh Ace Radio Landcare Weekend

**Bronwyn Bant**

## LAHARUM COMMUNITY LINKS OFFICE - LAHARUM HALL

**Open Wednesday mornings 9am-12noon**

providing the following services:

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



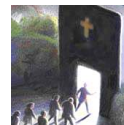
Laharum Community Links Office

Phone 5383 6224 Fax 5383 6225

Enquiries to Deb MacInnes 5383 8203 Mobile 0428.838203

Email: [debbie.macinnes@hrcc.vic.gov.au](mailto:debbie.macinnes@hrcc.vic.gov.au)

### 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**

## TO GIVE AWAY

**Two organs - Yamaha and Hammond**

Suitable for young children's use

Contact Lynette Winfield on 0427.838200

for more details of their operation

## Laharum Primary School – 2805



Where has Term 1 gone? It has been a very short but busy term for everyone at school. Students have been working hard on their new topics.

P-2 have been enjoying learning about *Space* whilst the older children have been studying *Indonesia*. Students across the school are busily completing individual research projects to extend their personal learning skills. Many are preparing presentations which incorporate the use of the interactive whiteboards. We look forward to some great presentations next term.

This year the Helping Hands Committee has eight Year 6 members (see photo Page 1). We held our elections for Office Bearers and congratulate – President: Reuben; Secretary: Shaeleigh and Treasurer: Brodie.



*Helping Hands Office Bearers*



*We also congratulate our new Bus Captains – Billy, Ashley and Alana*

As a result of our AGM I congratulate all our 2010 Office Bearers:

**Parent Club** - see Parent Club report Page 4.

**School Council:** President: Jim Carter; Vice-President: Rob Launder; Secretary: Helen Strachan; Treasurer: Tim Martin

This year we will be participating in our School Review. This gives us the opportunity to review the past four years and to set new directions for the next four. It will be a very busy time for staff, Councillors, parents and students alike as we think about what Laharum PS might be like in 5-10 years.

At this stage the Rural Replacement building program is on hold as we await the State Budget announcements in May. Everyone has their fingers crossed that we will be successful. The school building Master plan has been signed off, the architects are ready, school councillors are ready – we just now await the budget!! We are expecting our new Mod5 classroom in June.

I would like to congratulate the Laharum Preschool and Laharum PS Parent Clubs for combining to complete the cleaning for the Wimmera Machinery Field Days. This was a wonderful fundraiser for both groups and reflects great possibilities for future combined fundraising activities.

We had some terrific news this week! Our students entered a competition to design a

promotional postcard for the Stawell Gift. Out of hundreds of entries I am pleased to announce that Shaeleigh Day has been shortlisted in the final eight. We congratulate her and wish her well for the grand final. The winning postcard will be used in all Victorian Australia Post outlets to promote the Gift.

Auskick begins again on **Friday April 16**. Please register on-line now at [www.afauskick.com.au](http://www.afauskick.com.au). (See more details Page 2).

The school hosted a Children's Hospital Day the last day of Term 1. The theme was 'Hospital' and the students dressed up and participated in Easter activities and Hospital Tabloid Sports. The Helping Hands Committee worked hard to organise this and the Easter raffles.

On behalf of the school I wish everyone a very safe and happy Easter. Enjoy the break with your families and we look forward to another exciting term.

**Robyn Jones**, Principal

## Laharum Preschool



It's nearly the end of first term already and time just seems to be flying along. We've been busy at Kinder making a giant octopus as our group project. She (Dorothy) is now complete and sits on our wall surrounded by baby octopus that we've painted and cut out. We've also focussed on farm things with tractor play and books and puzzles in conjunction with the field days.

It's nearly Easter so in the last 2 weeks we've been making Easter baskets and bonnets, decorating Easter eggs, playing with baby chicks and having lots of fun singing Easter songs. We also had a treasure hunt after Easter bunny visited.

We have started visiting the mobile library and the children have loved this. They get to choose some books to have at Kinder and it always gives us a new variety of books each fortnight.

Committee has been very busy with fundraising in conjunction with the school in the tender for the Field days. Well done everybody who helped! We also have a few fundraisers coming up so keep your eyes open. We greatly appreciate your support.

I'd like to thank Katrina Knight for the quick fix of our yard recently in preparation of HDKA coming to have their Board meeting at the Hall and to inspect our site. I received positive comments the following day on how good our yard and room looks.

Like everyone else, we have a problem with mice at the moment so thanks to Brad Geue and Rob Launder for moving the canary cage. This will help a lot.

Thanks to Ewan for bringing in some toys and indoor plants. The kinder is always happy to accept any donations that you may want to offer.

Next term we will be starting the 'smiles for miles' program. This is the healthy eating program, promoting only healthy food at Kinder. Children will receive a free lunch box and drink bottle and we will have a visit from Tiddalicks the frog. This program is delivered by Horsham Primary Care Partnership.

We hope everyone has a safe and happy Easter and we look forward to seeing you all next term.

**Jo Bone**

## Parks Victoria



**Autumn Burning program** – The program for the Grampians and surrounding district is already underway, with another 15 or so burns

scheduled throughout the area over the next few months. Some burns will see the temporary closure of walking tracks and campgrounds within the National Park. Pre-season notifications and maps have already been sent out from Parks Victoria or DSE, and signage will be in place at designated burn locations. Weather conditions play a huge role in the timing of planned burns, so confirming actual dates of a burn is not easy. Burns include Pohlner's Road (725 ha) between Roses Gap Road and Pohlner's Road south, and Deep Creek Escarpment (151ha) south of Roses Gap. For updates on planned burning go to the Department of Sustainability and Environment's website 'Planned burns today' at [www.dse.vic.gov.au](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au).

Residents close to planned burns may experience thick smoke, so it is recommended to take steps to minimise impacts on pre-existing medical conditions.

For further information about the Autumn Planned Burning program, please contact DSE Horsham on 5362 0720 or website (as above).

For anyone interested in joining the Parks Victoria planned burn email distribution list, please contact Prue Daley on 5361 4000 or [p.daley@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto:p.daley@parks.vic.gov.au).

### Grampians Ark – Fox baiting program -

Over the next few months Parks Victoria will be starting the next round of the Grampians Ark Fox baiting program. This is a large-scale fox control program that in the past has concentrated on public land in the Grampians National Park and adjacent State forests and reserves. This year, the program has been extended to include 20,000ha of neighbouring private land in the areas of Victoria Valley, north of Cavendish Road and Glenisla, Cherrypool and Rocklands Reservoir. In all, the total land hoped to be targeted equals 250,000ha.

While fox baiting is the central focus of the program, post-fire weed and rabbit control also form part of this integrated approach to pest management. Benefits will be seen for many native animals within and surrounding the National Park, and also for local primary production such as fine wool and lambs.

Over the next few months Parks Victoria will be contacting land holders and community organisations in these areas to coordinate relevant training, visit local properties, monitor fox numbers and set up bait stations in preparation for the first round of baiting in early July. Private land owners or land managers interested in participating or finding out more information are encouraged to contact Grampians Ark Project Officer, Ben Holmes at Parks Victoria Halls Gap on 5361 4011 or 0428.320 224.

**Road works along Mt Zero Road** - During April, Parks Victoria will be engaging contractors to carry out road works along Mt Zero Road. Two sections of the road will be resurfaced – 3.5km stretch in the northwest of the park between the Mt Zero picnic area and the communication towers and a 12km stretch closer to Halls Gap. During this period road closures may occur to allow heavy machinery to

undertake work. If this is the case there will be alternative routes in place. We apologise for any inconvenience, but are hoping this work may alleviate ongoing road surface issues.

For further information on this project, please contact Project Officer Rod Spinks on 5361 4000.  
**Tammy Schoo**



*Protesting against Monsanto seed patenting and control of agricultural production includes Wartook residents Felix and Beula*

## 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**

## HELP NEEDED

Weeding/gardening in Wartook

Please ring on 5383 6315 to discuss details

## Need printing?

**Why pay more than necessary?**



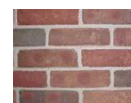
**Sometimes smaller is better**

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

## 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

## Community Building Initiative Review

By Melissa Morris, HRCC Community Building Initiative Facilitator

The Community Building Initiative (CBI) has been underway since July 2006 and is due to finish in July 2010. The CBI is funded by the Department of Planning and Community Development and has occurred in Dadswells Bridge, Laharum/Wartook and Natimuk. The aim of the CBI is to strengthen small communities and help them identify and plan for their future. The CBI is community driven – the nature of the activities and the projects that are identified are entirely determined by the community.

Council has recently arranged for a review of the CBI to occur in order to identify what has worked well and what could be improved in the future. The review conducted by Roberts Evaluation Pty Ltd found that *“there were identifiable benefits to both the communities and HRCC. An overwhelming majority of community members surveyed (92%) felt that their community was better off as a result of the initiative. Tangible benefits to the towns included small improvements such as a notice board at the community hall to larger-scale infrastructure works like a bike trail, a bridge, and hall refurbishment. The intangible benefit of community empowerment through participation, planning and achieving results was widely felt by participants”*. Since the CBI commenced, over \$1M in funding has been secured from Federal, State, Council and philanthropic funds to contribute towards initiatives identified by the community; and countless hours of volunteer time and effort has been contributed by community members to make these projects happen.

The report noted that benefits to Council has included *“improved understanding of Horsham’s smaller outlying communities of Dadswells Bridge, Natimuk, Laharum and Wartook; more effective communication between Council and community groups; and the Community Action Plans which are a vehicle to align Council and community priorities”*. The review documented that participants felt the CBI has led to community participation, community ownership and has had an effect of uniting groups within each community.

Some quotes from the Review Report highlights what some of the benefits have been:

- *“I think it has been successful; one of the reasons being that it involved a broad range of people from the community and I think a lot of people were interested because it was a new approach, new and fresh - not just from the same groups in the community” - community member.*
- *“There have been terrific outcomes, and there are still positive outcomes. There has been the bringing together of the three communities. People had ownership.” – Councillor.*
- *“The CBI seems to have broken some of those barriers down. My perspective is it has been successful in bringing together diverse groups - old timers and newbie’s. I think it has worked” - community member.*
- *“I think it has brought the community closer together, and going forward with the plan, well it gives new people to the community more understanding” - community member.*
- *“It has generally empowered the community to be involved with plans and developments” - community member.*
- *“The amount of resources that have followed in terms of funding, and the number funded in the 3½ years have been extraordinary. Government has seen it favourably because of the community ownership” – Councillor.*
- *“There has been a benefit to like minded groups working together and an opportunity to do this project by project rather than having to join another group or committee ... - it was a break from the standard avenues for volunteering” – Councillor.*

If anyone is interested in the report, please call me on 0428.5050 605 or email at [melissa.morris@hrcc.vic.gov.au](mailto:melissa.morris@hrcc.vic.gov.au) and I can send it through.

### So what happens after the CBI finishes?

At its meeting on March 15, 2010 Horsham Rural City Council agreed to adopt a **Community Development Framework**. This framework was developed based on research from other areas; workshops with agencies based in the municipality that undertake community development work; a reference group comprised of Council staff, agencies and community members; the CBI review; and an internal stock-take of Council’s activities.

The framework has three components:

1. Community planning including a program for the development of community plans throughout the municipality and a process to link community plans with the Council Plan.
2. Community engagement including an engagement checklist for use in Council and training for Council staff.
3. Supporting Council’s role as a resource to the community.

This framework identifies that community development is core business of Council. The experience of the Community Building Initiative and other community development activities including bushfire recovery has contributed to the willingness of Council to adopt the framework. Now that the framework has been adopted the challenge is to secure the necessary resources for its implementation including staffing. It is very positive that Council has adopted this framework and decided to continue on its community development work after finalisation of the CBI.

### Review of the Laharum Wartook Community Action Plan – Sunday April 18, 2010

A review of the Laharum Wartook Community Action Plan is planned for **Sunday 18 April, 2pm** to coincide with an opening of the extensions to Laharum Hall. This review is a chance to look at the existing Laharum Wartook Community Action Plan and see what has been achieved and what are still outstanding priorities that require continued work. It is also a chance to see if there are any new priorities.

The priorities that were identified at the last Community Opportunity Workshop held in November 2006 as listed in the plan are:

- Relocation of the tennis courts to the Cameron Oval and the development of an overall plan for Cameron Oval.
- Developing a local skills database and create a local business support centre.

- Improved Communications Infrastructure – improved mobile phone, internet and postal services.
- Laharum Hall Community Links Centre.
- Improved community and public transport options for residents of Laharum and Wartook.
- Conservation Covenants and Land Use Planning – with a focus on encouraging Council to adopt rate rebates and ensuring that development in the area happens in an environmentally sensitive manner.
- Improved cycling and walking trails in the Wartook area to provide a better tourist experience for visitors and more recreational opportunities for residents.
- A secure water supply for the Laharum and Wartook areas – emphasis on speeding up Stage 6 of the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline, community use of groundwater, and enable the community in the Wartook area that is not in an area supplied by water to be connected to a reticulated water supply.

Some of these initiatives have been achieved – such as the relocation of the tennis courts to the Cameron Oval, the Needs and Deeds Directory and extensions to the Hall. These successes have occurred as a result of the time and energy of community members working together to get things happening. Others such as communications infrastructure have been harder to achieve, despite community effort but are still important issues that the community is trying to see improved.

Another aim identified in the Community Action Plan was to ensure that **connections and activity** that has been created by the Community Building Initiative continues within the Laharum Wartook community. A question to discuss at the Plan review is - is this still valid and how can this happen?

A flyer with more details of the session will be circulated prior to April 18, but put this date in your calendar. The session will be a chance to come together and discuss the future of the community and also importantly to celebrate some of the significant achievements that have occurred.

Copies of the plan have already been distributed but if you would like a copy, please contact Melissa Morris on 0428.505 605 or via email on [melissa.morris@hrcc.vic.gov.au](mailto:melissa.morris@hrcc.vic.gov.au). Copies of the plan are also on the HRCC website [www.hrcc.vic.gov.au](http://www.hrcc.vic.gov.au) – go to Council, the Our Towns and then Laharum Wartook. Copies are also available at Laharum Hall.

**Melissa Morris**

## Community Building Initiative Laharum/Wartook Community Links news

The Links office at Laharum is now set up including phone and fax lines and internet. The office will continue to be open on Wednesdays mornings from 9am-12noon and offer services such as:

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

Together with the Hall Committee and the CBI program, we have been able to come up with funds for floor coverings, reverse-cycle air conditioners and blinds which will make the Hall refurbishment complete and the facility fully usable.

An 'opening' and workshop will be held on **Sunday April 18**, 2pm at Laharum Hall.

As soon as all works are completed we are going to advertise the Hall to health services and other users as a venue for meetings and conferences. If you have any contacts please tell me.

**Deb MacInnes**

Laharum Community Links facilitator Phone 5383 8203 Mobile.0428.838203 Email: [debbie.macinnes@hrcc.vic.gov.au](mailto:debbie.macinnes@hrcc.vic.gov.au)



### LAHARUM / WARTOOK ACTIVITIES PROGRAM APRIL/MAY 2010

Date & Time	Venue	Activity
Tuesday April 13 & 20 7-9pm	Laharum Hall	Level 1 First Aid Course accredited through Life Saving Victoria including Sports Taping. Tutor: Ian Clough. Cost \$40 includes Resource Pack - Basic Life Support Manual, triangular bandage & roller bandage. Ring Deb on 5383 8203 to register.
Thursday May 20, 7.30 pm	Laharum Hall	Local Vocals - Community Sing-along just for fun. Ring Liz to confirm on 5383 8207.
Friday April 23, 7pm	Laharum Hall	Movie night - family movie to be decided. Screening at 7pm - \$2 per person.



## North West Grampians Newsletter - Community Calendar of Events 2010

### March

Wednesday 31 7.30pm Laharum CFA – Laharum Football ground

### April

Saturday 3 10am-3pm Easter Saturday Market – Wander Inn/Studio Gallery  
 “ 3 9am-1pm Garage sale – 2037 Northern Grampians Road, Laharum  
 Tuesday 6 10am-2.30pm Brimpaen Craft Group – Brimpaen Hall  
*Monday 12 Term 2 begins*  
 Tuesday 13 7-9pm Level 1 First Aid Course – Laharum Hall  
 “ 13 8pm Laharum Landcare Group – Laharum Hall  
 Wednesday 14 Brimpaen CFA – Brimpaen Hall  
 Friday 16 5pm Auskick starts – Laharum Football oval  
 Saturday 17 7pm Rock & Roll Night - Classics in Wartook Valley, Wander Inn  
 Sunday 18 2pm Opening of Hall extensions and Review of CBI Plan  
 Tuesday 20 7-9pm Level 1 First Aid Course – Laharum Hall  
 “ 20 7.30pm Wonwondah Landcare Group – Guest’s dairy  
 “ 20 evening Grampians Wartook Promotion Group – The Wander Inn  
 Thursday 22 10.30am Horsham South Garden Club – trip to Wail Nursery  
 Friday 23 7pm Family movie – Laharum Hall  
 Tuesday 27 2pm Brimpaen Ladies Social Club – Brimpaen Hall

### May

Tuesday 4 daytime Brimpaen Craft Group – outing to Stawell  
 Sunday 9 12.30pm Mother’s Day luncheon – The Wander Inn  
 Friday 14 7pm Monte Carlo Night – Laharum Hall  
 Thursday 20 7.30pm Local Vocals singing group – Laharum Hall  
 Tuesday 25 2pm Brimpaen Ladies Social Club – Brimpaen Hall  
 Thursday 27 10.30am Horsham South Garden Club – visit to Mohair farm  
 “ 27 11.30am Biggest Morning Tea Cancer Council fundraiser - Hall

### June

Monday 14 8pm Laharum Neighbourhood Watch Rural - Laharum Hall

### July

Friday 16 evening Red Faces Night – Laharum Hall

**Yoga** - Commencing Term 2 Wednesday April 14, 7.30-9.15pm – Laharum Hall

**Mobile Library** - Wednesday April 14, 28 & May 12, 26 - Laharum PS from 9.30am

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

*This newsletter can be viewed at [www.laharum.vic.au](http://www.laharum.vic.au) and [www.wartook.vic.au](http://www.wartook.vic.au)*