

Australia Post has told me they will now only allow the mailman to deliver items according to his contract, so unfortunately payment of postage will be necessary. I've considered many other options for newsletter distribution but the cheapest way now is to have the newsletter sent out as 'Unaddressed Mail Service'.

This decision means more funds will be needed to continue the newsletter. If you have any comments, please contact me.

Liz Hopkins



Life Members for Laharum Tennis Club awarded 26.3.2011

CFA District 17 Grampians Region



**BE ALARMED...
CHANGE YOUR CLOCK -
CHANGE YOUR SMOKE ALARM BATTERY**

CFA urges all Victorian residents to change their smoke alarm batteries when they change their clocks back for the end of Daylight Saving on **Sunday April 3**.

"Many people don't realise that we lose our sense of smell when we go to sleep. A smoke alarm is your electronic nose which will alert you if there is smoke from a fire," said District 17 CFA Community Education Coordinator Jenny McGennisken.

"While many of our brigades and staff do a lot of great work behind the scenes, it's really everyone's responsibility to make sure their friends and family remember to change their smoke alarm battery. Working smoke alarms can save lives."

Quick facts

- Smoke alarms are compulsory in every home
- It is the legal responsibility of all owners and landlords to install working smoke alarms

All smoke alarms

- Must contain a battery
- Need to be tested regularly
- Need to be replaced after 10 years

Testing and cleaning

- **Monthly:** Test by pressing the test button with a broom handle
- **Yearly:** Vacuum around your smoke alarm vents
- **Yearly:** Replace your nine volt battery each year at the end of daylight saving

For more information about smoke alarms contact CFA District 17 on 1800 608 117 or visit

www.changeyourbattery.com.au

Brooke O'Connor



FRIDAY APRIL 8 Astronomy Night Laharum Hall

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 knowledge about the night sky and 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: 6.30pm for BBQ tea (not included in ticket price)
7.30pm Astronomy presentation

Cost: \$5 child; \$10 adult; \$20 family

For booking tickets contact Horsham Regional Art Gallery on 5362 2888. For details regarding the Art Is Festival please ring 5381 0297.

Arlene McDonald

MOBILE PHONE COVERAGE MEETING

Tuesday April 12, 6.30pm

Bill Mundy - Area General Manager, Telstra
Laharum Hall

Come along and have your say!

Starry, starry night exhibition

WARTOOK STUDIO GALLERY

Wartook Studio Gallery will offer a stimulating exhibition of fine art and textiles from local and visiting artists in conjunction with the Horsham Art is... Under Our Sky Festival.

The concept for the exhibition was chosen to highlight the night sky and in particular, Van Gogh's painting 'Starry Night'. Local artists have responded in a variety of ways with the Studio's traditional textiles of patchwork, felt making and knitting combining with painting, photography, emu egg carving, poetry, pottery and printmaking.

Studio Gallery artists are excited to be working with local and visiting indigenous artists to present their work to the local community and visitors to the Wartook Valley.

Gail Harradine, Coordinator and Wotjobaluk/Jadawadjali/Djubagalk Traditional Owner, provided the following information about their involvement:

"Eleven Indigenous artists of local

Wotjobaluk/Jadawadjali heritage as well as associate Indigenous members of Wurega Aboriginal Corporation Inc, including invited guests from Pangula Mannamurna, Mount Gambier, are extremely pleased to be exhibiting as part of the 'Starry Starry Night' Exhibition at Wartook Studio Gallery in April in conjunction with the Under Our Sky - Art is... Festival.

All artists are excited with the theme and can relate to the sky through the close association we feel with mother earth. This is what often draws us together from different groups and communities. As a result, we welcome Pangula's involvement in encouraging artists to express themselves 'from over the border' with our mob based in the Wimmera, a truly wonderful partnership! Our world's alignment in the presence of the wider cosmos and how this relates to our cultures, our seasons and environment around us is of particular fascination and has created some wonderful creativity in our small group. Our spaces in between within the vastness of the night sky reflects a myriad of important creation figures such as Tchingal the Giant emu and the stars lead us to linking spiritually with our creation world and our ancestors.

Contributed artwork encompasses photographic prints, painted emu eggs, paintings, and poetry. The Artworks are in many ways a mapping of sky, stars, and moon encapsulating the knowledge of our Boorong people, our Elders and others, as well as historical research by William Stanbridge. This opportunity to exhibit with other professional artists through the Wartook Studio Gallery provides a healing outlet for all of us in caring for our spiritual wellbeing as Indigenous people."

Everyone is invited to attend the opening by Natimuk artist and community arts worker, Carolynne Hamdorf, on **Sunday April 3** at 11am. The exhibition will continue until May 2. Gallery hours are 10am-5pm daily during April.

Further details contact Gill Venn at Wartook Studio Gallery on 5383 6243.

Gill Venn

Brimpaen Craft Group



Tuesday April 5 – trip to Stawell. Meet at Dadswells Bridge at 9.30am.

Tuesday May 3, 10am-2.30pm at Brimpaen Hall - stitch and stuff toys. Please bring

embroidery threads, 10"x10" backing material and wadding to fill toy. Material to embroider provided. Contact me on 5382 5559 for more details.

Jill Sinclair



Great Southwest Rally, Grampians

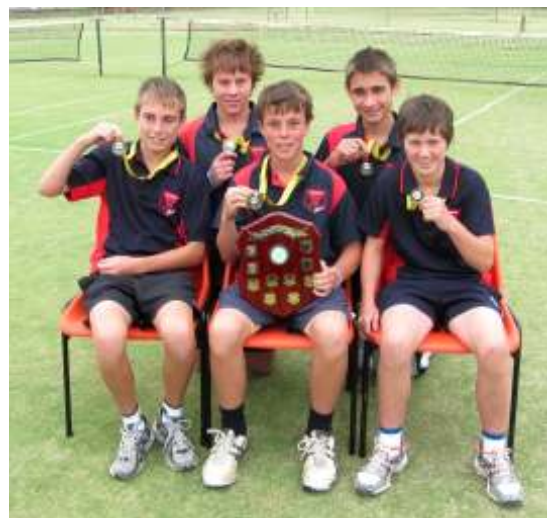
On **Friday April 8** a National Rally of Classic cars, organised by the Bristol Owners Club Australia, will be arriving at Wartook around midday and Jenny will be providing lunch at The Wander Inn. We would be very enthused to meet like-minded people and cars to 'chat and chew' at this stopover.

These 33 cars, 28 of which are Bristols of various ages from 1949 to latest, are available and are quite unique.

After World War 2, when Germany was overrun, details from the BMW factory were obtained, and, because Bristol bombers were no longer required, England needed to rebound from the ashes. Consequently, the British Aircraft Company decided to build cars at their Bristol factory, as a need to export. These Bristol cars are built by hand over formed structures to aircraft standards, and are still being crafted in the same way today.

The Rally assembles in Lorne, Sunday April 3, will travel along the Great Ocean Road to Port Fairy as a base camp and spread out on day excursions for three days. Finally the last day will be a trip through the splendour of the Grampians National Park, staying at Halls Gap overnight, and heading for home on Saturday morning. For more information contact me on 5358 5101 or email arthur.byron2@bigpond.com.

Arthur Byron



Under 14B
Boys
Tennis
team

2011
Winners

MOBILE PHONE COVERAGE MEETING

Tuesday April 12, 6.30pm

Bill Mundy, Telstra
Laharum Hall

Below is an excerpt from a letter sent to Bill Mundy Area General Manager, Telstra on February 16 this year. As a result of this letter he has arranged to meet our community at Laharum Hall and listen to our needs and ideas on **Tuesday April 12**.

In the letter sent to Bill Mundy, I pointed out some negative impacts of unreliable mobile phone coverage for our community.

"This is not only a grave concern for the personal safety of the people who live in this area, but the Wartook Valley, Laharum, and Brimpaen areas of the Grampians are also very popular tourist areas, and the lack of good reliable reception creates an issue of safety and security for tourists and a very poor image of Australian services to International visitors. The subsequent result of this situation has a financial impact on the tourism sector, the business sector and personal sector of our community.

The recent problems of floods (which was a change from bushfires) left quite a lot of people in this area with no contact with the outside world for help, which as you can imagine has left a lot of people irate and upset with Telstra services".

We have started a petition requesting Telstra install appropriate infrastructure to provide reliable mobile phone coverage. We already have a number of signatures, but if there is anyone else in the community who would be interested in signing it, there are some copies at The Wander Inn and Wartook Studio Gallery or ring me on 5383 9223.

Hopefully we can impress our circumstances on him and with his input, we can come away better informed as to what has to be done either by Telstra, the Government or us to improve our services sooner rather than later.

Maureen Campbell, Cherrypool

Mobile Library



Mobile Library will be at Laharum again on **Wednesdays April 13 & 27** and **May 11 & 25**. See you there!
Bryan Rohde

Laharum Parent Club



Our AGM was held Monday March 21 and Office Bearers were elected as follows:
President - Deirdre Baum; Vice President - Jenny Gaulke; Secretary - Angela Spillman;

Treasurer - Deb Hutchinson; Ass. Treasurer - Wendy McInnes.

Our first fundraiser will be the Easter Wartook Market Saturday April 23, and we are looking for donations/contributions toward this effort.

Jenny Carter

Laharum Landcare Group



Nine members attended the last Laharum Landcare meeting held on March 10. Discussion of weed spraying, use of the new trailer spray unit and sourcing and use of poisons dominated the meeting.

It was resolved to appoint Gil Hopkins as Equipment Officer, and John Fisher and Harrie Daams as Deputy Equipment Officers to attend to the safekeeping and maintenance of the Group's equipment, and help others learn how to use it.

Our Landcare Group has chemicals available for members to spray declared weeds, and also some equipment and help with weeds, revegetation and other projects. Landholders in Laharum area can join our Landcare Group for only \$10 - ring 5383 8207.

Reports received at the meeting included progress on the revegetation of Combe-Gaulke Wonwondah property; flood damage to Hugh Russell's property, and a report from Habitat 141 Zone 2 gathering held in Struan, SA. This latter project seeks to restore the links between major national parks and nature reserves over a 700km stretch straddling the SA, NSW and Victorian border region.

Next meeting will be on **Thursday April 14**, 7.30pm at Laharum Hall. This meeting will consider expenditure by the Landcare Group on funding the purchase and further development of an experimental gasifier to be fitted to a tractor, so that biomass (grains) could be used to supplement diesel fuels.

Rob Lucas

Classics in Wartook Valley



After two successful Classics in Wartook Valley, it was disappointing that not enough interested people came forward at a community meeting to form a new committee.

If you would like more information or are interested in being part of a committee in 2012, please ring me on 5383 6242.

Jenny Hill

Laharum Hall Committee



At our recent AGM we elected Gil Hopkins President, Bruce Winfield VicePresident, Judy Berendsen Secretary/Treasurer and Judy

Johnson/Helen Francisco Catering organisers. Our Committee also includes Maurice Dumesny, Judy Gardner, Jenny Hill, Deb MacInnes, Leigh Mibus, Alison White and Sue Winfield.

Generally Laharum Hall Committee includes representatives from each user group, so if your group wants to be included please contact Judy Berendsen 5383 6265. Laharum Hall is there for community use, so the Hall and its equipment are available. Ring Judy.

We have been successful with a grant application and will soon have carpet in the new room. As usual we are also applying for grants for other equipment.

We are planning a number of events this year, starting with a Monte Carlo night on Lucky **Friday 13 May** (see you there!), with others yet to be finalised.

Gil Hopkins

Warracknabeal
Studio Gallery &
The Wander Inn
**Easter
Market Day**
Saturday 23rd 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: Wendy McInnes
Studio 53 856 243 or Home 53 836 220
Email: wartookg@bordernet.com.au

The adjoining Artists Studio Gallery is open from 10 - 3
for your enjoyment. The Restaurant (Darn) is still open.
3037 Main Grampians Rd, WARRACKNABEAL, GRAMPIANS

Brimpaen Ladies Social Club



Mayor, Michael Ryan spoke to members at our last meeting on March 29 of the Brimpaen Ladies Social Club.

On **Tuesday April 26** we will travel to Warracknabeal where the Warracknabeal and District Ladies' Rest Room Committee will talk about their important facility which has been running since 1928. They will also provide a light lunch.

Bonnie Gelman

Horsham South Garden Club



Thursday April 28 – garden walk to Natimuk. Leave KMart car park at 10am – bring lunch, drinks and chair.

Thursday May 26 – a trip to Pomonal visiting Rocket Cottage Plants, Herbs & Natives and

also Pomonal Wildflower Nursery. Leave KMart car park at 10am. Bring lunch and chair – hot water provided.

Lola Ervin

Yoga at Laharum Hall



Yoga 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.

We'll have a break during the school holidays and will resume on **Wednesday May 4**, 7.30pm.

Please ring on 5383 6265 if you are a newcomer.

Judy Berendsen

Wonwondah Landcare



During March and April the rabbit ripping continues with all sites to be completed by May. The reporting can then be finalised to meet our guidelines set with the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority.

Some new sites have been identified and the recent flooding has not reduced the numbers at all, so we will continue to hit them hard.

Snail pellets have been purchased for this season and by all reports, the migration has continued south with the wet year creating ideal conditions for the snails.

Guest speaker at our next meeting will focus on handling our soils and this could be of assistance should the weather pattern continue with an already damp soil profile.

Next meeting will be **Monday May 2**, 7.30pm at Guest's dairy.

Chris Guest



Local Vocals

Laharum Hall

Leader – Merryn Eagle

THURSDAY MAY 5, 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**

Monte Carlo Night

Friday May 13, 7pm

Laharum Hall

Cost \$20 meal

BYO drinks

Purchase monopoly money on the night



Please join us and have some fun and help raise money for the refurbishment of Laharum Hall kitchen.

Games: Two up, Pontoon, Roulette, Spinning wheel, Texas Hold'em, all, Crown & anchor and others.

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

Please book for catering purposes by ringing Judy Berendsen on 5383 6265.

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



Australia's
**BIGGEST
MORNING
TEA**

Laharum Hall
Thursday May 26
11.30am for lunch

Donation \$15

'Bring and buy stall'
Raffle with great prizes

Invite along your partner, friend, family, neighbour!

Let's get together for a cancer-free future

RSVP by May 23 for catering purposes

☎ Liz 5383 8207 or

☎ Judy 5383 8288

Supporting research into the causes of cancer

Laharum Football & Netball Clubs



Welcome to season 2011. Football and netball is back again and hopefully we can have a competitive season. The Laharum Football and Netball clubs really need the support of the community either at the game or just socialising at training Tuesday or Thursday nights. A club cannot survive without the support of the community.

Marcus Demaria and the rest of his coaching staff have been working really hard to get the footy teams ready for the upcoming season. The Under 14's and Under 17's have been training at Laharum for about a month - the numbers are looking really good this year.

We had a practice match Saturday March 26 at Laharum and will be playing again Friday night April 1 at Horsham City Oval against Horsham United under lights.

Round 1 starts off on **April 9** at Natimuk. Auskick is underway on Friday nights at Laharum starting at 5pm with BBQ tea to follow. Everyone is welcome to come. For more information please contact Brian Burke on 0417 539723 or Rod and Sue Miller on 5383 9227.

Our senior netballers have been training for some weeks now under the expertise of Nat Oakley and Rhonda McNeil. The 17 & Under coaches are Nat and Alyshia Oakley; 15 & Under coach is Rachel McGennissen, and the 13 & Under coach is Jane Dunn. They are all training at Laharum Netball Courts on Thursday nights. Modifieds are still looking for coaches. If anyone is interested, please contact Roxanne Smith on 5393 9272.



We would love to see many supporters at the courts encouraging our girls for the 2011 season.

On behalf of the Laharum Football and Netball Clubs, we hope to see you all at the football and netball sometime this year.

Cameron Mibus, Chairman

FOR HIRE

Trestles and chairs are available for hire at reasonable rates from Laharum Hall

Contact Judy on 5383 6265

Wartook Valley Studio Gallery

Wartook Studio Gallery has been running as an arts cooperative, but from May 2 it will become an owner-operator business with Gill Venn as owner.

Wendy, Jenny and Isabelle have decided to relinquish their involvement in the business, however they will still be selling their artwork and helping occasionally with the roster. We thank them all for their long commitment to the Studio, especially Wendy, who supported and encouraged us all through difficult times. It has been a lot of fun over the 10-15 years. We also thank Alison White who has kept our books in order!

The Studio Gallery will continue to offer the same range of arts and crafts with quality souvenirs, but with the Grampians Road closures, the winter hours will be reduced to Thursday - Sunday 10am-5pm and daily during the holidays. *Open daily during April.*

Other opening times can be arranged. Please phone 5383 6243 or AH 5383 6246.

Gill Venn

OLD ROSEMONT QUILTS

After 10 years at Wartook Studio Gallery, I have decided to move my business 'Old Rosemont Quilts' back to the farm at Laharum starting in May. I will have all my fabric and sewing supplies available for sale. My hours will be Thursday and Friday 10am-4pm; weekends by appointment Phone/fax 5383 6229 or email: oldrosemont@skymesh.com.au.

To find me, turn into McTavish's Road (opposite Laharum Hall), take the first right turn at Rosemont then continue along the road until you get to Old Rosemont which is the last house, approx 2.5km from Laharum Road.

I am interested in starting a sewing group to meet either day, so if anyone is interested please contact me.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Isabelle Martin

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

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



Council is aware of significant flood damage that still requires rehabilitation and repairs, but the constraints of Government subsidy funding are such that Council employees cannot do the work and contractors need to be engaged. Council has now engaged a contractor to do about 25% of the total damage estimated at approximately \$4m and works will start in our area in late March/early April. We will continue to engage other contractors to do further work as soon as possible.

We have been advised that repairs to the roads in the Grampians will be extensive and possibly will not be able to be undertaken for a long while. We have also been advised that repairs would be in the order of \$20m plus.

However, we are working on improving the signage of Wartook by alternate routes. Council is engaged with discussions for the future of Bolte Highway to serve the Laharum/Wartook area.

David Eltringham, General Manager Technical Services

Brimpaen Tennis Club



Another season has passed us by and Brimpaen has finished the year as Premiers in B Grade and Runners up in A Grade - a great effort!

B Grade defeated Haven Blue 8 sets to 4 in what was a closer game than the score suggests. We were down 3 sets to 1 after the first round and things didn't look great, but we managed to regroup and get over the line. Well done to the B Graders!

A Grade got off to a great start winning 3 of the 4 mixed sets. We knew we were in for a battle and it sure was! We were defeated by Noradjuha by six games which is disappointing to get so close, but someone has to lose! Unfortunately this year it was us.

We held our break-up that night and it was great fun. Prizes were awarded for most set winners to:

A Grade - Luke and Courtney

B Grade - Ken and Theresa

We are keen to go for next season already and hopefully another successful year for Brimpaen.

Courtney Dunn

The Wander Inn



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

Watch out for our next special theme night!

Come along to the Easter Market on Saturday

April 23.

Jenny Wilson

This newsletter can be viewed at

www.laharum.vic.au and www.wartook.vic.au

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

Distribution of Community Notices

Australia Post has informed me that our method of distributing community notices will change from an informal arrangement to official mail. This change is a requirement of Australia Post to ensure service standards are met.

The change was a unilateral decision by Australia Post, following ongoing complaints about issues with the informal distribution of community notices.

Community concern about postal delivery was raised as an issue at the early Community Building Initiative meetings and subsequent action has failed to resolve all the problems.

Following my latest efforts to rectify the situation, Australia Post issued instructions that only official post should be distributed through the system and the long standing informal arrangements would be prohibited.

This has caused considerable concern about community service and the viability of community notice distributions. It is desirable that community members are given open availability to all public notices. Some options that could be considered:-

1. Bulk postage at 13.8 cents per delivery – has to be in a folded form
2. Collection from a community point - available from community places commonly visited
3. Email attachments - some people already receive the Newsletter via email. This is a paper saving and instantaneous method
4. Community web pages - I have been placing notices on the community websites for easy access no matter where you are, providing you have internet access.

While I am still waiting on the result of an appeal for a review of Australia Post's decision, it would be prudent to consider other methods of delivery, should the ban stand on the mail contractor distributing unofficial mail.

David Thompson

WCMA Group Support Update



The new interim CEO at Wimmera Catchment Management Authority is Don Forsyth. Don has a caretaker role and is helping with recruitment of a new CEO following the departure of Marc Thompson. Don was CEO for Corangamite CMA from its inception until last year and brings strong skills and experience in NRM and Landcare to the Wimmera. Marc Thompson will become CEO of the Ngarluma Aboriginal Corporation in Roebourne, WA.

Wimmera CMA is keen to provide support to help control weed invasions post-floods. We wish to thank local landholders who have been helpful in identifying blackberry and bridal creeper hotspots in particular. Feel free to contact me to discuss options for Landcare support in the region on 5382 1544.

Joel Boyd

*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 Primary School 2805



Welcome back to our new school year for 2011. Laharum Primary School numbers are strong this year with P-2: 16 students; 3-6: 18 students giving a total of 34

students. We welcome our new students Georgie and Cooper Tyler, Sophie and Tommy Spillman and Hannah Bone who has returned to us.

Laharum PS held a Parent Information Session and Welcome BBQ on Thursday March 10. It was a terrific opportunity to 'catch up' and ask questions about the school, followed by an enjoyable, relaxed BBQ together.

On Monday March 21 we held our second Badge Presentation Assembly for our Student Leaders. This is an important event to recognise the value and importance that we place on the senior students, and the responsibilities they have across the school. Congratulations to Cameron Sykes: Year 6 Student Leader, President Helping Hands Committee and Bus Captain.

Congratulations to the Year 5 students who are all assistant Student Leaders. From this group, two students will soon be elected as Secretary and Treasurer of the Helping Hands Committee.

Congratulations to our new Bus Captains - Debbie Jager and Charlotte Launder. We wish these students all the very best in their new roles during 2011.

The Helping Hands Committee has already been active leaders within the school by conducting our first Crazy Hair Day to raise money for the Leukaemia Foundation. Well done to all students for their involvement in this event and to Mrs Eagle for ordering the supplies. The extra hair scrubbing was worth it, raising a total of \$95.

We are certainly well and truly back into the flow - everyone is working hard right across the school.

Term 1 has seen a fantastic opportunity for our students to have some extra free-of-charge activities on site, after school each Thursday through a funded Active After School Program learning many new multi-skills with our own Sally McKenzie.

We must also congratulate Hannah Bone for her outstanding efforts at the Zone & Regional Swimming Sports. Well done Hannah!

Other Laharum Primary School activities held during Term 1 have been - Pancake Tuesday - a great success. Years 3-6 Fruit Art lesson, at which the students did a fantastic job. We will endeavour to place some photos on our school website in April of the amazing Food Art. This was followed by a badminton clinic with Ray. Hopefully some Laharum students will take up the opportunity to play badminton in Horsham!

Two very important events have also been conducted - those being the School Council and Parent Club Annual General Meetings.

Congratulations to the new Office Bearers of the Parent Club. Deirdre - President; Jenny G - Vice-President; Angela Spillman - Secretary; Debbie Hutchinson - Treasurer; Wendy - Ass. Treasurer.

School Council has welcomed our new Councillors - Adrian Bone and Rhonda McNeil. Congratulations to the new Office Bearers - Jim Carter - President; Rob Launder - Vice President; Helen Strachan - Secretary and Tim Martin - Treasurer. Jenny Gaulke will

be our Parent Club representative. Thank you to everyone for their involvement in these two important groups.

Finally, we are off on our week-long school camp to Echuca. Years 1-6 from Monday April 4-Friday 8, with our Prep students joining us on Thursday and Friday. Both staff and students are looking forward to an amazing educational experience at Echuca, which will complement our current term theme 'The River'.

Please remember to visit our school website for all your up-to-date information

www.laharumps.vic.edu.au/

Robyn Jones

Assessment of the Mt Zero bore field



Update as at 25 March 2011

GWMWater

Assessment of the Mt Zero bore field

GWMWater has engaged consulting firm URS to undertake an assessment of the Mt Zero bore field (also known as the Laharum bore field). This report is a Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) requirement for renewing our groundwater licence to access water from these bores. The DSE will review the report and make a recommendation to the Victorian Water Minister.

The bore field has proven to be very responsive to pumping and rainfall, as indicated in the graphs published on the GWMWater website and in this newsletter over the past year. So far the evidence suggests there is a significant local resource with the capacity to yield useful volumes of water over an extended period of time.

The capacity of the aquifer to cope with larger extraction rates, even for short periods, and the potential impacts of sustained higher rates has not however been tested. It is important to understand these limits as a large groundwater supply would effectively drought-proof Horsham and support potential development opportunities. This information would help eliminate some of the assumptions and uncertainties around the groundwater resource at Mt Zero and assist GWMWater to develop a long-term management approach for the aquifer.

Preliminary advice from URS recommends a survey of groundwater bores and an extended pumping test. GWMWater is planning to proceed with a test in the next few months.

The final consultant's report, results of the survey and tests will be communicated and available to the community and key stakeholders in due course.

In the meantime people seeking further information are encouraged to contact Kate Morrison at GWMWater on 1300 659 961.

Aussie Flower People

1943 Northern Grampians Road
Laharum Phone 5383 6201

Open Fridays and Saturdays
10am to 4pm

Lovely native plants for your garden



Trust for Nature



Funding opportunities for Buloke protection and restoration!

Trust for Nature is leading a three year project funded by the Commonwealth Government's Caring for our Country initiative, titled Linking Landscapes and Communities: Buloke Woodlands of the

Wimmera. The project objectives are to connect, restore and protect areas with Buloke trees and associated grassy woodlands. Pest plant and animal control activities will be funded to help achieve the recovery.

Standard rates will apply to fencing, revegetation works, rabbit and Bridal Creeper control and incentives will be used for short fixed term and permanent protection. Areas being targeted may be Buloke dominated or smaller areas where Buloke is a component of the vegetation. Project area is most of the southern Wimmera south of the Little Desert from the Northern Grampians in the east to the West Wimmera. In the Northern Grampians area, 'Grampians to Little Desert Bio-link' are delivering on-ground works for the project.

Activities and landholders in the project area are being sought by an expression of interest process. If you wish to participate in the project and have small or large areas of Buloke on your land, Trust for Nature and its partners urge you to make an expression of interest so that an initial assessment can be made.

Periods of high summer rain are important in natural Buloke recovery and recruitment, so have a close look at signs of new life amongst your areas of Buloke, particularly those with little or no grazing pressure. It is anticipated that re-planting of Buloke will also see good results with sub-soil moisture greater than it has been in a long time.

To make an expression of interest, please contact me at Trust for Nature on 0429.431099 or by email on adamb@tfn.org.au. Expressions can be made this way directly or an EOI form can be sent out to interested landholders.

Adam Blake

Art of Autumn

Cycling around our neighbourhood today I was transported into the art of autumn.

Clear blue sky, warming sun exciting jewels of light on the dew, music on the wing and fragrance of the bush. It was hard to reconcile such beauty and serenity with trauma of tsunami and horror of war. How lucky I am to be here and now.

It's so easy to get embroiled in human preoccupation and superficiality to the exclusion of the wonder of life and the comfort of sharing. All around us at the moment is a resurgent nature and vibrant life. This autumn is a palette of natural joy. Nature provides the instruction and perspective to balance the egocentricity of humanity.

Take the time to breathe it in and celebrate the wonder of the moment!

David Thompson

Laharum Kindergarten



The term has flown with lots happening.

Our topics of interest have been dinosaurs, bugs and butterflies, wind, fishing, Australian animals, robots and aliens and puppets. We were really lucky to watch the monarch caterpillar turn into a chrysalis and then into a butterfly. Four in fact! We took them outside and let them go and the children really enjoyed these experiences. From that, we have been looking at bugs of all sorts and found an amazing giant preying mantis in the kinder yard. We captured him in a net and shared him with the Preps, Ones and Twos. We then let him go in the school yard. This was a great find. If you come across any creepy crawlies at home, please feel free to bring them in.

The children have also been enjoying doing some lovely artwork with food dye, sand, paints and boxes. There has been some fantastic box constructions made lately from submarines to aliens to life-sized people (Mia). Remember, we always appreciate recyclables.

Recently we enjoyed joining in the school's crazy hair day. It was great to see some kinder kids come with crazy hair, and by the end of the day nearly all of us had crazy hair! This was in support of the Leukaemia Foundation.

The committee has been really busy with some fundraising efforts too. We tendered the sweeping of the field days pavilions and stewarded the fishing comp. Thanks to all those parents and friends who helped with this. It was a great effort and proceeds very much needed for the kinder. Thanks Jo Gardner for coordinating these events.

We currently have a bulb drive so if you would like to buy some bulbs and support kinder, please ring the kinder.

Thanks to Babs for donating some vegies to our garden - it's looking great. Also to Lisa for repairing our bikes and wooden planks - they were in desperate need! Thanks to Amanda for purchasing new phones which will be vital as part of our evacuation procedure, which we have been practising with the children.

I am about to purchase approximately \$4,000 worth of new equipment for kinder which will be fantastic! This money has been allocated to us from the Department and all kindergartens have received it to purchase and update equipment. I will display the list when it is completed and then present the equipment when it arrives - thank you to the Education Department. If you have any toys at home that you no longer need, the kinder will also greatly appreciate them.

Tori, Katie, Tracie and myself attended a professional development day relating to the new framework for kindergartens. This framework is being implemented across all kinders and training is necessary as it is compulsory. You will start to see evidence of the framework being used in my programming.

A dad's night was held and this gave them an opportunity to enjoy an evening with their preschool child and to mingle and talk 'dads talk'.

Thanks to everyone for your ongoing support and efforts. Keep up the great work everyone!

Jo Bone, Director

Daniel Berendsen Auto Electrical

ABN 77698617692

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and Wiring
Light fitting, Radio Installation
Phone Daniel on 5383 6265



ITEMS AVAILABLE

Anyone interested in the following Laharum Hall items, please contact Judy Berendsen on 5383 6265 -

- 4 large aluminium framed windows with timber surrounds
 - 1 small opaque timber-framed window
 - Used stage curtains with rings
 - Small 240V amplifier and speaker with microphone – working
 - Quantity of carpet tiles
- All donations considered.

HELP WANTED

Electrical, plumbing and plastering

To finish and sign off on a small weekender in
Wartook Valley (internals only)

Gardening/handywork

Laharum Road property for half to
one day a week (negotiable)

Please contact Jack or Marie
on 5384 6209 or 0429.846209



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VICTORIAN BUSHFIRE INFORMATION LINE

1800 240 667

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

North West Grampians Newsletter

Community Calendar of Events 2011

April			
Saturday	2	6.30pm	Laharum Cricket Club breakup – The Wander Inn
Sunday	3		<i>Daylight savings finishes</i>
"	3	11am	Starry, Starry night Exhibition Opening – Studio Gallery
Tuesday	5	9.30am	Brimpaen Craft Group - Stawell
Friday	8	lunch	Great Southwest Rally – The Wander Inn
"	8	6.30pm BBQ	Astronomy night Art Is 'Under the Sky' – Laharum Hall
Saturday	9	Day	Laharum Football/Netball season commences
Tuesday	12	6.30pm	Mobile Phone Coverage meeting – Laharum Hall
Wednesday	13	9.30am	Mobile Library – Laharum Primary School
"	13	7.30pm	Laharum CFA meeting – Cameron Oval
Thursday	14	7.30pm	Laharum Landcare meeting – Laharum Hall
Saturday	23	10am-3pm	Easter Market – The Wander Inn/Studio Gallery
Tuesday	26	morning	Brimpaen Ladies Social Club – Warracknabeal
Wednesday	27	9.30am	Mobile Library – Laharum Primary School
Thursday	28	10am	Horsham South Garden Club
May			
Monday	2	7.30pm	Wonwondah Landcare Group – Guest's dairy
Tuesday	3	10am-2.30pm	Brimpaen Craft Group – Brimpaen Hall
Wednesday	4	7.30pm	Yoga – Laharum Hall
Thursday	5	7.30pm	Local Vocals – Laharum Hall
Wednesday	11	9.30am	Mobile Library – Laharum Primary School
Friday	13	7pm	Monte Carlo Night – Laharum Hall
Wednesday	25	9.30am	Mobile Library – Laharum Primary School
Thursday	26	10am	Horsham South Garden Club
"	26	11.30am	Biggest Morning Tea lunch – Laharum Hall

Exhibition

Starry, starry night exhibition – Sunday April 3 – Sunday May 1

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

Laharum's Football & Netball Draw for 2011 and Social Calendar

Round 1 - April 9 v Natimuk at Natimuk (Away)	
Round 2 - April 16 v Edenhope-Apsley (Home)	<i>Players Auction</i>
Round 3 - April 30 v Kalkee (A)	
Round 4 - May 7 v Noradjuha-Quantong (H)	<i>Netballers night</i>
Round 5 - May 14 v Harrow-Balmoral (A)	
Round 6 - May 21 v Pimpinio (A)	
May 28 Interleague	
Round 7 - June 4 v Swifts (H)	<i>Fancy Dress Cabaret</i>
Round 8 - June 11 v Taylors Lake (A)	<i>Mystery Bus Trip</i>
Round 9 - June 18 v Rupanyup (H)	<i>Footballer's Night</i>
Round 10 - June 25 v Natimuk (H)	<i>Miss Laharum Pageant</i>
Round 11 - July 2 v Edenhope-Apsley (A)	
Round 12 - July 9 v Kalkee (H)	<i>Goods & Services Auction</i>
Round 13 - July 16 v Noradjuha-Quantong (A)	
Round 14 - July 23 v Harrow-Balmoral (H)	<i>Talent Quest</i>
Round 15 - July 30 v Pimpinio (H)	
Round 16 - August 6 v Swifts (A)	
Round 17 - August 13 v Taylors Lake (H)	<i>Sponsor Day/Trivia Night</i>
Round 18 - August 20 v Rupanyup (A)	

September 17- Grand Final Day

Sunday September 18 - Vote Count & Junior Trophy Presentations

Friday September 23 – Senior Trophy Presentations

After all the 'away' games, Best Player announcements are at the Royal Hotel at 7pm



Under 12 Girls Runners-up 2011

Laharum Tennis Club



The tennis season came to an exciting end on Saturday thanks to a wonderful effort from the juniors, with all three junior teams playing in the Grand Final.

Congratulations to Under 14B Boys who brought home the shield, and bad luck to the Under 12B Boys and Under 12C Girls who just missed out, but all played well and still walked away with a runners up medal around their necks. Well done!

The presentation night was held also on Saturday night at Cameron Oval with a great turn up to end the season and to help celebrate the junior's win and runner ups.

Trophy winners for the season for most games were:

A Grade: Mens - Gus McNeil
Ladies - Naomi Voigt

B Special: Mens - Jack Shields
Ladies - Noela Sherratt

B Grade: Mens - Herb Hallam
Ladies - Nadine Miller

Under 14B Boys: Matt Velthuis

Under 12 B Boys: Rueben Launder

Under 12C Girls: Hettie French

Life memberships were also awarded on the night to Jenny Grimble, Nadine Miller and Tim Martin.

Deb MacInnes



Under 12B Boys

Laharum Cricket Club



Well, the end to the cricket season came with a thud as the ball hit the fence off a Bullant's bat to win the Grand Final against Laharum. At 9 wickets down, the game could have gone either way, but alas, a win to us was just out of reach.

C Grade was very unlucky not to be playing in the finals too. If Blackheath had made one more run against St Michaels, then our team would have made the play-offs, but again, this wasn't to be.

Our End of Season Function is to be held at The Wander Inn, Wartook on **Saturday April 2** at 6:30pm. As well as presenting trophies and having a good feed, the Cricket Club has organised the night as a thank you and farewell to John and Jane Griffith who have given so much for the development of cricket in the district with their coaching and support of our junior teams over a number of years. If you would like to attend this night, please contact Ben Peucker on 0408.011319, Peter Levey 5382 5691 or Yvonne Dawson on 5383 6364 for more information and to reserve seating.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has assisted with the Cricket Club for the season; parents for supporting the juniors with transport and encouragement, and those people who have helped with keeping the grounds and clubrooms clean and tidy.



The Jane McGrath Foundation, Pink Day, was held by both B and C Grades at Laharum Cricket Club. The teams raised nearly \$1,000 for Breast Cancer Research.

We would like to thank everyone who supported the fundraising days including players and supporters of both Quantong and Lubeck/Murtoa Cricket Clubs. Pictured is the Laharum B Grade at Cameron Oval.

Hope to see you all next October!

Peter Levey, President



Riding for the Disabled



From an overall perspective, the 2011 Horsham flood is certainly not one of the world's major catastrophes. But for those who were affected by it, there will be some lasting reminders. For a year that marks the 30th Anniversary of the operation of RDA in Horsham, it will also, hopefully, be remembered as the year we came back bigger and better after the flood.

While we were all on holidays, there was a growing anticipation that we would have to plan something to celebrate such a significant birthday. Of course all such thoughts were put aside when the torrential rains came, and the Wimmera River steadily rose higher and higher. After that, the priority was one of repair and what needed to be done to allow us to operate at even a basic level.

Our Centre is incredibly grateful to all the individuals, service groups and Horsham Rural City Council for their help at working bees or with donations, because with their assistance we have now reached a stage where we can begin our rallies and allow our riders to once more have their special 'horse-time'.

Two of our paddocks have been re-fenced, so our horses have returned there. Our arena has been dried and treated, and is now usable. Our hydraulic mounting ramp shrugged off the water and operates as well as ever, and although the toilet building isn't brilliant and will need to be replaced; it is still usable. Our kitchen is one area that will take longer to replace, but with the help of some donated furniture, we have set up a temporary area nearby where we can boil a jug and store some basic things.

Above all, we can still plan for a 30th celebration, which will now be combined with a reconstruction celebration sometime in the second half of the year! Watch this space for details!

For any more information about our rallies or RDA in general, you can contact Tina Pallot on 5382 2346, or our President, Jan Hutton-Croser on 0429 935382.

Tina Pallot



RDA Training day - this shows how the riders mount the horse at the start of each lesson standing on the hydraulic mounting ramp. It can be lifted to suit any sized horse.

Laharum Rural CFA



The fire season for grass and scrub has certainly come to an end. Recently we attended a hay shed fire in our area which destroyed a number of bales and some equipment. It would have been great to see a few more attending.

In the last 12 months in the region a few houses and sheds have burnt down due to people not responding to pagers. In one case one truck attended a house fire, had it nearly under control but ran out of water, and the house burnt down while refilling. More trucks had been paged but members DID NOT RESPOND TO THEIR PAGERS. If this was YOUR PLACE you would want as many there as quickly as possible! There are 27 pagers in the district, please use them. Batteries are available at District 17 Office in McLachlan Street.



Rural Championships for District 17 and District 4 were held at Casterton on Sunday March 27. It was a very successful day with two junior and one senior teams competing. The results were as follows:

Juniors 11-15 years

1st - Laharum A: 96 points

Runners Up - Lubeck & Horsham: 46 points

Juniors 11-13 years

1st - Laharum: 90 points

Runners Up - Lubeck: 66 points

Seniors

1st tie -)Horsham

)Lubeck B: 48 points

Runners Up - Lubeck A: 42 points

End of fire season meeting to be held at Cameron Oval on **Wednesday April 13**, 7.30pm. Hope to see you there!

Mark Francisco, Captain

