

*It has been an amazing start to the year! Torrential rain and flooding has caused major and minor problems in our community and beyond.*

*This is a time when we pull together to support those who need help. We wish everyone well with their recovery process.*

*Liz Hopkins*

### Yoga at Laharum Hall



Yoga is resuming **Wednesday February 9** from 7.30pm. 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.

Please ring on 5383 6265 if you are a newcomer.

Judy Berendsen

### LAHARUM WARTOOK HORSHAM SOUTH AREAS COMMUNITY MEETING Thursday February 10, 7.30pm Laharum Hall

The community is invited to attend this meeting whether directly or indirectly affected by the recent floods.

There will be time to raise issues, share experiences, concerns and problems and to plan for our future.

Supper will be provided.

For enquiries please contact Judy Berendsen 5383 6265 or David Grimble 5383 6286

### Mobile Library



Timetable for the Mobile Library located at Laharum Primary School for the next two months is - **Wednesday February 16 and March 2, 16 & 30.**

Bryan Rohde



Large crowd at Brimpaen's Australia Day breakfast

### ♪ Singing ♪

Horsham's 'Sing Australia' Group is visiting Laharum to join our 'Local Vocal' group on **Monday February 14**, 7.30pm at Laharum Hall (not February 17 as previously advertised). This will be a great opportunity to sing different songs with a different group of people.

We will stop halfway through the evening for supper which will give us a chance to meet our guests! We welcome those who haven't attended our singing group – it's just good fun! For more information ring Judy on 5383 6265.



June McGennissen thanks guest speaker, Jo Johns at Brimpaen's Australia Day Breakfast

## The Wander Inn



We greatly appreciate the support and help we received from the community in getting back 'on track' and opening our doors again after the recent floods. We are open

Tuesdays to Sundays from 10am.

We are planning a 'beef and seafood' two course buffet meal (vegetarians catered for) on **Saturday February 19**, 6.30pm. Cost \$20 per head, children half price. After the meal we will be running a 'goods and services' auction to aid local flood-affected businesses - all donations gratefully accepted. Please ring 5383 6377 to book your meal and for any enquiries.

Jenny Wilson

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## Wartook Valley Studio Gallery

We will be open during the evening of

**Saturday February 19**. We have a huge reduction on imported stock - come and check out what's available!

Jenny McInnes

## Brimpaen Ladies Social Club



On **Tuesday February 22**, 2pm at Brimpaen Hall will be our AGM and first meeting for the year. We will also plan the year's syllabus.

Margo Hamilton

## Classics in Wartook Valley



Our Committee will be calling a public meeting on **Tuesday February 22**, 7.30pm at Laharum Hall. This meeting

is for anyone interested in joining the committee and helping organise another Classics in Wartook Valley Festival.

Alison White

## Wonwondah Landcare



The New Year has started with new testing challenges for everybody in the district.

The main activity within our group is the rabbit ripping and although there has been a huge amount of flood water on the land, it is surprising the number of rabbits still on the move.

While the locusts are not on the wing, there has been many reports of juveniles on the ground which will again create a problem in the autumn.

The pipeline has experienced slumping in nearly every section laid south of Horsham and it is ideal soil conditions at present to undertake rehabilitation. The grader blade is available for the task.

Next meeting is set for **Tuesday February 22**, 7.30pm. There may be a change of venue as renovations are progressing slower than planned.

Chris Guest

## Grampians Group Training Schedule



2011

**Monday February 28**, 6.30pm in Horsham – 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

## Seed Provenance workshop

Wimmera Regional Seedbank invites you to attend a free provenance workshop hosted by CSIRO's Dr Linda Broadhurst.

When undertaking revegetation works (direct seeding or tubestock) we often find ourselves faced with the dilemma of having to move seed around the landscape. Provenance, the local area from which seed is gathered, is a concept that many of us struggle with and the associated issues are far from black and white.

- Where is the seed coming from?
- How far should we move the seed?
- How far is too far?
- Is there local genetic significance for a species?
- How important are plant population numbers?

These are all questions you may be asking yourself - come along and explore these questions. Dr Linda Broadhurst specialises in research dedicated to improving the restoration of highly degraded Australian landscapes, through a greater understanding of the scale and importance of seed and provenance.

When: **Wednesday February 23, 9.30am-3.30pm**

Where: Grains Innovation Park, Horsham

RSVP February 18

Lunch and morning tea will be provided.

To register, contact Rae Talbot, Wimmera

CMA on 5382 1544 or email [talbotr@wcma.vic.gov.au](mailto:talbotr@wcma.vic.gov.au).

Rae Talbot

## Horsham South Garden Club



Our first meeting for this year will be our AGM to be held on **Thursday February 24**, 12noon at CWA Hall with a shared lunch.

Lola Ervin

## Brimpaen Craft Group



At our February meeting we organised our syllabus for the year.

**Tuesday March 1**, 10am-2.30pm at Brimpaen Hall – knitting coat hanger covers.

**Tuesday April 5** – craft trip to Stawell; details to be arranged at our March meeting.

Jill Sinclair

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



**Treat yourself to a great experience!**

Fourteen fantastic tutors are offering a range of 2 & 4 day workshops, covering topics of felting, soft sculpture, jewellery, printing, stitching by hand & machine, book making, knitting, fabric & fibre. Bookings essential.

**Twilight Market Saturday Feb 26, 5-6.30pm**

Students & tutors of Grampians Texture selling their beautiful and exotic art & craft - Mountain Grand grounds.

**Traders Sat 26 - Thurs 3 Mar, 8.30am-5pm**

A range of traders will be selling fabrics, fibres, books, papers, buttons and much more to tempt the textile artist - Halls Gap Centennial Hall

**Artist in Residence, Colleen Weste, Cricket Pavilion Mon-Thur 9.30am-4pm**

You are invited to visit her to discuss your own work, seek advice or just enjoy seeing her work on her projects. To make an appointment to talk to her ring 0419.009030.

Colleen has had many years experience as a silk shibori artist and teacher.

**Exhibitions:**

**Nature - Exhibition by Carolynne Hamdorf**

Feb 25 - April 30 open daily from 6pm (except Mon), Kookaburra Restaurant. This work is the result of a year's observation, looking, watching and drawing!

**Travels through Land & Sea - Artists: Colleen Weste & Trevor Smith**

Exhibition opens daily Feb 26- Mar3 then Wed-Sun until Mar 20. MOCO Gallery Main St Halls Gap (at the Halls Gap Mini Golf). Two artists explore the landscape from very different mediums and styles.

**ComText - Artists Helen Blandford, Isabelle Martin & Irene Bennewitz**

Feb 1-Mar 20 - Wartook Valley Studio. An exhibition of contemporary textiles by local artists.

**Rolling Along - Work by the 'Just Felt Like It' Group**

Feb 25- Apr 4, 10am-4pm (Wed-Sun). The Gap Winery Halls Gap. Local felting groups showcasing the work over the past 12 months.

Grampians Texture is a project of GrampianArts - a not for profit organisation that strives to provide opportunities for artists to extend their skills and showcase their work.

[www.grampiansttexture.com.au](http://www.grampiansttexture.com.au)  
or call 0428 825 971



**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 and Mt Zero Transfer Station

Donations to Clean Up can also be made which assists with the work involved in communities. Go to [www.cleanupaustaliaday.org.au](http://www.cleanupaustaliaday.org.au) for details.

**Get together with your neighbours and keep our district clean!**

**Laharum Landcare Group**



We are looking forward to some special events both in our region and across Victoria as **Landcare turns 25 this year!** 2011 is the 25th Anniversary of Landcare, since the first formal Landcare group formed near St Arnaud in 1986.

Landcare has continued on as a local volunteer movement and has grown since it began in Victoria in 1986. It now involves thousands of Victorians and more than 700 groups working together to shape the future of our land, biodiversity and waterways. United by a shared desire to create positive change in their local community and environment, these individuals recognise that collectively their efforts have greater impact.

A range of local and statewide activities are planned for 2011, but all groups will also plan their own celebrations.

Our Laharum Landcare Group will begin the year by looking at ways we can remedy some of the damage caused by our area's flooding. Hugh Russell has spoken of the work needed to be done with fencing at White Swamp - maybe our first challenge?

We will look at how other regions are managing their local land issues, some of which may have innovative remedies/strategies we can use. Bass Coast Landcare network has developed a DVD which we hope to screen during the year. We also look forward to Joel Boyd, our Regional Landcare Coordinator joining us for a discussion.

If you would like to look at what type of activities other regions organise, you can go to [www.landcarevic.net.au](http://www.landcarevic.net.au).

With locust bands now forming locally we are trying to obtain some GreenGuard biological spray. If you are interested in using some, please contact Gil Hopkins on 5383 8207.

Our next Laharum Landcare meeting would have taken place at Laharum Hall on Thursday February 10 but a flood recovery meeting has been organised for the same evening, so we will take advantage of the extra community members and 'experts' to present our local Landcare concerns.

Our next meeting will now be held on **Thursday March 10, 7:30pm, Laharum Hall.**  
**Rob Lucas**



## FRIDAY APRIL 8 Astronomy Night

Cultural historian John Morieson and local astronomy enthusiast Gil Hopkins will lead an evening of discussion, viewing and interpretation of the night sky of the Boorong clan of the Wergaia people of northwest Victoria.

Over the past decade, Aboriginal communities have worked with John on his groundbreaking research to recover the stories of the Boorong. These stories express not only knowledge about the night sky but also reflect aspects of Boorong culture. The changing skies speak not only of stars and planets but of landscapes, the activity of animals and plants throughout the year, rights conduct, healing, and lore.

The evening will commence with a barbecue.

**Where:** Laharum Hall

**Time:** 6pm for BBQ tea

For tickets and further details, contact the Festival office on 5381 0297.

**Arlene McDonald**

## Laharum Football Club



The first round for the 2011 football season will be on **Saturday April 9**. Training has already begun and at present training is on Monday nights in Horsham and Thursday nights at Laharum. This will change to Tuesday & Thursday at Laharum in the coming weeks.

Our new Coach, Marcus Demaria and newly appointed Assistant Coach, Ben Mahon are both very keen and pleased with the numbers at this stage, as well as a few of the older juniors joining in too. Junior training will begin in a few weeks and Auskick will again be happening this year.

For Laharum's Draw for 2011 season – see 'Calendar of Events' for dates on Page 10.

**Deb MacInnes**

## Laharum Tennis Club



The tennis season is on the downhill run to the finals with only a few matches to go. These begin first weekend in March. All three senior grades are positioned well on the ladder and hopefully they can all hold their spot in the four come March.

Our junior teams are really enjoying their tennis and all three junior teams will also be competing in finals. It has been great to see some of our junior boys not only playing on Saturday mornings, but also filling in for the seniors in the afternoon.

If you have some spare time on Saturday mornings, get to the courts and check out their talent - I am sure they would love some support!

Good luck for the finals everyone and happy hitting.

**Deb MacInnes**

In case of fire  
DIAL 000

## WARTOOK VALLEY STUDIO GALLERY

### *Starry, starry night exhibition*

An invitation to local artists to participate in an exhibition of work to coincide with Horsham's Art Is... Festival – 'Under our sky'. This exhibition will be hosted by Wartook Valley Studio Gallery from **Sunday April 3 to Sunday May 1**.

The official opening will be held on Sunday April 3 at 11am as part of the Festival program and will run through April until after Easter.

**Exhibition concept** – With the festival's theme 'Under our sky', we have chosen to highlight the night sky, and in particular Van Gogh's popular painting 'Starry Night'. While not quite 'our sky', a great combination!

Van Gogh painted 'Starry Night' while in an asylum at Saint Remy in 1889. According to author, Tamsin Pickeral, *Starry Night*, an oil painting, is an image that is haunting, and full of unexplained but turbulent emotion. The intensity of the painting reflected Van Gogh's extraordinarily troubled mind, yet it is not a picture of despair, but rather suggests a rush of torrential feeling with no defined direction, much like the artist himself (also like the recent MacKenzie River!) His brushstrokes had become more fluid, creating a strong rolling effect through the star peppered sky.

Of course we should not forget the song, 'Vincent', by Don McLean, the lyrics of which are based on the life of Van Gogh.

Check out the painting and the lyrics on

[www.vangoghgallery.com](http://www.vangoghgallery.com).

**Art works** – any medium is acceptable and as long as it is a 'reasonable size', we should be able to exhibit it. The only limitation is your imagination!!

Wartook Valley Studio Gallery is large and with careful planning we should be able to display anything from textiles, painting, drawing, sculpture, glass, ceramics, photography, poetry ..... etc. Work must be completed and ready for hanging/exhibiting.

**Deadline** – An entry form can be picked up from Wartook Valley Studio Gallery. We would like to receive an expression of interest by **Friday March 4** with work to be delivered or arrangements made for pickup by **Monday March 28**.

For information phone 5383 6243 or email

[gvenn@netconnect.com.au](mailto:gvenn@netconnect.com.au).

**Gill Venn**

## Laharum NH Watch Rural



There have been several reports of tourists and local traffic travelling at speed when stock signs are displayed. This is outright dangerous and everyone is requested to reduce speed and pay careful attention whenever these signs are displayed.

Farmers are also reminded to remove signs as soon as stock movements have been completed.

**Bill & Judy Gardner**



## Laharum Kindergarten



Welcome to 2011! This year we have a change to sessions being run – kindergarten sessions for 3 and 4 year old children proposed to be run on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9am-2pm.

Occasional Care session for children Under 3 proposed to run on a Tuesday from 9am-12noon. Anyone interested in enrolling their child for either of these groups, please make contact with HDKA on 5382 7997 or Jo Sudholz on 5383 6205 immediately so numbers can be finalised.

We look forward to an exciting year of fun and

learning.

**Jo Bone**

## Laharum Netball Club



Welcome to all netballers, members and supporters for the 2011 season. Appointed Senior A & B coaches, Nat Okely & Rhonda McNeil have prepared a preseason training schedule. For further information, please contact

Roxanne Smith on 5383 9272.

For our Training Schedule, see 'Calendar of Events' for dates and details on Page 10.

If we have enough people interested we will run a boot camp on Sat/Sun March 5 & 6.

We're looking forward to a successful year on and off the court.

**Roxanne Smith**, Director of Admin

**Aussie Flower People**  
**Open Fridays and Saturdays**  
**10am to 4pm**  
**Native Nursery**  
**and Display Garden**

1943 Northern Grampians Road,  
Laharum Phone 5383 6201

Lots of local trees in hikos available  
Grass trees, Grevilleas, Acacias and  
some orange trees still available in 6" pots



## 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**



The events of the past period have placed great demands on both the community and Council resources.

The storm events of January 12 have resulted in many roads and Council infrastructure being unserviceable. Despite our immediate response, it will be some time before all roads in the Wartook, Laharum, Brimpaen and Dadswells Bridge areas can be fully reinstated.

We advise that many roads remain 'closed' and extreme care continues to be needed when travelling in these areas due to damage and possible unforeseen safety issues. Council has recorded in excess of 220 separate road and major bridge repair and reinstatement jobs; the majority of these being south of Horsham in the circulation catchment of this Newsletter. The cost of this reinstatement will be in the order of \$2m.

Of particular concern to the local community is the restoration of major road access on the Mt Victory Road (Northern Grampians Road), Roses Gap Road and the significance of the Bolte Highway.

Discussions with VicRoads unfortunately indicate that the Mt Victory Road, beyond the Council boundary, is unlikely to be re-opened for some time, with significant landslide clearance and assessments of the geological integrity of the road being required. The cost of this work will be in the multi-millions.

Alternate access through Roses Gap Road will be restored in the short term, and Council is working with Northern Grampians Shire and Parks Victoria to achieve this.

ParksVic has also undertaken additional maintenance work on the Bolte Highway to improve tourist traffic access to the region.

VicRoads has placed signage at the Western Highway, indicating 'access to Wartook open' on the Northern Grampians Road.

Council would appreciate any reports of significant damage to continue to be reported to ensure that such damage is recorded on our job listing. Please ring 5382 9749 and ask for Luke Carracher who can check this information.

Council will be conducting further community meetings for flood affected communities and details of these meetings will follow. However, any persons who have flood/storm recovery concerns should contact our Recovery Manager, Dave Tepper for assistance.

I thank all readers for their patience and cooperation as we seek funding and resources to restore essential community infrastructure in the area, and prioritise works throughout the municipality.

In closing, Mayor, Cr Michael Ryan, Councillors and staff of Horsham Rural City Council sadly acknowledge the passing of former Mayoress, Dot Dunn, who was a tireless contributor to the community.

**David Eltringham**, General Manager Technical Services

## Brimpaen Tennis Club



Both our tennis teams, A & B Grades are going well this season and should be in the finals. Well done!  
**Courtney Dunn**

## Laharum Rural CFA



What a strange summer it has been with heaps of rain and flooding! This has caused a few problems with hay bales; they get wet and start fires. Please check your hay stacks to ensure they are not heating up. We still have a risk of fires especially on a hot windy day, so take care.

If you are called out for a fire, make sure you engage 4WD when leaving a road. There's a good chance of becoming bogged!!

Electricity work on Tanker A shed is nearly completed - just waiting for power to be connected.

**Mark Francisco, Captain**

## Laharum Parent Club



Welcome to all families to our school for 2011 - both old and new. We look forward to your participation in supporting your school through our fundraising efforts and interactive activities with the children and teachers. Remember that "many hands make light work" and you are always welcome to our meetings.

The date of our first meeting will be published in the School Newsletter, with our AGM to be held in March.

**Jenny Carter**

## Australia Day Breakfast at Brimpaen

Eighty one people attended the Australia Day Breakfast at Brimpaen Hall on Wednesday January 26 hosted by Brimpaen Ladies Social Club.

A delicious breakfast was served, which was followed by a talk by Jo Johns. Jo talked about her interesting life; born in Chesterfield England, married to Don, moving to Australia in 1966, children, chemist shop, Lady Mayoress, active membership of many community groups. Australia is a better place thanks to people who are optimistic and community minded like Jo.

The flag was then raised and all assembled sang our National Anthem. Following this was a tribute to Margo and Clarrie Hamilton who have left Brimpaen for Portarlinton. Their efforts in supporting the Brimpaen community were recognised.

**Bonnie Gelman**



## Wartook Valley Studio Gallery



Wartook Valley Studio Gallery is now open Thursdays to Sundays from 10am-5pm.

Come and look at our extended range of locally-made craft and our selection of quality Australian-made gifts.

## WCMA Group Support Update



### Flood damage to fencing and other structures funded by Wimmera CMA -

Wimmera CMA is currently assessing the extent of loss and damage due to the recent flood event. Once we have a complete picture of regional flood damage, we will be able to assess landholder eligibility for possible Natural Disaster Relief Funding. Affected landholders are now being asked to forward their contact details to Wimmera CMA along with the following information:

- What is the location of the property damage?
- Which waterway has caused the damage?
- What is the nearest town to the damage?
- What structure has been damaged?

Wimmera CMA thanks all landholders in these difficult times. Our staff is working hard to support a speedy regional recovery.

Please contact Wimmera CMA on 5382 1544.

**Joel Boyd**

## LAHARUM COMMUNITY LINKS OFFICE - LAHARUM HALL

The following services are available at Laharum Hall - Computer use; Internet access; Emailing; Printing; Photocopying; Faxing; Laminating.



Please contact Deb MacInnes on 5383 8203 Mobile 0428.838203 or Loretta Emerson 5383 6233 if you wish to use these services or equipment.

## Laharum Primary School 2805



Welcome back to the school year – we look forward to another great year.

To view our current Newsletter and 2011 School Calendar, go to: [www.laharumps.vic.edu.au/](http://www.laharumps.vic.edu.au/) and click on the News and Events tab on our website.

**Robyn Jones**

## Clearing Sale

Laharum Primary School's Kylie Purcell was in the right place at the right time over the holidays – at home in Brimpaen!

She said "yes please" to the offer of catering for a stall at a clearance sale around the corner at Margo and Clarrie Hamilton's. The sale was postponed for a week due to the floods, but plenty of people turned up on the next sunny Monday and bought food and drinks from the stall.

Well done to Kylie for her initiative and to her adult and younger helpers on the day - \$571.25 was raised for Laharum Primary School.

*Thank you Margo and Clarrie for supporting the community.*

**Bonnie Gelman**

## SEWING LESSONS

Learn to use your sewing machine with the aim to make a skirt or shirt or a small quilt. Lots of beautiful cotton fabrics, cotton threads, sewing machine needles, buttons and patterns available. Some fabrics half price.



**Cost:** \$30 for 2 hours of creative fun

**Time:** 10.30am-12.30pm **Fridays only**

Tea and coffee available from The Wander Inn

Start date will depend on interest.

More details please contact Isabelle on Friday on 5383 6243 or AH 5383 6229

## Laharum Cricket Club



With the resumption of the cricket season delayed by rain and floods, the Cricket Club is in a good position with a month of the season to go. B Grade continues its good form and remains on top of the ladder with Ben Peucker, Damian Bunworth and Glen Doyle all batting well. Matt Farr is back to strengthen the team, with Jordy Phelan and Rob McInnes heading the bowling.

C Grade has to apply themselves with their batting if they are to play in the finals. Daniel Chaplin and Darcy Wills are both bowling beautifully and young Harry Stemp is showing terrific ability with the gloves in his first season behind the stumps.

A reminder to all players that subs are now due at a reduced rate, due to the amount of cancelled matches. All the best to all teams for the remainder of the season!

**Peter Levey**

*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.*

## Riding for the Disabled



As January's go, the opening of 2011 will be remembered for many years to come for the rain, the flood and the mozzies! The flood in particular will leave an indelible mark upon Horsham RDA, as the one that saw the end of one chapter in our history and the start of another.

We had escaped the September 2010 flood with minimal damage, and thought that the tactics used then would be sufficient to help us through this new event. Alas, the sandbagging, the lifting of equipment that had been enough before, and even the buildings that had been especially built up to be above the '100 year' flood levels were all woefully inadequate for this event.

After waiting for several days for the water to recede, our President Jan Hutton-Croser and her husband Ken were first to pull away the sandbags and look inside our arena. The water had reached a level of about 1m deep inside the indoor arena, or about 20cm higher than the concrete levy built around our kitchen; so the kitchen had been awash. Several helmets and boots were ruined because they had not been placed up high enough, and our horse track had likewise been affected. It was fortunate that our horses were all holidaying away from the grounds, particularly since our paddock fences were all ruined.

Buildings that had been especially raised to be above flood levels; the Pony Club Hall and the RDA toilets had both been inundated. The toilets have been deemed unfixable and will have to be replaced (at an even higher level now!), while the PC Hall will need its floor fixed and also restumped to a higher level.

These are but some of the results of this amazing flood. We are very fortunate that Horsham Rural City Council has been very supportive with promises of help with insurance cover and various remedial works. In addition, we are honoured to have the assistance of St Laurence Employment Services to help us re-fence our paddocks and replace other lost items.

It was fortunate that we had decided in December 2010 to start our rallies in March this year. Perhaps the repairs will be enough for us to operate at a basic level by then...?

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**

*Condolences to Bernie and family  
for the passing of Dot Dunn.  
Dot was a hard working community  
member who will be sadly missed.*

## Daniel Berendsen Auto Electrical

ABN 77698617692

**Auto Electrical Repairs & Wiring  
Light fitting, Radio Installation**

Phone Daniel on 5383 6265



## Healthy Parks Healthy People

It has been a tough time for the Grampians Region, but everyone has their nose to the grindstone to get things open and visitors back. Parks Victoria is also working hard to get walks and destinations in the National Park open. Already we have opened many of the walks in the northern end of the Grampians and we are able to report that the damage is not as bad as it is elsewhere in the park. Hollow Mountain, Flat Rock to Stapylton, Mt Stapylton Loop, Mt Zero, Beehive Falls, and Briggs Bluff are all open and accessible. Also accessible for visitors are the northern Grampians art shelters - the Gulgurn Manja and Ngamadidj Shelters.

Some walks close to Halls Gap including the Boronia Peak walk, Clematis Falls and Fyans Creek Loop are open, and the east side of Chatauqua Peak is another great walk. In the Southern Grampians the Piccanniny and Mt Sturgeon walks are both open.

Campgrounds open include Plantation, Stapylton and Troopers Creek Campgrounds, as well as private campgrounds surrounding the Park.

Roads open include main roads into Halls Gap and Wartook, the Grampians Road to Lake Bellfield Picnic Area, Mt Zero Road (Halls Gap to Mt Zero), Roses Gap Road and Park roads north of Roses Gap (except for seasonal tracks).

The lakes surrounding the Grampians are looking spectacular and there is still plenty to do in the region. Parks Victoria will continue to promote the visitor sites and destinations in and around the park, encouraging visitors to come back to the area. We are also suggesting that people call into a local visitor centre or Brambuk the National Park and Cultural Centre for information on the many activities and attractions now available.

However, this does not diminish the considerable task we all, including Parks Victoria, local government and VicRoads, have ahead of us to repair and recover not only roads, but facilities as well. In some areas we are still unable to reach these sites to assess the damage and it could be many months, before the Park is completely open again.

Road closures across the park area are considerable, including the Grampians Tourist Road (Lake Bellfield Picnic Area to Dunkeld), Silverband Road, the Northern Grampians Road – (Mt Victory Road) from Halls Gap to Wartook, all seasonal roads in the Northern Grampians and Pohners Road (Roses Gap Road - Plantation Road) which is due to open shortly.

Walking track and site closures include all Wonderland walks (including Venus Baths and The Pinnacle), MacKenzie Falls Walks, Zumstein area, Balconies and Reeds Lookout, all walks in the Victoria Valley, Victoria Range (Western Grampians), Mt William Range, Mafeking and Mt Abrupt, and the Mt Difficult and Tilwinda Falls walking tracks.

All remote overnight walking in the Grampians National Park is closed and campgrounds closed are: Jimmy Creek, Wannon Crossing, Borough Huts, Boreang, Buandik, Strachans, Smiths Mill and Bomjinna Campgrounds.

Parks Victoria staff from outside the region are helping us in the recovery program. We are grateful for

their assistance and in some cases specialist skills, as it means we can work more quickly and effectively.

Ranger in Charge, David Roberts is keen to ensure public safety and has asked that we all, locals and visitors alike, respect road and track closures. We have already had a couple of incidents where people have gone around the barriers and then have come across problems. The last thing we want is for somebody to be hurt. In the meantime the Parks Victoria website, [www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au) is a great resource for the latest information. We will be regularly updating closures and reopening.

**Prue Daley**

**WHEN YOU WANT THINGS DONE DIFFERENTLY, GIVE US A CALL.**

**Phunkmedia**  
WEB & GRAPHIC DESIGN

T: 03) 5382 4347 W: [WWW.PHUNKEMEDIA.COM](http://WWW.PHUNKEMEDIA.COM)

### 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**

### VICTORIAN BUSHFIRE INFORMATION LINE

**1800 240 667**

Keep this number handy for information on:  
Total Fire Bans – Fire Restrictions -  
Bushfire Planning – Major Fires

## 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

*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)

You can have your own local email address -  
laharum.vic.au or wartook.vic.au. Ask how!



*The centre white line along Northern Grampians Road is obscured by locusts banding in the morning and warming up. The photo was taken on Saturday February 5. Now is the time to act!*

## Laharum region update



Update as at 2 February 2011

**GWM**Water

GWMWater has continued to closely monitor groundwater level trends in the Laharum region.

Over the last few months GWMWater has not been extracting groundwater for Horsham's water supply and levels have remained stable.

A significant rainfall event occurred during January which saw large increases in the volumes held in the Grampians headworks reservoirs, with Lake Lonsdale, Lake Wartook and Moora Moora Reservoir full and spilling.

In the fortnight between 12 and 26 January the overall volume in storage increased by 70,260 ML or 13.5%.

Wartook received 204 mm of rain over a five day period which resulted in the reservoir filling rapidly and subsequently spilling. The maximum spill rate was just under 3,000 ML a day, however this quickly reduced to 1,500 ML over the following 24 hour period.

Once Wartook ceased to spill, releases of 100 ML per day continued in order to return the reservoir to its maximum operating level. This was achieved on 1 February, 2011.

Moora Moora Reservoir was at 96% prior to this rain event and quickly filled and spilled. None of this water was released to the north via the Moora channel and all spill water was allowed to continue on via the upper Glenelg River on to Rocklands Reservoir.

Lake Lonsdale was already at 92% and the significant rate of inflow saw it spilling up to 27,000 ML per day. This water was supplied to the Wimmera River via the Mount William Creek. Once Lake Lonsdale ceased to spill a controlled release of 200 ML per day continued in order to reduce the reservoir back to its maximum operating level. It is estimated that inflows into Lake Lonsdale peaked briefly at around 36,000 ML a day.

In our previous article we detailed Groundwater Resource Appraisals projects that we have been working on in collaboration with the Department of Sustainability and Environment. The Upper Wimmera and Grampians project is about to commence and will capture some important geological information off the flanks of the Grampians ranges. A pumping test will provide critical information on the groundwater resources and their responses. Updates on these projects will be provided regularly. Information is also available on request by contacting the Sustainable Resources Division on 1300 659 961.

Thank you to everyone who contributed  
articles and photos.

Contributions are always welcome.

# North West Grampians Newsletter

## Community Calendar of Events 2011

### February

Wednesday	9	7.30pm	Yoga commences – Laharum Hall
Thursday	10	7.30pm	Community Meeting – Laharum Hall
Monday	14	7.30pm	Singing with Horsham Sing Australia – Laharum Hall
Wednesday	16	9.30am	Mobile Library – Laharum Primary School
Saturday	19	6.30pm	'Beef & Seafood' tea – The Wander Inn
Tuesday	22	2pm	Brimpaen Social Club – Brimpaen Hall
"	22	7.30pm	Classics in Wartook Valley meeting – Laharum Hall
"	22	7.30pm	Wonwondah Landcare
Wednesday	23	9.30am-3.30pm	Seed Provenance workshop
Thursday	24	12noon	Horsham South Garden Club – CWA Hall
Monday	28	6.30pm	CFA 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant's night - Horsham

### March

Tuesday	1	10am-2.30pm	Brimpaen Craft Group – Brimpaen Hall
Wednesday	2	9.30am	Mobile Library – Laharum Primary School
Sunday	6	Daytime	Clean Up Australia Day
Thursday	10	7.30pm	Laharum Landcare – Laharum Hall
Wednesday	16	9.30am	Mobile Library – Laharum Primary School
Monday	21	7-10pm	CFA Class A Foam – Laharum
Wednesday	30	9.30am	Mobile Library – Laharum Primary School

### April

Friday	8	6pm	Astronomy night Art Is 'Under the Sky' – Laharum Hall
Saturday	9	Day	Laharum Football/Netball season commences

### Grampians Texture 2011

Saturday February 26 – Thursday March 3 - Halls Gap  
Starry, starry night exhibition – Sunday April 3 – Sunday May 1

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

### Laharum's Football Draw for 2011 season

April 9 v Natimuk at Natimuk (A)  
April 16 v Edenhope-Apsley (H)  
April 30 v Kalkee (A)  
May 7 v Noradjuha-Quantong (H)  
May 14 v Harrow-Balmoral (A)  
May 21 v Pimpinio (A)  
May 28 **Interleague**  
June 4 v Swifts (H)  
June 11 v Taylors Lake (A)  
June 18 v Rupanyup (H)  
June 25 v Natimuk (H)  
July 2 v Edenhope-Apsley (A)  
July 9 v Kalkee (H)  
July 16 v Noradjuha-Quantong (A)  
July 23 v Harrow-Balmoral (H)  
July 30 v Pimpinio (H)  
August 6 v Swifts (A)  
August 13 v Taylors Lake (H)  
August 20 v Rupanyup (A)

### Laharum Netball Club Training Schedule

**Tuesday starts 6pm**  
February 1 Aquatic Centre – bring runners; bathers/towel  
" 8 " " " " " "  
" 15 Sawyer Park, Soundshell – towel/mat  
" 22 Aquatic Centre – runners; bathers/towel  
March 1 Burkies Gym  
" 8 Aquatic Centre – runners; bathers/towel  
" 15 Burkies Gym  
" 22 Aquatic Centre – runners; bathers/towel  
" 29 Central Park Netball Courts  
**Thursday starts 6pm until March 10 then 6.10pm**  
February 3 Central Park Netball Courts – towel/mat  
" 10 " " " " "  
" 17 " " " " "  
" 24 " " " " "  
March 3 " " " " - squad selection  
" 10 Laharum – training now commences **6.10pm**  
" 17 "  
" 24 "  
" 31 "

**April onwards** - training on Tuesday at Central Park (time to be negotiated). Training on Thursday at Laharum, 6.10pm

A collection of photos taken after the flood.....



Walking bridge at Zumstein – *ParksVic photo*



In front of The Wander Inn and Studio Gallery by *Loretta Emerson*



Silverband Creek Road – *ParksVic photo*



Wandering in! by *Loretta*



Mt Victory Road/Northern Grampians Road – *Parks Vic photo*



On the way to Zumstein by *Vikki Stevens*



Nixon's Corner by Libby Peucker



Near Tatlock's Bridge by Libby



Northern Grampians Road near Dumesny's by Libby



MacKenzie River & Burnt Creek flooding Berendsens by Libby



Tatlocks Bridge and MacKenzie River by Libby



Lake Lonsdale by Libby



Zumstein car park by Vikki



Potters Creek over Pohlner's Road by Liz