

August 2010

Edition 149

As part of their 2010/11 community grants, Horsham Rural City Council has contributed \$950 towards the publication of this newsletter. I am always grateful for Council's continued support, making this newsletter possible.

After 25 years of publication, I'm pleased the newsletter now has its own logo!

Liz Hopkins

Mobile Library



The mobile library will visit Laharum again on **Wednesdays August 4 & 18** and **September 1, 15 & 29**, 9.30-11am.

You are all welcome to attend the Library or place a 'Hold' on a requested book, etc. from home via our catalogue - a free service to you. You only need a membership then come and pick it up from the library. See you next time

Bryan Rohde

Brimpaen CFA



First Aid Training Update will be held on **Monday August 9**, 7-10pm at Brimpaen Hall. If you attend the update course you will remain current. Please contact Andrew on 0427.972271 by August 5 to attend - we need numbers to book the course.

Andrew Chincarini



Crowd waiting to attend the 'Over 60s' lunch on June 10

LAHARUM TENNIS CLUB AGM

Monday August 9, 7.30pm
Laharum Clubrooms



Have your say on what Grades the club should enter in the 2010/2011 season

All welcome

Enquiries Deb MacInnes 5383 8203

FITNESS CIRCUIT

Wednesdays August 11 & September 8,

7.30pm - Laharum Hall



Combination exercises for strength & fitness modified to suit the individual

\$8 adult; children free

Conducted by Chris Sheehan
from Horsham YMCA

Families welcome

Contact Judy Berendsen on 5383 6265 for any queries (*in place of yoga*)

Laharum CFA



Laharum Tanker A shed is nearly completed with one more small working bee in August to finalise works.

A shed opening is planned for **Sunday September 5** starting at 12 noon with a barbecue lunch. Meat and drinks will be supplied and everyone is welcome.

It was quite surprising with the generosity of some businesses involved in the shed project. Thank you to those organisations, businesses and those who have made this project possible. These include WorkCo Ltd and their trainees, Tim Mintern, Leigh Hutchinson, Terry Williams, Michael Willmore, Barry Wilson & Assoc, Leigh Arnott, Johnsons Merchandise, Wimmera Bolts & Fasteners Pty Ltd, Horsham Concrete Co Pty Ltd, GK Autos & Hire, Horsham Sheetmetal and also members of the brigade who have helped and supplied equipment.

It's now a good time to start planning for the fire season by reducing fuel around buildings, your home and surrounds.

Mark Francisco, Captain

Laharum School Parent Club



We have been 'on the go' supporting school events such as Over Sixties and Special Persons Lunch by cooking with the children to prepare the sumptuous meal and serving this on the day.

Gardening – volunteer parents have been working with the children to plant and tend to the vegetables in our new garden beds.

Garden pot decorating – ongoing support is to help the children with mosaic decoration of pots bought last year. Thank you to Wendy and Jenny for their artistic flair.

Sports training day – we provided lunch for all the children participating in our first combined sports practice for Horsham Rural Sports Teams playing netball, football and soccer.

By the time you read this we will have held our first Quiz Night with the hope of it becoming an annual event.

Our next event is the *Children's Disco* – on **Friday August 13**. All children of the district are invited to attend. The theme for the night is *Jungle*, so come along dressed as your favourite animal, feature or character of the jungle. Meal will be served at 6.30pm and disco from 7-9pm. Cost for meal & disco is \$5 and \$2 for disco alone. Face painting is also available on the night. Details are available from Jenny Carter on 5383 6204.

We are looking forward to our Fun Run in October and Long Lunch in November – we hope you will all be part of the activities involved!

Jenny Carter, Secretary



Local Vocals

Laharum Hall

Leader – **Merryn Eagle**

THURSDAY AUGUST 19, 7.30PM

Minimal charge

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

Horsham South Garden Club



Thursday August 26 – CWA Hall, 1.30pm.

Guest speaker is Greg Lawes on water divining – bloom, brag and stall.

Thursday September 23 – visit to Kongbool Homestead, Balmoral. Leave car park at

10.30am. Take lunch, thermos, chair, etc.

Lola Ervin

Brimpaen Ladies Social Club



Tuesday August 31, 2pm at Brimpaen Hall – trivia, stall, afternoon tea.

Tuesday September 28, 10.30am - visit to Oscar Furniture. Lunch at RSL.

Margo Hamilton

Wimmera Conservation Farming Association
2010 Annual Forum & AGM

Moving Forward with our Farming Future

DPI 110 Natimuk Road Horsham
Friday August 13, 2010

Guest Speakers:
 Dr Chris Pittock – Risk management & implications of climate change.
 Dr Glenn Fitzgerald – Cropping with a carbon rich atmosphere - FACE trial & results.
 Mr Rob O'Shanessy – Your vision for your future.
 Mr Tom Dunstan - Takatapu farmers' experience in adapting to change.
 Mr Chris Sounness - Pigeon locust update.

Cost: \$50.00 per person
 (includes one year membership to WCFA for new members)
WCFA members \$10.00
 Lunch, morning & afternoon tea provided.

9.30 - 10.00 Morning tea & registration
 10.00 - 10.15 Introduction and welcome by WCFA President Damien Holmes
 10.15 - 11.05 Chris Pittock
 11.05 - 12.00 Glenn Fitzgerald
 12.00 - 12.30 AGM
 12.30 - 1.00 Lunch
 1.00 - 1.50 Rob O'Shanessy
 1.50 - 2.40 Tom Dunstan
 2.40 - 3.30 Chris Sounness
 3.30 - Finish & afternoon tea

RSVP to DPI reception 03 5362 2111 by August 6th
 For further details please contact:
 Greg Antonoff (Project Officer) on 03 5362 2111
 * Please advise if you have special dietary requirements.

13th Annual Wimmera Biodiversity Seminar celebrates



Wimmera Biodiversity Seminar
Laharum Hall,
Thursday September 2, 2010

8.45am registration: 9.30am seminar commences

The United Nations declared 2010 to be International Year of Biodiversity. It is a celebration of life on earth and of the value of biodiversity for our lives.

This 13th annual Wimmera Biodiversity Seminar is the longest running of its type in Australia. It will be a day of discovery, providing participants with a chance to absorb information and ask questions.

To pick up a full program and/or register: phone Wimmera Hub on 5382 5111; email: info@hub.org.au or visit the office at 39 Urquhart Street, Horsham. Registrations close Wednesday August 25.

Cost for the full day seminar, tour, evening, mug and all meals is \$75; day seminar only is \$45. Guest speaker for the evening session will be Kevin Tolhurst, Fire Ecologist, Melbourne University who has done much research on fires.

A special event in our community not to be missed!



FESTIVAL PROGRAM

September 10, 11 & 12

Ticketing Prices & Packages

Meal & Film	\$30
Classical Recital	\$35
Evening Meal & Entertainment	\$30
Breakfast Session	\$25
Weekend Pass	\$110

Early bookings before September 1 go into the draw for a local produce hamper

Bookings available via email classics@wartook.vic.au or 5383 6233.

Friday 10th September

OFFICIAL FESTIVAL OPENING

Time: 6pm start to view a multimedia exhibition displaying works by talented local artists, inspired by the colours of Spring in the Grampians. Works are created using mixed media including felt, quilting, appliqué, ceramics, painting and woodwork. This will be followed by a meal and silent auction and a viewing of the classic Australian film 'A Town Like Alice'. This will be held at The Wander Inn.

Saturday 11th September

Time: 1.30pm there will be a recital at Wartook Views featuring the classically trained musicians 'Accord' and budding musician, Emily Matskows.

Time: 4.30pm at Laharum Hall, Horsham Film Society will present a special screening of the classic Australian film, 'Forty Thousand Horseman'. This black and white 1940 film will be shown via 16mm projector.

Time: 7pm evening meal and entertainment at The Wander Inn. Denise & Peter McGennisken will be playing throughout the night with a range of easy listening from dinner to dance music.

Sunday 12th September

Time: 9am will be a breakfast session at Laharum Grove where you will be able to enjoy a farmhouse breakfast in the olive grove while listening to Accord playing 'Sunrise' composed by Joseph Haydn in 1796-97.

Other weekend activities include a photography exhibition put on by the Laharum Primary School; Nature walks at Orchid Lane; Open Garden at Wartook Gardens; a tour of horse drawn vehicles and an art exhibition at Wartook Views; and olive tours and tastings and lunch at Laharum Grove and Toscana Olives.

A detailed program can be viewed at www.wartook.vic.au or contact Loretta on 5383 6233 to collect a program or purchase tickets.

EXHIBITIONS OF LOCAL ARTISTS

Organised by
Wartook Valley Studio Gallery

'Spring spectrum'

Mon September 6 – Sun October 10

10am-5pm

Admission free

Venue: Wartook Valley Studio Gallery

Open 7 days a week during school & public holidays - other times Tuesday-Sunday

Patchwork, lead lighting, pottery, knitting, crocheting, felting and other media

We welcome anyone interested in exhibiting their work with those themes in mind. Please contact Wendy on 5383 6243 Fax/BH or 5383 6220AH



Delightful market day with lots of family fun, honey, charity stalls, antiques, produce, crafts, jewellery, preserves, quality bric-a-brac, books, plants and lots more

10am – 3pm

Stallholders welcome

For all enquiries phone Wendy McInnes

5383 6243BH or 5383 6220AH

Email: wartook@bordermet.com.au

The gift shop and inspiring studio gallery are open from 10am-5pm for your enjoyment. Restaurant open 10am until late.

2637 Northern Grampians Road, Wartook Valley

Open Garden Scheme

'Wartook Gardens'

Jeanne & Royce Raleigh

Sunday October 3, 10am-5pm

Laharum Hall Committee will be serving morning and afternoon tea to raise funds for the Hall. Plants will be on sale – seating available throughout the garden

Cost \$10

Proceeds to Wimmera Health Care Group



Brimpaen Craft Club



Tuesday September 7, 10am-2.30pm at Brimpaen Hall – making beaded Christmas ornaments.

Tuesday October 5, 10am-2.30pm at

Brimpaen Hall – Christmas cake demonstration by Ethel. Please bring along handwork to do.

Jill Sinclair

CFA Grampians Group Training Schedule 2010-11



Monday August 9, 7-10pm at Brimpaen – CPR Update. Participants need to have completed First Aid Level 2 course.

Monday August 23, 7-10pm at Laharum – Drive Under Operational Conditions Theory.

Need to have completed Minimum Skills.

Sunday September 19, 9am at Laharum – Drive Vehicles Under Operational Conditions, practical component. Supplied after theory evening.

Sunday November 7 – Combined Group Exercise with Jilpanger Group. Time and venue TBC.

2011

Sunday February 6, 13 & 20, 9am-4pm at Laharum – Crew Leader Full Course. Need to have completed Minimum Skills.

Monday February 28, 6.30pm in Horsham – 2nd Lieutenant's night organised by the Group Training Officer.

Monday March 21, 7-10pm at Laharum – Class A Foam. Need to have completed Minimum Skills.

To ensure catering needs are met, please advise of expected numbers within 7 days of the scheduled course date. Please reply to Jamie Chandler on 0423.008397 or Robert Kelm on 0428.504199. Unless otherwise stated, supper will be provided at each of the above training sessions.

Brooke O'Connor, CFA Region 17

Laharum NH Watch Rural



Our group has been operating for 21 years in Laharum district, but is in need of new members and particularly new office bearers! Neighbourhood Watch was relaunched at a

function in Horsham on July 1 to explain the new direction. Sgt Rod Hiam is back on deck at the Police Station and available to help groups.

We will consider our future position at our AGM at Laharum Hall on **Monday October 11**, 8pm. In the meantime please let your zone leader know of any incidents and/or if you have reported thefts to police. This way the local community can then be alerted to vehicle movements, etc. There have been stock thefts reported since our last meeting in June.

Judy Gardner, Secretary



Hello Garden Lovers!

Planning is well underway for the 2010 Spring Garden Festival in the Horsham Botanic Gardens. Dates are **Fri/Sat/Sun October 8/9/10**.

This year interest from new exhibitors is already rolling in. Come along and support this fantastic local event!

Sue Winfield

*Ever considered your own garage sale
but worried about people travelling
the distance?*

*TOGETHER we can make it worth
their while!!*

Book a site or table for
**Brimpaen's Biggest
Garage Sale**



Sunday October 24

9am-3pm at Brimpaen Hall

If you would like to book a trestle table or site, sell your goods (new or old), at a cost of \$10 per site (for local advertising), please ring Kerry-Anne Chincarini 5383 9266 or Kylie Purcell 5383 9273

Please book or register your interest by
Sunday August 29

Laharum Hall Committee



The joint fundraiser between Laharum Hall and the Classics in the Wartook Valley Festival was a great success.

The acts were great and the food good – a very enjoyable evening!

The Hall Committee was successful in achieving a Horsham Sports & Community Club grant of \$2,000. All funds raised this year will go towards air conditioners for the main hall which will benefit the whole community.

The office at Laharum Hall continues to be open Wednesday mornings from 9am-12pm and offers services including computer use, internet access, printing, photocopying, faxing and laminating.

Judy Berendsen

Yoga at Laharum Hall



Come along and discover the benefits!

Everyone is welcome including those who have not tried yoga before. Please ring Judy on 5383 6265 if you wish to attend for the first time.

Fitness Circuit will be in place of yoga on Wednesdays August 11 & September 8 only.

Judy Berendsen

REMINDER

Laharum Hall subscriptions now due

\$10 per adult

Please forward to Judy Berendsen

PO Box 621, Horsham 3402

Wonwondah Landcare



During our last meeting members discussed the intensive snail baiting program that has been undertaken this year. It was decided that more bait should be purchased to follow up with additional baiting in certain areas.

Bridal Creeper has been identified, mostly on road sides and actions will be put in place to have it included in this years eradication program.

An expression of interest has been made to the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority for funding to continue rabbit warren eradication on sites previously identified and ripping will commence during the spring.

Ray Zippel from Wimmera CMA attended the meeting and brought members up to date with the proposed amalgamation with the Mallee and the difficulties Landcare is encountering to be properly funded, as many others Australia-wide have their nose in the trough.

A representative from DPI will be at our next meeting in late September to enlighten us on locust control as numerous members in McKenzie Creek and Brimpaen areas encountered quite heavy infestations during the autumn months.

Chris Guest

Laharum Cricket Club



At our AGM held recently, a well attended meeting re-elected Peter Levey as President for the forthcoming season. He thanked retiring Secretary Nadine Miller for the conscientious manner in which she had worked as secretary. Ben Peucker was re-elected as Vice President with Heath MacInnes, Kane Parish, Ash Marra, Rob McInnes, Robby Miller and Zane Mitton making up the general committee.

It was decided to enter B and C Grade teams as well as an U/16 team. We also hope to have an U/14 team, but we need a few more boys or girls to have a team in this grade. Any youngster who is under 14 at October 1 and who wants a game of cricket, please contact Peter Levey on 5382 5691.

Peter also thanked the following club sponsors – Adams Plastering, Smith's Royal Hotel, Big Spring Mount, Mackleys KLM Concreting Pty Ltd and Cranston Australia Pty Ltd for their support. John and Jane Griffiths were also thanked for their wonderful commitment to the junior cricket teams at Laharum.

At the moment the club is looking for a Secretary for the coming season. Please contact Peter if you or someone you know is interested in filling this role.

Peter Levey



Horsham South

At our recent meeting, guest speaker Paul

Atherton from GWMWater spoke really well about decommissioning of the channel system, and in particular the old Natimuk channel. Paul indicated that farmers would be able to utilise old channel systems at their leisure to fill their own farm dams and water storages.

Andrew Bell

Riding for the Disabled



As we progress into the second half of 2010, some important additions have been made at Horsham RDA. As with most of the projects and advances made at our Centre, these improvements have been provided by the generosity of others. With the generosity of the skilled workers and management of the CMI Foundry in Horsham, we now have one rejuvenated vaulting barrel and one brand new vaulting barrel. The CMI crew replaced the small, narrow hand grips on the old barrel (known at Horsham RDA as "Benny") with stronger grips which are larger and easier to hold. This may not seem like an important thing, but the children who have played upon "Benny" since the upgrade might disagree. These clever fellows then went on to make a whole new vaulting barrel for us. While yet to be named (one suggestion is "Bill"), this barrel has been made lower than the other and will be useful for little vaulters who are a somewhat intimidated by the taller "Benny". It will also allow advanced vaulters to attempt tricky moves with spotters better placed to help out if required. Once this new barrel is properly covered and ready to use, our Centre will invite CMI to come and help us launch a new, improved vaulting program.

We were humbled to hear from her family that the late Dot Frizon, one of our hardest working volunteers and advocates, had provided our Centre with a generous bequest. We thought hard about how best to utilise this gift, and with the permission from Dot's family, we have installed the Dot Frizon Memorial Mirrors on the walls of our indoor arena.

Some might ask "What use are mirrors?" Well, think about the mirrors seen in a dance rehearsal room. Those who are trying to perfect their skills can do so more easily when they can see themselves, rather than having someone telling them. The same is also true for horse riders, particularly our RDA riders. The wonder and joy expressed by our riders when they saw themselves for the first time in the mirrors, showed that this new addition will be a great benefit to our riding (and vaulting) programs. They will be a lasting legacy to the memory of a terrific lady, who was passionate about helping our riders advance and develop.

The official 'opening' of these mirrors will be at our **Friday August 13** rally at 12 noon with Dot Frizon's family present. Anyone who would like to come along to witness it is more than welcome.

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

Tina Pallot

HELP NEEDED

Assistance with preparation and/or serving of food for

13th Annual Biodiversity Seminar

Thursday September 2

Laharum Hall

Please contact Judy Berendsen on 5383 6265 if you can help

Laharum's Biggest Morning Tea



On June 3 at Laharum Hall about 55 people attended our 5th Biggest Morning Tea event. We enjoyed a

delicious lunch including 3 choices of soup, homemade bread, hot savouries, frittata and sandwiches. Our successful 'bring and buy' stall included a variety of fresh fruit, vegies and herbs, cakes, biscuits, muffins, relishes, chutneys, jams, homemade chocolates, locally produced olive oil, locally grown native flowers, knitted socks and other hand craft. A raffle of 11 fabulous prizes; 'lucky seat' prize and 'guess how many in the jar' competition were part of the activities.

We concluded with cakes, slices, coffee and tea. We raised \$1,678.25 –nearly \$600 more than last year. It was great to spread out into the new extensions of the hall and have ongoing 'serve yourself' hot drinks! It was wonderful how community members helped with preparing food; serving it; working on the stall; washing dishes and cleaning up afterwards. A great community effort - thank you!

Liz Hopkins



Grampians Wartook Promotion Group

We now have approval to move the information shelter from the MacKenzie River area to The Wander Inn and plans are underway. Several businesses displayed are no longer trading and will be replaced by those who wish to do so. Space is limited and we may not be able to accommodate everyone, so it will be on a first in basis! Please contact Alan Arnott on 5383 6304 if you wish to be included.

The promotional group are at present looking at many of the problems that have faced us in the past and are confident of successful results, like the abovementioned. The group meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month and we welcome both old and new member's input.

Alan Arnott, President

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.

During the month of August we will offer Sunday Roast for \$12. Please ring on 5383 6377.

Jenny Wilson

Laharum Hall and

Wow!!!! What a fun time we had at the Red Faces night - eight acts and what joy and laughs we got from them all!

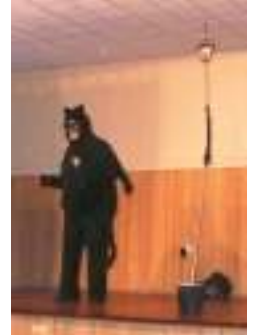
The evening started with a performance from the Wimmera Women's Circus and boy do they all have good stomach muscles! This was followed by a lovely meal of a variety of soups, casseroles and desserts.

We were entertained by singing and guitar playing of 'Sweet Home Alabama', songs from the

'Local Vocals', several dance routines by local children, 'Memories' sung by 'the cat', 'The Bold Gendarmes' sung by a couple of not too honest cops, with a wonderful finale of the real story of 'Cinderella'. We never knew that one of the ugly sisters had whiskers or that Cindy didn't get her prince, but instead married a canola farmer! Votes on the acts were cast with small-change donations from the audience. Performers all received a prize either donated or purchased from local businesses - thank you to Laharum Grove, Mt Zero Olives, Toscana Olives and Avery Wines for their generosity.

We raised \$1,900 on the night which will be divided between both committees. We would like to thank all those who performed, cooked the food, helped in the kitchen, donated gifts, and to those who supported the event.

Loretta Emerson on behalf of Classics in Wartook Valley & Laharum Hall Committee



GRAMPIANS TEXTURE

February 26-March 3, 2011 - Halls Gap

Come and join other textile/art enthusiasts for the annual Grampians Texture: part festival - part forum. Fifteen fantastic tutors are offering a range of 2 and 4 day workshops, covering topics of felting, soft sculpture, jewellery, printing, stitching by hand and machine, knitting, book making, fabric and fibre. Treat yourself to a great experience!

Activities include exhibition, special dinners, students and tutor twilight market. Traders selling specialist textile and art supplies will be at Halls Gap Centennial Hall, open to the attendees and general public selling from 9am-5pm daily. Check the website for more details.

Tutors: Cheryl Bridgart, Teresa Dair, Lynn Ferguson, Jeanette De Nicolis Meyer, Judy Dominic, Philomena Hali, Robyn Henwood, Rose Kingsmill, Anita Larkin, Carolyn Lewin, Felicity Matthews, Rachel Meek, Adele Outteridge, Liz Powell, Emma Shirgin.

www.grampianstexture.com.au
or call 1800 065 599

MISSING

One Laharum Hall table cloth
Please ring Judy on 5383 6265
if you are able to help

Laharum Netball Club



Our 'modies' are very quick learners and enjoy the spirit and fun of playing on a Saturday. Both the U/13's & U/15's haven't won a game but with four rounds left every effort will be put in by all the girls. They have enjoyed playing the game and have developed great skills and friendships that are a part of netball. These are the future players of our club who on a Saturday play a big role around the club, whether it is from the sidelines or volunteering in the canteen or jobs needed off court on a Saturday.

Our U/17's are on top of the ladder and undefeated at this stage. Most of these girls have been playing together since U/13's and are a very talented group of girls. Three of these girls have this year represented the HDNA in the squad team - Nikki Ervin, Ema & Maddie Iredell and are representing the league in the State Titles on October 2 & 3 in Bendigo in the U/15's squad. There are only 4 girls in this squad from the district league with 3 of them from Laharum. Fantastic achievement and we wish the girls all the best. Nikki has also gained her B Grade Umpires badge this year at the age of 15 and was recently awarded the Police Blue Ribbon Award for Round 11 U/17's netball. Ema is Assistant Coach of the U/15's. All of these juniors also play in the senior A Grade team.

Our A Grade team are only 4 points out of the top 5 and are a real challenge to those that sit above them.

Both B & C Grades sit in 4th position on the ladder and should remain in the top 5 and be ready to challenge the other teams come finals times. Exciting times are still ahead as the season is nearing the end.

Roxanne Smith, Director of Administration



Nikki Ervin receiving Police Blue Ribbon Award

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

Laharum Preschool



As we move into Term 3 we welcome Tom and Jess McIvor to our occasional care program. We hope they have a great time at kinder! We have started the term with topics of dinosaurs, winter, magnets, fire brigades and African animals. We have started to make a huge storm picture on our wall with lightning, snow and hail. This will be our group project and will look great once finished.

We also have some dinosaurs in our room and are playing with ice and polar bears. Outside in the playground we have the fire truck and lots of busy little firefighters!

With the weather being so cold, we need to remember to rug up to avoid getting sick as we will play outdoors on most days. If your child is unwell, don't be afraid to keep them at home, even if they really want to come to kinder. They won't miss everything and will risk infecting everyone around them if they attend. Remember, a green nose is a sign that there is still an infection active.

Late last term we had the Wimmera Hospital Podiatry visit to screen the children's feet. This is a free service to all kinders and only optional. I would like to thank the podiatrists for coming.

We also enjoyed a visit from our grandparents who came into kinder for Grandparents Day. Although only a small turnout, the children had lots of fun showing Nan and Pop all the fun things we do at kinder.

Also at the end of last term we enjoyed the bathing of baby Enid Knight. The children loved seeing her take a bath at kinder and everyone had a go at doing something. Afterwards our dolls all had a good bath too. Thanks to Katrina Knight for bringing Enid to kinder for a bath. Also thanks to Katrina for tending to our playground over the holidays. It looked great. Thanks also to Babs Winfield for looking after our canaries. We greatly appreciate the extra feeders that Babs has given to the birds.

The kinder has just been supplied with a brand new computer system. This will replace the old laptop that we have been using and hopefully allow us to go online so we are not completely off the radar!

Recently we had an open day at kinder. With only one visitor, the day was not surprisingly very quiet. Thanks again to Katrina Knight for being a helper on this day.

Kinder is about to launch the pilot program for the 'Universal Access of 15 hours of kindergarten'. This will mean that as of August 30, kinder will be on Monday, Wednesday and Friday with 5 hour sessions run each day. The Occasional Care Program will continue to be on Mondays from 9am-12pm. We welcome Gabby Mills who will teach on the Mondays and Jo will teach on Wednesdays and Fridays. By trialling this program, the DEECD will be able to gain information about how kindergartens will deliver 15 hours of kindergarten by 2013. Special thanks to Jo Gardner for the implementation of this pilot program at Laharum Preschool. Keep warm everyone!!

Jo Bone

Wimmera CMA



Platypus wants a wife as boys outweigh girls!

Researchers hope a group of bachelor platypuses living in the

MacKenzie River will eventually spread out, establish new territories and find female companions to consolidate a regional population.

In April this year scientists from the Centre for Environmental Stress Adaptation and Research captured 4 platypuses in the upper MacKenzie River, near MacKenzie Falls. Significantly, this year saw the first female platypus captured in the region since 2006 and it brings the total amount caught in the MacKenzie River since 2008 to five, four males and one female. Based on the combined survey results, it is likely that a small but stable platypus population exists in the MacKenzie River. Furthermore, all animals were in good condition which suggests that available habitat can support the population.

However, the news is not all good. There have been no juveniles captured during the surveys, which is a concern as it is not known if they are breeding. Furthermore, the population is small and isolated, so it is potentially vulnerable to extinctions from localised events such as bushfire and predation by foxes. The platypus may also be prone to in-breeding.

This year's trapping coincided with a Wimmera CMA-managed environmental water release downstream of the monitoring area. The environmental flow from December last year to May 2010, mimicked a spasmodic summer-autumn river-flow regime. The flow provided respite for aquatic life and important environmental refuge areas, home to a broad cross-section of environmental life under stress from the drought.

Wimmera CMA Catchment Monitoring Officer, Mark Toomey, said now we have established that a stable population exists, there is hope the platypus will disperse throughout the river. Mark said males were territorial and tended to move around to find their own patch, and to search for females: "Hopefully with further environmental flows, and the eventual relief from drought, these platypus will have the chance to disperse throughout the MacKenzie River and eventually back into the Wimmera River."

Bronwyn Bant, Community Education Officer

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

Trust for Nature



Trust for Nature continues to identify opportunities to protect the conservation values of the Northern Grampians area and promote nature conservation initiatives.

Through the dedicated support of the district's landholders, there are now large areas from the Wartook Valley extending around the National Park to Dadswells Bridge that are managed permanently for nature conservation. This protection is providing a very substantial buffer for the Park and reduces impacts of threatening processes on the Park. The ecosystems and habitat types that your community has protected on private land are normally depleted, vulnerable or endangered, so this adds enormous value to nearby reserved land. These types include grassy woodlands, sedge-rich woodlands and valley floor and riparian habitat.

Many landholders in the Northern Grampians have shown leadership and demonstrated how communities can do something about biodiversity conservation in their area. This has direct benefits for those who are attracted to the area as a lifestyle choice and wider economic benefit of attracting visitors. From a nature conservation point of view, the region provides valuable native vegetation cover on private land and offers the opportunity of achieving great results from protection, enhancement and linking activities. Areas within the wider Northern Grampians will help re-connect the Grampians and Little Deserts – an initiative that Trust for Nature encourages people to get involved in as a volunteer or participating landholder, to get some exercise, meet like-minded folk or to learn more about conservation and biodiversity.

We're glad to announce that Laharum has been chosen as the location for this year's 13th Annual Biodiversity Seminar on **Thursday September 2** and hope that it receives similarly strong support from the Northern Grampians community. We'd welcome your participation on the day and suggest people new to the region can use the event to network with others. This can also help develop connections in nature conservation or just to meet up with others and share a common interest – your local area.

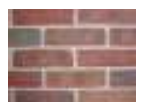
If you wish to get free and no obligation advice concerning conservation options for you and your property, we urge you to contact regional staff who will assist you making these choices and Trust for Nature will continue its important work in your area. Please call 5362 2248 or 0429 431 099 or email adamb@tfn.org.au www.trustfornature.org.au

Australia's oldest land trust, protecting bushland – forever!

Adam Blake

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



Find out about burns in your area



Wimmera District - DSE prepares plans for fire operations for Victoria's public land, parks, forests and reserves. These plans show where we intend to do burns and other fire preparedness works such as slashing and mowing. Planned burning on its own cannot stop a fire, but it can help reduce the risks of intense bushfires that can threaten lives, homes and the environment. Burning is also important for the health of the bush which needs fire to regrow and survive. If you would

like to view and comment on the draft plan for the Wimmera district - visit: www.dse.vic.gov.au/burns; Grains Innovation Park, 110 Natimuk Road or call 136 186. Draft Fire Operations Plans for 2010/11-2012/13 for all districts are available for viewing at DSE and Parks Victoria offices until August 29.

This newsletter can be viewed at
www.laharum.vic.au and
www.wartook.vic.au



Grampians National Park

David Roberts from You Yangs Regional Park is now Ranger in Charge of Grampians National Park as Graham Parkes is now District Chief Ranger, still based at Halls Gap. Also at Halls Gap, Mike Stevens is now statewide Manager of Land and Seascape-scale Conservation. Mike has been pivotal to the release of the Brush tailed Rock wallabies, and played a massive role during the Grampians Fire Recovery Program.

Stage 1 of the 'Grampians Peak Trail' will create a three-day loop walking track from Halls Gap. Eventually the proposed 148km Grampians Peak Trail will traverse the Grampians from north to south and provide for a broader, 14-day trek that will help to establish Victoria as Australia's premier destination for nature-based tourism.

Four wheel drive enthusiasts will get a better experience of the state's great outdoors thanks to Victoria's Iconic 4WD Adventures and track classification system. The six new drives and track classification system was launched on July 15 at Werribee by Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Gavin Jennings. He said Victoria's Iconic 4WD Adventures completed the Victorian Government's \$4 million 4WD program and included the establishment of six iconic 4WD adventures across the state to suit the most novice driver through to the most experienced. The six tracks are located at Snowy River, Mallee, Davies Plain, Wonnangatta, Otways and The Grampians. You can visit the new website at <http://www.iconic4wd.com.au/> for more information. Brochures will also be available from Visitor Information Centres.

Works commenced recently to rehabilitate temporary firelines created during the Roses Gap fire earlier this year. Contractors aim to complete ripping and revegetating 13km of bulldozer lines in the National Park and 900m of track on private property. Rehabilitation of these temporary firelines ensures future site disturbance is kept to a minimum and helps re-establish pre-fire habitat.

Tammy Schoo, Ranger - Tourism & Communication

Free Health Check

Wednesday September 8

9am – 12 noon

Laharum Hall

Community Health Nurses in attendance with information on all aspects of health including blood pressure and diabetes tests

Call in for a free cuppa and check up

Enquiries Deb MacInnes 5383 8203



North West Grampians Newsletter

Community Calendar of Events 2010

August

Wednesday	4	9.30-11am	Mobile Library – Laharum Primary School
Monday	9	7-10pm	First Aid Training Update - Brimpaen Hall
"	9	7.30pm	Laharum Tennis Club AGM – Laharum Clubrooms
Wednesday	11	7.30-9.30pm	Fitness Circuit – Laharum Hall
Friday	13	9.30am	Moving Forward with our Farming Future – DPI
"	13	6.30pm meal	Laharum School Parent Club - Disco
Wednesday	18	9.30-11am	Mobile Library – Laharum Primary School
Thursday	19	7.30pm	Local Vocals – Laharum Hall
Monday	23	7-10pm	CFA Drive Under Operational Conditions, theory - Laharum
Thursday	26	1.30pm	Horsham South Garden Club – CWA Hall
Tuesday	31	2pm	Brimpaen Ladies Social Club – Brimpaen Hall

September

Wednesday	1	9.30-11am	Mobile Library – Laharum Primary School
Thursday	2	9.30am	Wimmera Biodiversity Seminar – Laharum Hall
Sunday	5	12noon	Laharum CFA shed opening
Tuesday	7	10am-2.30pm	Brimpaen Craft Club – Brimpaen Hall
Fri-Sun	10-12	day/evening	'Classics in the Wartook Valley' Festival – various venues
Wednesday	8	9am-12noon	Health Check – Laharum Hall
"	8	7.30-9.30pm	Fitness Circuit – Laharum Hall
Wednesday	15	9.30-11am	Mobile Library – Laharum Primary School
Sunday	19	9am	CFA Drive Under Operational Conditions, practical - Laharum
Thursday	23	10.30am	Horsham South Garden Club – visit to Kongbool Homestead
Tuesday	28	10.30am	Brimpaen Ladies Social Club – visit to Oscar Furniture
Wednesday	29	9.30-11am	Mobile Library – Laharum Primary School

October

Saturday	2	10am-3pm	Annual Spring Market – Wartook Valley, The Wander Inn
Sunday	3	10am-5pm	Open Garden Scheme – Jeanne & Royce Raleigh's
Tuesday	5	10am-2.30pm	Brimpaen Craft Club – Brimpaen Hall
Friday	8	daytime	Laharum Primary School – Fun Run
Fri/Sat/Sun	8/9/10	daytime	Spring Garden Festival – Horsham Botanic Gardens
Monday	11	8pm	Laharum Neighbourhood Watch Rural – Laharum Hall
Sunday	24	9am-3pm	Brimpaen's Biggest Garage Sale – Brimpaen Hall

November

Sunday	7	daytime	CFA Combined Group Exercise with Jilpanger Group
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2011

February

Monday	28	6.30pm	CFA 2 nd Lieutenant's night - Horsham
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March

Monday	21	7-10pm	CFA Class A Foam - Laharum
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Yoga - Wednesdays 7.30-9.15pm - Laharum Hall

Exhibition of local artists –

Mon September 6 – Sun October 10 – 'Spring spectrum', 10am-5pm Wartook Valley Studio Gallery

Grampians Texture 2011

Sat February 26 – Thursday March 3 - Halls Gap

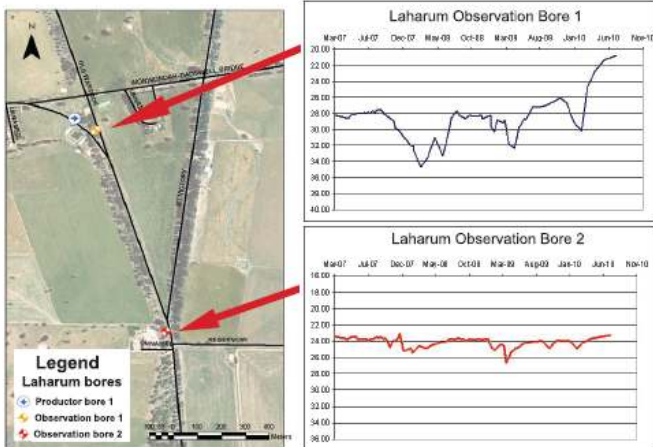
Wartook Christian Home Meeting – Fridays from 7pm - venues vary

Laharum bore field update



Update 28 July 2010

GWMWater



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

Production bore 1 continues to be used at a reduced rate of between 0-1 ML per day. Production bores 2 and 3 have remained unused over this period.

Water levels adjacent to the extraction have continued to rise reflecting very low pumping rates (refer to Laharum observation bore 1), but are beginning to level out. The degree of this will depend on how much rainfall the region receives over the coming months.

GWMWater will continue to provide regular updates on bore levels on bore levels in the Laharum area. If you require more information please contact our Sustainable Resources Division on 1300 659 961.



'Bring & buy' stall at Laharum's Biggest Morning Tea

Small Grant Opportunities - The Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal has a number of grants open or soon to be open in the next little while. These grants are often very competitive but they can be a useful grant source for smaller projects. The grants are:

Small Grants for Small Rural Communities Program (up to \$5,000) which will close on September 30. Through this program preference will be given to projects that support:

- Community Infrastructure
- Community Development involving Disadvantaged Children or Young People
- Resettlement of Immigrants in rural Australia
- Drought affected areas (Exceptional Circumstances Declared)

FRRR/ANZ Seeds of Renewal Program (Grants will be made in amounts up to \$15,000) until September 3. Through this program preference will be given to projects that help communities thrive through the following:

- Creation of education and employment opportunities (excludes wages)
- Building financial capability
- Helping bridge urban and rural social and economic divides; or
- Supporting disaster recovery or preparedness

Further information on the grants can be found at www.frrr.org.au.

Telecommunications Survey - The Centre for E-commerce and Communications at the University of Ballarat is undertaking a communications survey of the Wimmera and Central Highlands area. As improved telecommunications is a priority for the community as identified in the Community Action Plan, this is a chance to have a say on standards of communications and what you would like to see happen. On-line surveys can be filled out at: www.cecc.com.au/ch_ict_survey.

Laharum Wartook Community Action Plan Update - The Laharum Wartook Community Action Plan is still being updated following the review session held in April 2010. As soon as this is finalised, copies will be available on Laharum and Wartook websites and on the HRCC website.

Event and Festival funding now open - Horsham Rural City Council is now inviting applications for sponsorship to assist the marketing of tourism events, festivals and other marketing activities within the municipality. Guidelines and application forms are available from Gloria McRae, Civic Centre, Roberts Avenue, Horsham; phone 5382 9706 or email gloria.mcrae@hrcc.vic.gov.au. Applications will be assessed by the Tourism Advisory Committee. Applications close on Friday August 27.

Melissa Morris

Self discipline is when your conscience speaks to you and you don't answer back!

Laharum Landcare Group



We have some funding for protecting and enhancing natural vegetation, and regularly submit funding applications for more works. If you are interested in your land being involved please contact John

Fisher 5383 6263 so we can add you to future applications.

Spring is weed control time. If you have environmental or registered weeds that you may need help with please contact Gil Hopkins 5383 8207. We have been unsuccessful with grants to help purchase a slip-on spray unit, but will keep trying.

Rabbit numbers are building up again. If you have warrens that need ripping please contact Mark Francisco 5383 8218 now so we can apply for funding (\$1,000/day!). Otherwise DPI may be asking you to get it done yourself, as they have been more interested in our area in the last years.

Most of our Landcare works are done by volunteers, in their own time and at their own cost, so we need to apply for funding to help provide chemicals, some equipment, and some contracts. Please help us by telling us what you need so we can apply for the funding. It's only \$10 to join our group, and you can get help with lots of projects which benefit our community and environment.

See you at the Wimmera Biodiversity Day September 2 at Laharum Hall!

Gil Hopkins

Some snapshots of the Red Faces Night



Laharum Primary School



Year 6 students recently attended a Transition Day at Horsham College and they enjoyed their experience at secondary school. All students

attended 'Living in the 80's' Horsham College production. Staff certainly enjoyed reminiscing and many students expressed how they would like to perform and act!

Some students participated in the Auskick games at the Bulldogs-Freemantle match recently, and the school attended SheepVention in Hamilton.

Paving for the Mod5 building is complete with finishing touches to the yard and carpet still to be done. The school has just been informed that with the building they will be receiving two brand new interactive whiteboards and associated equipment, as well as \$6,600 worth of new furniture – great news for the P-2 students!

Students participated in an Orangutan day and raised \$165. This will enable the school to adopt three baby Orangutans through the Australian Orangutan Project.

from **Robyn Jones** reports

