

North West Grampians Newsletter

267 Pohlners Road, Laharum 3401
Phone 5383 8207 giliz@netconnect.com.au

December 2008

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the newsletters throughout the year. This service is available for the community to inform readers of particular issues/discussions, activities, meetings, etc. We are an active and vibrant community!

Liz Hopkins



Ararat Theatre Group performing 'Caravans'

Brimpaen Christmas Tree

FRIDAY DECEMBER 5, 6.30pm

Tea will commence at 7pm followed by children's items, Carols and a visit from Santa!



BBQ tea with meat supplied
BYO salad & sweet to share and drinks
Cost: \$10 per family; \$5 per person



Running raffle with excellent prizes donated by local businesses
Gifts up to \$10

Enquiries Kerry-Anne Chincarini on 5383 9266

Mobile Library



Dates for our visit are: **Wednesdays**
December 10, 24 and January 7, 21.

Remember we still visit every site during school holidays. It is open to everyone - not just school kids.

You can also visit our website and find items all over the State now, and get them sent to the Mobile Library at no charge at all.

See you there. Regards
Bryan Rohde, Mobile Library



Laharum Kindergarten

Invites the community to a
Christmas party

Saturday December 6, Laharum Hall

Activities from 5pm – Gourmet dinner from 6pm

Face painting and jumping castle
Silent auction with excellent items

Santa will be there!

Cost: \$10 adult; \$5 child; \$25 family
BYO drinks and chairs

RSVP Caroline 5383 6382 or Deirdre 0429.136319

Laharum Primary School Concert and Community Carol Singing

THURSDAY DECEMBER 11

6.30PM SHARP

Laharum Hall

Children's acts and Carol singing

Santa gift to the value of \$5-\$10

Please bring a plate of supper
Parents Club Christmas raffle

Welcome to everyone!



Readings from the book 'First She Lived'

by Poet, Rhonda Pohlke of Ararat

to be held on

Friday December 12, 1pm

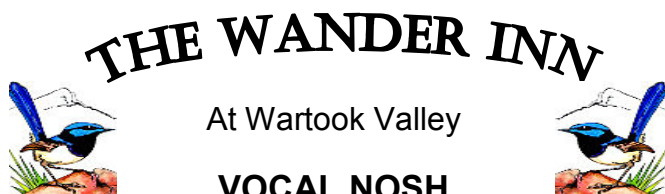
at the Horsham Library

Mibus Centre, 28 McLachlan Street, Horsham

In Celebration of the life of Eliza Lipson Allan,
pioneer woman in the Stawell/Great Western area

Enquiries phone 5352 1100

Cost of book: \$20 (special price on the day)



Friday December 12

Meal 6pm for a delicious smorgasbord of
cold meat & salads—BYO Alcohol

Followed by Community singing with
Fay White

Cost: \$16 adults, \$8 children 10 & under

Bookings essential phone 5383 6377

Singing ability not necessary. No solos

Enquiries: Deb MacInnes
5383 8203 or 0438.377 453



Prep/One/Two Camp at Grampians Retreat, Dunkeld

CFA, DSE and Fire Brigade

The community is invited to a free barbecue and information session on **Thursday December 11** at the picnic area next to The Wander Inn. Free sausage sizzle at 6pm followed by an information session at 7pm. BYO drinks and chair. The Session will include:

- Protecting your family and yourself during a wildfire
- How a bushfire might spread in your area
- What you can do to help your home survive a wildfire
- Come and find out about Community Fireguard
- An opportunity to ask any questions

For further information please contact CFA R17 Headquarters on 5382 6672.

Laharum Parent Club News



Since our last newsletter the Parent Club had a stall at The Wander Inn Market. We made \$ 500 and thanks to all those who supported us - a great effort!

Our next function was the Disco/Dance night. We were lucky to get funding to help run the night. We had a jumping castle which the kids loved; tea was provided and we danced along to a DJ who supplied the music. We even had a Grandma up dancing which was great to see! The kids dressed up in an 'Australiana' theme. We had a gold coin donation on the night and money raised went to the Wimmera Health Care Group.

Our next function was the Fun Run. This year the Parent Club organised this. We previously ran it through the Golden Circle organisation but felt that as a school, we could run it ourselves and keep all the proceeds raised. With the generous businesses of Horsham, Laharum and Wartook, we had some wonderful prizes to give away to the children. Thank you to all those people who sponsored our children. Now they have to think of what they would like to put this money towards. I am very pleased and excited to say that our children raised a huge amount of \$1,011. The kids' faces lit up when we told them how much they had raised - it is fantastic!

I would like to thank the following businesses for their generous support; Happy Wanderer, Horsham Aquatic Centre, Horsham Theatre, Horsham Video Ezy, Kids Capers, Laharum Bulk Handling, Laharum Football Club, Lanes and Games, Stawell Toy Kingdom, Toys Mini Golf, The Wander Inn, Wartook Bulk Haulage and Wartook Pottery Gift Shop.

Hope to see you all at our Christmas Concert at the Laharum Hall on **Thursday December 11**, 6.30pm sharp.

On behalf of Laharum Parent Club I would like to wish you all a very safe and a Happy Christmas.
Helen Francisco, Secretary

Laharum Social Tennis - Tuesdays



We continue to meet on Tuesdays from 2pm.
Come along for a hit!
Judy Gardner

Laharum Tennis Club



So far the tennis season has flown by. Our four grades are doing quite well. At the moment A Grade is sitting 6th on the ladder, B Special is 8th, B Grade Navy is

comfortably on top and B Grade Red is racing home from 5th spot.

Playing on the new courts has contributed to a lot of smiles from both home and away teams.

With Christmas fast approaching we have organised a Christmas break up. It will be at the footy clubrooms on **Saturday December 20** from 6pm. There will be a band and barbecue. Santa always makes an appearance for the kids - all welcome. This is the day that the rounds wrap up, but will resume on **Saturday January 31**.

Liv Miller

Friends of Grampians Gariwerd



Saturday January 10, 2009 annual *Ptilotus erubescens* (Hairy-tails) count. Please assemble 9.30am at the 'Cooinda Burrong' for the start of the survey count of flower heads at 10am.

The gate at the 'Dad & Dave' weir will be unlocked just after 9am. The gate must be kept closed and the chain on the hook - lock closest to the pole.

Either **Saturday March 7 or Sunday 8** (Labour Day weekend). The survey is to check the number of a little known rare Grampians plant 'Monotoca billawinica' - Grampians Monotoca. There is a small colony of this Monotoca located beyond 'Cooinda Burrong' that was included in the sample of plant material used to determine the species. The aim is to see how many plants have survived the dry years since the original surveys in February/March 1989.

The short-loop track has been cleared at the 'Wheel chair' Red Gum Walk in upper Victoria Valley and there will be ongoing working bees to clean the grasses from the red buck-shot gravel path.

Please contact me on 5383 6349 if you are interested in attending any of these activities.

Stan Parfett



AUSTRALIA DAY BREAKFAST

Monday January 26, 2009 8am

Brimpaen Hall

Guest speaker – Ann Penny

Flag raising ceremony

Lucky door prizes and raffle

All welcome

Organised by Brimpaen Ladies Social club

Enquiries ☎ Dot on 5383 9240

Brimpaen Craft Group



Tuesday February 3, 2009 10am – 3pm at Brimpaen Hall. At our first meeting for the year we will discuss the year's syllabus.

Jill Sinclair

Yoga at Laharum Hall



Yoga resumes on **Wednesday February 4**, 2009. Please ring me on 5383 6265 if you'd like more information on the benefits of yoga and what you need to bring to the sessions.

Judy Berendsen

CFA Training Dates



A few members have asked if the brigade could organise a training session at the Wimmera Field Training Ground at Longerenong in the near future. For those who aren't familiar with the training ground,

it consists of a variety of exercises from house fires, fuel spills, pole fires and gas cylinders, just to list a few. Probably the more personal the better! Anyone interested, please contact me on 0428.838242 so we can organise the day or evening. Fair chance it won't be until early next year. It is open to all Grampians Group members!

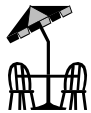
From all reports those who attended the joint group exercise between the Grampians Group and Jilpanger Group had a good day learning many aspects of fire fighting, especially the 4WD in sandy terrain. Thanks all for attending that day.

The next training that's available locally is 'Plantation Fire Fighting' for **Tuesday February 10 & Sunday 15, 2009** at Brimpaen. Those who are interested should contact their brigade training officer.

Please remember to take either truck for a run. Don't be afraid if you're a Wartook resident to come up to take Tanker A for a run and vice versa, if living in the north end of our brigade to take the Tanker (Hino).

Luke Dumesny

Brimpaen Ladies Social Club



Tuesday February 24, 2pm at Brimpaen Hall. This will be our AGM and we will discuss our syllabus for the year.

Margo Hamilton

Horsham South Garden Club



Thursday February 26, 2009 12 noon – shared lunch at the home of Elizabeth Johns, 9 Withell Street, Horsham. AGM and all discuss syllabus and ideas for the year.

Lola Ervin

Wartook Christian Home Meeting

Our group meets every Friday evening from 7pm and everyone is welcome for friendly supportive activities - venues vary.

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

Garry Newman

GRAMPIANS TEXTURE WORKSHOP

An exciting concept in contemporary textile forums
Saturday February 21 - Thursday February 26, 2009

Two (weekend) or four day Monday-Thursday workshops being offered in Halls Gap. Daily from 9.30am-4pm with lunch provided. Early bird bookings by 1.12.08!

Grampians Texture will give artists the opportunity to develop their artistic practices in one of Australia's most beautiful settings, under inspiring tuition from textile tutors from across Australia, West Timor and New Zealand.

Two or four day textile workshops cover quilt making, felting, embroidery, silk painting, stitching, jewellery, shadow puppets, leather shoe, dyeing, printing, fabric manipulation, knitting, shibori, sculptured dolls, journaling for artists, bag making and much more.

Other activities include exhibitions and traders market - India Flint, Jude Skeers, Wendy Lugg, Colleen Weste, Ruth Hadlow, Jane Siddall, Keith Lo Bue, Yvonne Twining, Rose Kingsmill, Mary French, Liz Evans, Susan Matthews, Jan Irvine-Nealie and Ilka White.

Bookings, workshop details, enrolment form and further information from Halls Gap Visitor Information Centre on 5356 4616, grampianstexture@gmail.com or www.visitallsgap.com.au/grampianstexture

Laharum Landcare Group



LANDCARE

In October we had our AGM, all office bearers were re-elected in to the same positions.

Eleven members went on a bus trip to Great Western to see the work done on mixed farming properties. Worked varied from salinity, gully erosion, shelter belts to pasture improvement; it was a very picturesque part of the country with its own problems due to the steep hills. On the way back we inspected work which has been done along Pleasant Creek at Stawell by their Urban Landcare Group; they have achieved a lot for a small group of dedicated people.

Weeds have been a bit of an issue this season. Paterson's Curse has been sprayed on a couple of properties; this is one weed we would not like to get out of control. Bridal Creeper and Cape Tulip has also been sprayed. **Please** help us keep these weeds under control! Contact myself on 5383 8218 or Gil on 5383 8207 if you see any unwanted weeds.

The fox bounty of \$5 a tail is still on offer for the Laharum area. Rabbit warren ripping is available if needed at no charge - please contact me.

Our breakup meeting is Thursday December 4, 6pm at The Wander Inn.

Mark Francisco, President

WARTOOK VALLEY 'ELECTRICAL'

Terry Williams 'A' Class 'Sparks' and Satellite Broadband installs via Skybridge

"No job too small" ☎ 0416.203401

Grampians – Classics in Wartook Valley Festival

Horsham Rural City Council in association with the Wartook Valley Festival Committee is proud to announce the newly created *Grampians ~ Classics in Wartook Valley Festival* to be held on the **Fri-Sun September 4-6, 2009. Put this in your 2009 diary!!**

The Festival will be an exciting and innovative event aimed to create passion for local community growth and direction. It will focus on a classic/classical theme incorporating produce, sustainability, arts, culture and diversity within the Wartook Valley area and municipality wide.

The Festival has been developed to showcase the unique characteristics that make up the Wartook Valley. The Festival will become a driving vehicle for product and profile development and awareness in a campaign to reveal the *sunny side* of the Grampians to the rest of Victoria. As a result, this is a fantastic opportunity for the community to be involved in a project that has the potential to draw tourists and growth to the area and become something special.

Exploring and utilising your five senses, this Festival will allow you to incorporate a sense of classic music, hands on art work and spaces, vintage cars, local produce to melt the taste buds and so much more against the backdrop of the Wartook Valley and Grampians mountains.

If you are interested in being involved in the development and growth of the Festival and would like to express your interest; become part of the Festival Committee; be a sponsor or supporter or know of someone who might be, please do not hesitate to contact me. *Watch this space!*

Melissa Russell

Event Development Officer

5382 9702 or 0409.179 612

Email melissa.russell@hrcc.vic.gov.au

Friends of Zumstein

A group of members, with the help of some prisoners from Ararat, helped clean up the garden at Zumstein, the historic trail and around the cottages. We now have mulch available when we do our planting next autumn. Another job was connecting water to the garden area again.

Thanks to everybody who took part.

Royce Raleigh

Brimpaen Tennis Club



Almost at the half way mark of the season and Brimpaen is looking pretty good. A Special is yet to lose a game and B Special is in the five, which is very good considering they had a hard year last year.

Here's hoping that our form continues into next year and we can have two teams playing in the finals! Merry Christmas to all!

Courtney Dunn

Laharum Preschool



Our year commenced with 14 children, with 16 enrolled by the end of the year. Seven of these will be attending Laharum Primary School next year. Unfortunately there are only 2 enrolled for kinder in 2009 with seven 3 year olds.

Topics covered this year included: beach, circus, space, Australian, transport and healthy food. We visited the Wimmera Base Hospital and the fire brigade came to visit us. We cooked damper for Aboriginal Studies and have been involved in the school transition program. Thank you to Robyn Jones and Kath Pallot for allowing us to be part of this.

We enjoyed Grandparents Day and Fathers Night at the beginning of the year and had visits from Wags the Beagle, Scallywags the Scarecrow and Thingle Toodle.

Thank you to Jo & Don Sudholz for helping us replace the shade sail over the sandpit, to Robyn Jones for collecting it from Stawell and also to Michael Bond for helping us with our maintenance.

We've been enjoying our canaries. They have been breeding but we've had five escapees! We are pleased to have a new veggie garden.

Thank you for my two assistants Tracey and Jenny – they have been a fantastic help. I really value the efforts the assistants put in.

I thank the committee for this year and look forward to working with my new committee in 2009.

Jo Bone

Wonwondah Landcare



During our recent meeting, considerable discussion was focussed on the Department of Primary Industries' approach to eliminating rabbits from private and crown land.

DPI representatives, Ellie Morrow and Lucy Ivey addressed the meeting and opinions were expressed that the eradication was one sided and reinfestation from adjoining land created a lot of problems and additional expense.

Ellie assured members the DPI had funds this year and was seeking a contractor to work on problems areas in the crown lands.

Members then sought cooperation from the Department for the ripping and extermination efforts to happen together to achieve the best results.

Ian Wentworth from JK Milling outlined marketing options for all the grain grown in this area, with the main message being the uncertainty of payment for grain from some of the overseas countries. However, Ian was positive for the coming harvest season.

May everybody enjoy a festive Christmas and a Happy New Year. Our next Landcare meeting will be in February 2009.

Chris Guest

Catchment News



The new and improved November 2008 issue of the Wimmera CMA Catchment News is now available for download from our Website

www.wcma.vic.gov.au

In this issue:

- Farming for the Future Forum
- Kids Conference
- Motivating Landholders to Change
- Growling Grass Frogs
- Environmental Flows
- World Wetlands Day 2009
- Regional Snapshots
- Regional Partnerships
- Important Dates and Funding Opportunities

Please report any difficulties in downloading the newsletter by e-mail robertsond@wcma.vic.gov.au
Dean Robertson 5382 1544

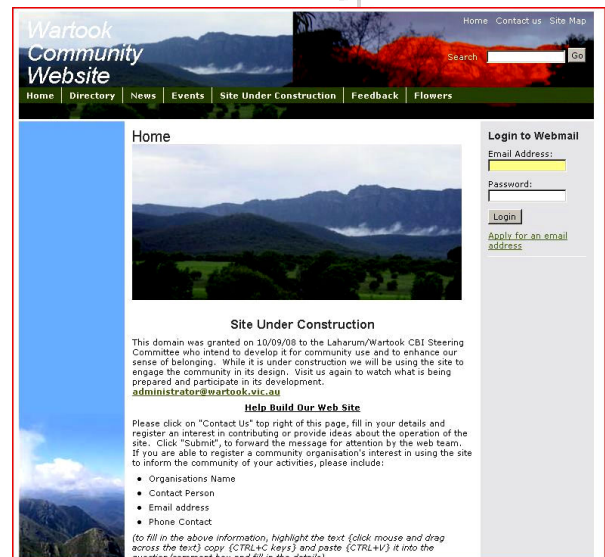
Community Website

Waiting to Launch!

The anticipated launch of the community websites depends on the adoption of Access and Use Policies for the sites. A recommendation is before the CBI Steering Committee, so it should be soon.

The sites have had over 300 visits in construction phase which augurs well for their future.

There is still an opportunity launch before Christmas but considering the urgency of the Hall refurbishment program and the school's redevelopment priorities, it is a matter of finding the time to deal with the websites. We may still have a community Christmas present!



David Thompson, CBI Steering Committee

GIANT KOALA – DADSWELLS BRIDGE

Thank you to everyone who supported us during the 3½ years running the Giant Koala.

Welcome to Rob & Julie-Anne McPherson from Melbourne! We wish them well working in our community.

David & Lorraine; Max & Jenny

Laharum Primary School



School Yard Cleanup - I would like to start this report with a huge *thank you* to the 14 Years 3-6 students who have

worked so tirelessly completing their contribution to the summer clean-up. The students worked from 10am until 1pm on clearing and mulching the front garden beds. If you haven't seen the beds yet - *they look great!* Of greatest urgency, is the removal of the large rubbish pile we have accumulated along Griffith's fenceline. If you can help with this, please contact a school council member.

School Disco - Congratulations to the Parent Club for their outstanding work on hosting the Australian Themed Disco. It was certainly a wonderful drought funded event to happen in the community which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

Scholastic Book Fair - Thank you to everyone for their involvement in our recent Book Fair. The overall purchases totalled \$1,301.48 which was a great effort. We receive books for hosting the fair and a commission from the sales which have to be used to purchase a new class set of atlases. Thank you everyone for your support.

Questacon Science Circus - Our visit to Haven PS was a great success. The students thoroughly enjoyed the science experiments presented by Questacon Science Circus. The students learnt about the effect of high and low air pressure and with liquid nitrogen, learnt about the 3 states of matter – liquid, solid and gas. The demonstrations were certainly a 'blast'. Following the show, the Laharum students mixed with the Haven and Natimuk students to complete even more science experiments before going swimming.

Swimming - On the topic of swimming, what an improvement in ability! The students always try so hard and have really improved their skills and water confidence. It is such a thrill to see students who were initially unsure of the water, now feeling confident enough to put their head under the water and float on their backs. Knowing what to do if you accidentally fall into water is just such an important skill for every child to have.

Horsham Learning Days - During October the students visited Goolum Goolum where they discussed and participated in Aboriginal art, producing the master piece now hanging above our office door.

Our next visit into Horsham saw students spend time with Mick Morris from Wimmera Waste busters who gave us a guided tour of the Horsham Transfer Station. It is amazing to see the items you can dispose of at the station and the many which are for sale at 'Paddy's Market'. We then travelled onto Mick's recycling plant in Golf Course Road where Mick explained how recycling items are sorted and then baled/packed for pickup. Our last stop was at the Dooen Landfill, to see the non-recyclable rubbish which is delivered to Dooen to be disposed of.

Melbourne Cup Day - We enjoyed some special multi-aged activities to celebrate the Melbourne Cup. Deirdre Baum conducted cooking classes to prepare a Cup Day School Luncheon. A great fun day was had by all.

New School - We finally have the news we've been waiting for! Laharum Primary School has been included in Cycle 3 - Stage 1 of the Building Futures Program for a rural replacement!! In other words – we will be getting a new school!

This news is very exciting, not just for the school, but for the whole Laharum community. It gives us the chance to really plan for the future, to think past the here and now. Ideas are needed from everyone. How can this wonderful opportunity benefit the whole community? What difference can it make to an already strong community? How can we make it better for the students of today and for the future? There is just so much to look forward to!!

Kanga 8s - Congratulations to the Years 5 & 6 students who represented the school at the Kanga 8s Cricket Competition in Horsham. The team participated very well, only being narrowly defeated in each game. Despite the heat, it was a great day for participation and enjoyment. Well done everyone!

Kinder - Prep Transition Program - November has seen the beginning of our Kinder-Prep transition Program. All pre-schoolers enjoyed their first day at school, participating in great activities with their Year 2 buddies. This very important program continues right through to state-wide transition day on December 9.

Fun Run - On November 20 our students participated in a Fun Run. Congratulations to all students (and extras) for their excellent efforts – we've certainly worn a track around Cameron Oval. Thanks to everyone for seeking out sponsorship. A big thank you to the Parent Club for organising this event. At this extremely busy time of the year, the staff certainly appreciated all the effort that has gone into organising the Fun Run. It's great to see such wonderful parent participation in our school activities. Well done everyone!

It has certainly been a very busy and exciting year with just so much going on in and around the school. Thank you to everyone who have been involved with the school throughout 2008 and your help and support is always much appreciated. Best wishes to everyone in the community for a happy and safe Christmas and harvest. Given our exciting news, we look forward to 2009 with even more enthusiasm.

Merry Christmas from Laharum PS staff.

Robyn Jones, Principal

Grampians Retreat Prep/One/Two Camp

What a fantastic experience we enjoyed at Grampians Retreat, Dunkeld on November 13 & 14 – photo Page 2. Every single child participated in all of the organised activities:

- ☉ Bush walk to check out the 'Kangaroo Freeways'
- ☉ Balancing log
- ☉ Flying fox
- ☉ Bush cooking (damper)
- ☉ Hut building

A huge thank you to all our students who were an absolute pleasure to be with on camp, and also a big 'thank you' to Maree & Dennis for making us feel so welcome and for the wonderful meals!!

Kath & Helen S

Laharum Rural Fire Brigade



Seasons Greetings to everyone! We hope you are all prepared for the oncoming season in terms of fire preparedness. Remember that restrictions are now in force. Make sure you have your fire plan

ready and have already made the decision as to whether you will stay or go in case of a fire. Move all combustible material away from your home, including recyclables and make sure that your fire fighting equipment such as fire trailers are in good working order.

There is a new truck roster included in this issue of the newsletter and will be distributed in the coming weeks along with new phone lists. If you are rostered to take the truck out for a run, please make sure you complete the logbook at the end of your run.

Thanks everybody for your support and assistance.

Don Sudholz, Captain ☎ 5383 6205

LAHARUM PRIMARY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER

One small step for the Environment using the 'Hughie Sink'

Designed to help your water saving problems around the house – from the kitchen to the laundry and the shower. By using the Hughie Sink around the home, you'll be able to capture up to 80% of all grey water.

It has many special features.

Don't be a drip – reuse every drop!

Teach our children to help the environment using a Hughie Sink



Available for Christmas at \$25

See Sharon at the school office between Monday-Thursday to checkout the product and place orders

Closing order date –Thursday December 11

Collection will be arranged with order

THE WANDER INN AND ARTISTS STUDIO AND GIFT SHOP



**We will be closed for Christmas Day
and reopening on Boxing Day
We apologise for any inconvenience**

Drop in and have a look at our range of gifts for Christmas! Thank you for supporting our Paraphernalia on picnic rugs morning.

Hours are Tuesday-Sunday 10am-5pm and Mondays during school and public holidays Tearoom and restaurant open Thursday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday evenings until 8.30pm and Takeaway menu Thurs, Friday & Saturday nights

Laharum Hall Committee



The Melodrama 'Caravans' was a great success. Twenty five members of the Ararat Theatre Group entertained us wonderfully. Most of all we had a laugh and how important that is in today's environment!



Caravanners at the show

A capacity crowd enjoyed a meal prepared by Judy Johnson and Helen Francisco and helpers. Thank you to them and also those who provided slices; helped set up and clean the hall for this event. Funds raised will go towards improving the hall facilities.

The evening also included an auction and we thank the following sponsors for their contribution: Laharum Grove, Grampians Horse riding, Emu Holiday Park, Howard Staehr, Asses Ears Lodge, The Wander Inn, Mt Zero Olives and Meringa Springs.

Thank you to everyone who has paid their hall subscriptions. These funds are very important for the ongoing improvement of the hall.

Seasons greetings to everyone!

Judy Berendsen

Solar electricity and hot water

At last, at last! We have just received notification from the Federal Government that our subsidy application has been approved. Hopefully everyone else will be getting theirs too. It's been months and months.

Now we have to start organising dates for the installations, but at least the process has started. It's not too late to join this bulk-buy scheme as subsidies are still available, but they are already using up the funds that had been set aside for next year. The one thing we know for sure is that electricity prices will continue to rise, especially when carbon offsets are included the price will rise at least to the cost of 'green energy' options. Please contact me on 5383 8207.

Gil Hopkins

Grampians Wartook Promotion Group (GWPG)

After a year in recess, the GWPG looks forward to the challenge of promoting our unique area for the benefit of all members.

A new map pad is currently being coordinated. Membership fees are now due; if you were missed in our mail out, please contact Jenny Wilson on 5383 6377 or Jenny Hill on 5383 6242.

Jenny Hill

Parks Victoria



Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby Re-introduction

These were introduced into the Grampians National Park on November 12 in a trial bid to save the critically endangered species from extinction in Victoria. The 10 Brush-tailed Rock-wallabies will create a second Victoria wild population in addition to the small colony of 20 animals that still exist in remote East Gippsland.

The release site chosen within the Grampians National Park provides excellent habitat, including rocky ledges and cliffs and plentiful food that is essential to the survival of the species. The wallabies will be monitored in the park using radio collars and remote surveillance cameras. Potential predators such as red foxes will also continue to be controlled.

DSE Fire Crews

Ten seasonal fire crew for the Grampians National Park have commenced.

Grampians National Park Roads

The Parks Victoria Road team have completed works on Glenelg River Road and Asses Ears Road. Some roads in the park are becoming corrugated and dusty, particularly Mt Zero Road. Maintenance work will be undertaken as soon as we receive enough rain to grade the surface. For further information on roads in the park contact Brambuk the National Park and Cultural Centre on 5361 4000.

Recovery Works

The Parks Victoria recovery crew are making great progress on the Mackey's Peak to Pinnacle Track expecting the track to be completed by autumn.

Prue Daley

GMMWater



Adapted from GMMWater article Rural Tariff Approved by ESC

The GMMWater pipeline tariff has been approved by the Essential Services Commission at 75 cents/kilolitre. Division 4 landowners can decide not to connect, new customers are being considered, increases in total charges due to changed pricing cannot be above 50%, and a smaller minimum charge is available for small properties.

For further information please contact Andrew Rose or Suzanne Hutchinson on 1300.659961.

Laharum Cricket Club



Both senior teams are having an excellent season with C Grade only losing one game so far. B Grade hope to have Captain Robbie Miller back soon after his knee operation and hopefully help keep the B Grade in finals contention.

Our Under 14s are going well. Congratulations to Daniel Griffiths for making the Western Ways Under 15 team.

Players are reminded to please have their subs of \$50 in by Christmas.

Peter Levey



Horsham Rural City Council

urban rural balance

Our fire-break program is complete and any road maintenance is currently routine work. We will be in a Minor Works only phase until January after which construction will resume.

I wish your readers a Merry Christmas and a FIRE FREE New Year. Regards.

David Eltringham

Wimmera Rural Skills Connect



This is a State wide skills initiative launched by the State Government in May and Tim Martin has been appointed as Project Manager for the Wimmera. Tim Martin will assist farming families and agribusiness employees to develop skills, and access employment opportunities across the region.

Tim said "we're not aiming to encourage farmers off the land, rather to help them gain formal qualifications so they have the option to work part-time or occasionally away from their farm, helping boost the family budget".

"While farming families are often keen to work off-farm, the cost of training is prohibitive in terms of dollars so hopefully this project can help".

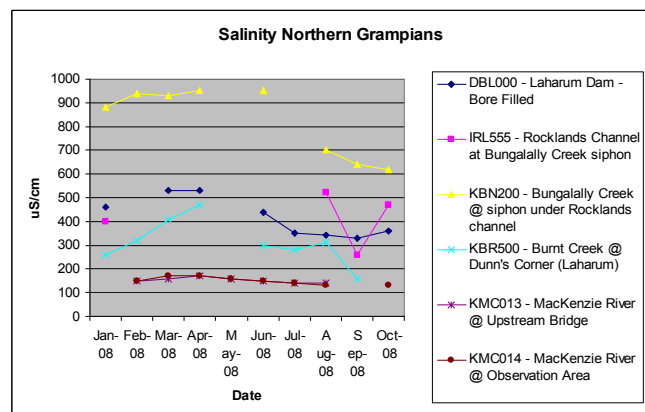
Tim encourages anyone interested in the project to contact him on 0429.957 643 or email

timmartin@westwimmera.vic.gov.au

Wimmera Community Waterwatch



Below is the latest salinity levels recorded for the North West Grampians Region by local Waterwatch volunteers.



You may be able to notice a few 'gaps' in the graph. This is the result of many sites drying out due to low rainfall, and warm weather evaporating remaining pools. Generally, however, salinity levels for the region are relatively low.

Bronwyn Bant

Photos and articles for this newsletter are much appreciated

Horsham RDA Centre



Our Centre has been honoured to receive a very generous donation of \$1,300 from the Horsham Patchwork Quilters Group. The donors asked us to nominate three items to buy with the money, and the group chose the option we were all hoping for, which was a horse. Plans are now well underway to purchase a suitable mount.

While we awaited this decision, another scheme was being hatched along similar lines. With the help of an ingenious fundraising plan; ie give money donations in lieu of presents for a member's major birthday party (devised by that member's husband), we were able to buy Ellie, a 13 year old, 14.1 hh Quarter horse cross mare. Ellie has stepped into her new role with ease, and is fast becoming a very popular team member. With her and the new 'patchwork' horse, we can now consider allowing some of our older horses and ponies to take a well-earned rest.

We all wish congratulations to our Centre's dedicated dressage rider Chris Hall, who had great success at the RDA National Dressage competition in October. He was placed second in all his events, ie the Team Test, the Championship Test and Freestyle Test. On top of this, his mount Elle (not the one we just bought) was the winner of the RDA National 'Willy' Award for Best Performed Horse. This is a great way for Elle to finish her career as she is now due to retire from competition and have a quieter life.

Sadly, one of our horses was unable to enjoy a happy retirement. Big black Mishka, our elegant Anglo Arab, suffered a severe colic attack last weekend. Despite a day-long battle to relieve it by the vet and several of our volunteers, it was clear by late evening that Mishka could not be saved and he was put down.

Mishka joined our Centre in August 2004 as a 22 year old ex-pony-club horse, and he became a great favourite of many of our volunteers and riders. In particular he could be trusted as a 'ride-alone' horse, which was a great confidence booster for riders learning to ride without a leader. He will be missed.

Now we have finished our riding sessions and our horses and volunteers are about to start their summer holidays. So we finish another eventful year and rest up for the year to come. Here's hoping it is a fruitful and rewarding 2009!

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

Tina Pallot

Department of Sustainability & Environment



Department of
Sustainability
and Environment

What a dry spring we have had, so much so that DSE did not do any Fuel Reduction burns in the Grampians - the consensus of opinion that it was just too dry. Halls Gap has now had nine consecutive months of below average rainfall.

The lack of virtually any meaningful spring rain has put the season about six weeks ahead of 'normal' but then again, what is 'normal' when it comes to the weather now-a-days. One fact is that our forests are

drying out very rapidly and the potential is there for another bad fire season.

This has prompted an early start for some of our PFF's (Project Fire Fighters) including two 'locals', Luke Dumesny and Jarrod Mibus. Currently we have 44 PFF's spread across DSE's Wimmera Fire District with ten at Halls Gap and 14 at Horsham.

These additional fire-fighters are engaged in other works when they are not fighting fires, such as weed and rabbit control and maintenance of firebreaks and access tracks on public land. This includes slashing and pruning back vegetation along our many roads and tracks.

Our 2008 Fire Operations Plan has been signed off by DSE and Parks Victoria. This is the plan we prepare each year detailing where we intend to do Fuel Reduction Burning on public land. This year we plan to treat 6,437ha in the Grampians. Extensive public consultation is undertaken in preparation of the plan. The public play an important role in ensuring that our fire plans reflect a balanced community view. This year we have received a lot fewer submissions than in 2007 which was prepared shortly after the Mt Lubra fire. In 2006 the huge majority of submissions urged the Department to do more fire protection works.

Congratulations to CFA Grampians Group Officer, David Grimble on being elected to the Horsham Rural City Council. I am sure you will do a fantastic job David!

Have a happy and safe festive season.

Geoff Evans, DSE Wimmera Fire Controller

Roads/Bushfire Petition Update

I have submitted the Community Roads/Bushfire Petition to the Northern Grampians Shire Council, Horsham Rural City Council and Hugh Delahunty, MLA for their support and action regarding the sealing of the roadways.

We can now await replies and consider what further action is required. When replies are received a further report will be issued through the newsletter.

Garry Newman 5383 6368

OUR RUBBISH!

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

Let's work together to keep Northern Grampians Road a rubbish-free area!

The opinions expressed in the 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/Wartook Community Links News

Laharum Primary School has now received the official confirmation that they are in line for a brand new school. This has enabled us to start community consultation which began with an information evening on November 26. Representatives from the Education Department and Horsham Rural City Council outlined what this exciting announcement means for Laharum and provided information regarding timeline, costing, etc. They were very helpful, answering very clearly all the questions put to them.

The purpose of this meeting was not to make decisions such as the location of the school or the hall.

Further community consultations will be organised by the Laharum Primary School and the CBI ensuring all community members and groups are included in the decision.

Please also read the detailed notes from the meeting for those who were unable to attend.

The Ararat Theatre Group Production 'Caravans' was a great night out and they once again did a great job. We have already booked them again for next year!

Don't miss the 'Vocal Nosh' on Friday December 12 at The Wander Inn. It should be a fun night out. Please ring Tony & Jenny to book.

Deb MacInnes

Laharum Community Links facilitator AH 5383 8203 BH 0438.377453 Email: debbie.macinnes@hrcc.vic.gov.au

LAHARUM / WARTOOK ACTIVITIES PROGRAM		
TERM 4, 2008 - DECEMBER		

Date and Time	Venue	Activity
Friday 5 th December 1.30pm (2 nd session)	Laharum Hall	Scrapbooking/Card making. Tutor Libby Peucker. Making Gift Cards and Christmas cards. All materials supplied Please ring to register
Friday 12 th December 6.30pm	The Wander Inn	'Vocal Nosh' at The Wander Inn. Come and enjoy a meal and a community sing-along. Fun for all the family. Singing ability not necessary - no solos. Singing session led by Fay White. Meal cost only - \$16 adults; \$8 children 10 years & under. Bookings to The Wander Inn on 5383 6377. BYO alcohol
Saturday 20 th December 6.30pm	Cameron Oval	Combined Community and Tennis & Cricket Clubs Christmas get-together. \$10 adult including Band 'Hywire' and 2 course meal Santa will attend with lollies for children. All welcome

Notes from Community Information Meeting held on Wednesday November 26 - Laharum Primary School & the Rural Replacement Program

The meeting was chaired by Angela Murphy, HRCC Manager of Community and Enterprise Services, with 27 people in attendance. The intention of the meeting was to hear about the Rural Replacement Program and provide a forum for the community to ask questions and find out more information. These notes were taken at the meeting and are a general summary of some of the points presented and questions that were asked.

Laharum Primary School - Robyn Jones

The state of the school buildings has constantly been raised as an issue for many years, so being included in the Rural Replacement Program is a great opportunity for the school and the community. This is an opportunity to create a better environment for the students and teachers and a more user-friendly environment. The School Council is very keen to get into the project.

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development – Peter Henry, Bronwyn Wade and Brendan Ryan

The government acknowledges that the lifeblood of rural communities is their facilities including school, recreation facilities, oval, hall etc. Government is keen to provide permanent facilities to support schools. Government direction is for schools to be considered as community facilities. They currently are only used 9am-3pm on weekdays – so want to see them used more. The overall desire is for them to be seen as community spaces and used for lifelong learning. Partnerships are a big ticket item. Forty schools across the State are part of the program – 10 of which are in the Grampians Region. Approximately \$2m is available per school. (**Note** – final costs are worked out for each site based on conditions and what the design is and are finalised during the master-planning process). In the end, the \$\$ available is based on the rationale, needs and design.

The community needs to think about the location of the school and indicate its preference for where it wants the school to be located, eg at the current site or at the Recreation Reserve. There is a cost/benefit of staying on the existing site as there would be with moving – there are issues to be looked at with both sites (positives, negatives) – the department is not going to make that decision and they want the community to consider where they want this facility to be located. The existing school site is 0.8ha and the school has the entitlement to 1.6ha, so additional space is required. The site area at the Cameron Oval could be reduced because of access to sporting facilities that are there.

Governance issues need to be worked through with shared facilities and those arrangements are being worked through at other sites with shared use arrangements, so there are examples that can be looked at – would cover issues such as access, maintenance etc. The Education Department would be the agency that is involved in any land acquisition/negotiation with landowners over land.

For Laharum, an allowance/entitlement for facilities will be made based on an enrolment of 26-50 children. If there were more than 50 children then relocatable buildings would need to be used and the master plan should take that into account.

There are five designs for the school to choose from. A preferred design would be developed during the master planning process which would look at the building entitlements to the site, the relationships of buildings to each other and other surrounding facilities etc. The Master Plan is to be done in conjunction with school/community. The nature of the design, the facilities available etc gets worked through with the school community but in the end we have to think of best use of the funds available. The Department has criteria they need to meet with buildings in terms of sustainable design principles eg has to be minimum 4.5 stars (energy efficiency) and has to include other ESD principles. Schools need to be visible – eg road frontage.

Landscaping is allowed for in the budget as is provision for a safe playing area, playground equipment and outdoor learning areas. Other people would be able to use playground facilities on the weekend if it is located for instance at the recreation reserve. There is also provision in the budget for furniture, equipment and computers. There is an allowance for library space as well.

Removal of the old buildings would be a departmental responsibility. Council would have to look at the idea, but don't see any issues with use of the tennis courts/hall car parking area for the school rebuilding if it was to stay on the current site – especially as it's considered a community facility.

Preschool

In this redevelopment there will be **no** allocation made for a preschool. Any preschool would have to be in excess space. In future it is hoped that the Department will move towards early years playgroups having an entitlement to space but the Department is not there yet.

The single classroom at the Laharum Primary School could be made available for the community to use (eg as a preschool) but at its own expense. The Kinder could be located on the same land as the school.

Timelines and Process

Money for rebuilding would be available in the 2010/11 budget – the building process could take approximately six months, so if the process goes smoothly the new school could be occupied at the start of 2011.

The first step is that by Friday February 27 2009, the school has to submit a document that discusses, amongst other issues:

- Educational rationale (how the delivery of the curriculum will occur and how will it improve learning opportunities and educational outcomes for students)
- Limitations of current facilities
- Sharing arrangements that may happen at the site
- Community groups that may use the facilities
- Proposed location of the building

A concern was expressed in relation to the timeline of February given that it is Christmas, harvest and holidays – difficult for the community to get together over this time.

The budget bid needs to go into the October/November 2009 budget process in order for the dollars to be available in the 2010/11 budget – so there is a long lead time and a number of steps to go through.

Laharum Community Links Project – Debbie MacInnes and Michael Bond

The Community Links Project team has secured two grants to refurbish the hall - one from the Federal Government (which has approximately \$60,000 available for the refurbishment of the hall) and one from the State Government's Small Towns Development Fund of \$101,000. Plans for the facility were developed and nearly put to tender just when the Education Department advised in early September of the possibility of the Schools inclusion in the Rural Replacement Program. Changes to the school and the possibility of a different site were clearly not envisaged by the group, so the plans were put on hold until things were certain with this program and the implications for the community links project better understood. When the Education Department advised of the Schools inclusion in the Rural Replacement Program, Debbie contacted the Federal Government, who have indicated that if the funds are not spent by the end of June 2009, they will have to be returned.

The project team do not want to lose the funds and realise this is a tricky situation for the community. There was general consensus/no opposition to hall project going ahead. Down the track it may mean that the hall moves to the recreation reserve (if that's the general community preference), but people did not want to lose the money that the community already has. The project team will need to look at the current plans in the light of this discussion.

Next Steps

The community needs to have a discussion about this project and where it wants to see the school located – eg at the current site or at the Cameron Oval. Given the emphasis on shared use, it is important to think of the school in this broader context and also think of relationships with other community facilities such as the hall and the Cameron Oval facilities.

A number of possible options exist –

- both the school and hall move to the Cameron Oval
- the school moves to the Cameron Oval and the hall stays where it is
- the school and hall stay where they but are still redeveloped

No doubt there are strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats with each of these scenarios.

In order to meet the Education Department's timelines, this discussion will have to take place before the end of February. A process for community discussion will be developed and further information circulated.

LAHARUM FIRE BRIGADE TRUCK ROSTER

WEEK START	LAHARUM TANKER		TANKER A	
	DRIVER	CREW	DRIVER	CREW
1/12/08	Rob McInnes	Judy Johnson	Maurie Dumesny	Neil Seymour
8/12/08	Chris Vincent	Barry Berendsen	Brendan Dunn	Peter Dunn
15/12/08	Andrew Bos	Zane Taylor	Campbell Ellifson	Alex Ellifson
22/12/08	John Fisher	Paul Van Der Plank	Robert Jess	John McIntyre
29/12/08	Bruce Winfield	Colin Flack	Luke Dumesny	Jenny Dumesny
5/1/2009	Deb MacInnes	Caroline Geue	Bill Gardner	Judy Gardner
12/1/09	Alison White	Vicki Stevens	Dale McIntyre	Damien Knight
19/1/09	Brad Geue	Roger MacInnes	Mal Griffiths	Tim Martin
26/1/09	Hugh Russell	Howard Black	Rob Launder	Andy Crawford
2/2/09	Leigh Mibus	Pat Mibus	Gary Staehr	Gil Hopkins
9/2/09	Alan Arnott	Norm Booth	Trevor Winfield	Ray Zippel
16/2/09	Will Pyke	Francoise	Mark Francisco	Campbell Trewin
23/2/09	Jim Carter	Jenny Carter	Maurie Dumesny	Neil Seymour
2/3/09	Bruce McInnes	Steve Suter	Brendan Dunn	Peter Dunn
9/3/09	Rob McInnes	Judy Johnson	Campbell Ellifson	Alex Ellifson
16/3/09	Chris Vincent	Barry Berendsen	Robert Jess	John McIntyre
23/3/09	Andrew Bos	Zane Taylor	Luke Dumesny	Jenny Dumesny
30/3/09	John Fisher	Paul Van Der Plank	Bill Gardner	Judy Gardner
6/4/09	Bruce Winfield	Colin Flack	Dale McIntyre	Damien Knight
13/4/09	Deb MacInnes	Caroline Geue	Mal Griffiths	Tim Martin
20/4/09	Alison White	Vicki Stevens	Rob Launder	Andy Crawford
27/4/09	Brad Geue	Roger MacInnes	Gary Staehr	Gil Hopkins
4/5/09	Hugh Russell	Howard Black	Trevor Winfield	Ray Zippel
11/5/09	Leigh Mibus	Pat Mibus	Mark Francisco	Campbell Trewin
18/5/09	Alan Arnott	Norm Booth	Maurie Dumesny	Neil Seymour
25/5/09	Will Pyke	Francoise	Brendan Dunn	Peter Dunn
1/6/09	Jim Carter	Jenny Carter	Campbell Ellifson	Alex Ellifson
8/6/09	Bruce McInnes	Steve Suter	Robert Jess	John McIntyre

If you are unable to do your run please call Don Sudholz on 5383 6205.

If you notice a fault with the truck during the run, please notify Don Sudholz immediately and always complete the logbook at the end of your run.

Thanks!

North West Grampians Newsletter - Community Calendar of Events Activities and meetings in the district 2008/09

December 2008

Friday	5	1.30pm	Card making/Scrapbooking at Laharum Hall
	5	6.30pm	Brimpaen Christmas Tree at Brimpaen Hall
Saturday	6	5pm onwards	Christmas party run by the Laharum Kindergarten
Wednesday	10	9.30am-11am	Mobile Library at Laharum Primary School
Thursday	11	6pm for 7pm session	CFA, DSE & Fire Brigade Information Session
	11	6.30pm sharp	Laharum Primary School Concert/Carol Singing
Friday	12	1pm	Readings from 'First She Lived' – Horsham Library
	12	6pm meal	Followed by 'Vocal Nosh' at The Wander Inn
Saturday	20	6pm	Combined Tennis & Cricket Clubs get-together
Wednesday	24	9.30am-11am	Mobile Library at Laharum Primary School

January 2009

Wednesday	7	9.30am-11am	Mobile Library at Laharum Primary School
Saturday	10	9.30am start	Friends of Grampians Gariwerd activity
Wednesday	21	9.30am-11am	Mobile Library at Laharum Primary School
Monday	26	8am	Australia Day Breakfast at Brimpaen Hall

February

Monday	2		<i>School Term 1 starts</i>
Tuesday	3	10am-3pm	Brimpaen Craft Group
Tuesday	10		CFA Plantation Fire Fighting training
Sunday	15		CFA Plantation Fire Fighting training
Sat-Thurs	21-26	9.30am-4pm	Grampians Texture workshops at Halls Gap
Tuesday	24	2pm	Brimpaen Ladies Social Club
Thursday	26	12 noon	Horsham South Garden Club

March

Sat or Sun	7 or 8	all day	Friends of Grampians Gariwerd survey
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September

Fri-Sun	4-6		Grampians – Classics in Wartook Valley Festival
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Yoga at Laharum Hall – Wednesdays 7.30-9.15pm – Commencing Wednesday February 4, 2009

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

Laharum Social Tennis – Tuesdays from 2pm at Laharum courts