

North West Grampians Newsletter

267 Pohlners Road, Laharum 3401
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February 2009

Some people like to look 'hot', but 45° is taking it too far!! It's certainly been a difficult time for everyone including our domestic and native animals and birds.

We hope this area will remain fire-free.

This newsletter is now into its 25th year of production. I continue to make changes for the benefit of all readers.

Liz Hopkins



Laharum Primary School concert December 2008

Laharum Neighbourhood Watch



Rural

Our next meeting will be on **Monday February 9**, 8pm at Laharum Hall.
Judy Gardner

Farming with Pipes

Horsham Department of Primary Industries will be running information sessions in Clear Lake, Laharum, Lubeck and Toolondo to assist with planning the piping of your property.

The topics include:

- practical advice for piping your property from Ron Klemm, Wimmera Aquatrail;
- setting up your pipe system;
- planning for the future so that your pipe system becomes a long term asset for your property.

Laharum's date is on **Tuesday February 10**, 2-5pm at Laharum Clubrooms.

For more information please contact Horsham DPI on 5362 2111.

Sally Marcroft

Yoga at Laharum Hall



Yoga will resume on **Wednesday February 11** (unless extreme hot weather continues).

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. We welcome new members!

Judy Berendsen

CFA Training Dates



Just a few reminders about Plantation Fire Fighting training which is coming up on **Tuesday February 10**, 7-10pm. This is a theory night with the practical day is on **Sunday February 15**, 9am-4pm. Lunch

will be provided on this day. Those keen on participating must contact their brigade training officer or the Region 17 office.

Another reminder to those who have been selected to participate in the AIIMS course on **Sunday February 15 & 22**, 9am-5pm at Laharum Football Ground. Those who are keen on attending, please complete the nomination form that was sent in the mail and send to Region 17 office by fax, mail or in person by February 11.

Just a final note wishing Don Sudholz a very speedy recovery.

Luke Dumesny

Mobile Library



I hope to see everyone at the Library site this year. Let's hope it's not too hot for the students returning to school – we'll certainly be there; rain, hail or shine! Our dates for this term are: **Wednesday February 18; March 4 & 18 and April 1, 15 & 29.**

We have an author talking about her book 'Cup with no handles' during the Halls Gap Jazz Festival on **Saturday February 14** at Brambuk–The National Park & Cultural Centre. A free bus will be travelling from Horsham to Halls Gap on the day. See you there!
Bryan Rohde



'Wartook warblers' at the first Vocal Nosh!

Laharum Landcare Group



Rabbit ripping has been done on four properties and along one roadside by Simon Rigby. Rabbits are still a problem in some parts and their numbers seem to be increasing along some of our roadsides.

We will try to organise more ripping later in the year if there is enough interest in this work being done. Best of all, it is free of charge! But with conditions.

A fox bounty of \$5 per tail is still on offer. If any rabbit ripping is needed or fox tails handed in, please contact me on 5383 8218.

Some areas of St Johns Wort have been sprayed in the Wartook area. Blackberry and Bathurst burr are now the main weeds. If you need help with weed control please ring me or Gil 5383 8207.

Next meeting is on **Thursday February 12**, 7.30pm at Laharum Hall, where we will meet Julia our new Coordinator, and discuss weed management in our area. Everyone is welcome.

Mark Francisco, President

Wonwondah Landcare Group



Some group members are cooperating with the removal of rabbits from their land following inspections from DPI personnel and the combined effort from all agencies to cooperate in tackling this task.

Our group has again applied for funding through the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority for a contractor to destroy warrens in the highest priority areas and follow-up work will be completed by each landholder.

The post-knocking trailer was in a lot of demand from members last year and has recently been serviced and is still in very good condition.

Our next Landcare meeting is on **Tuesday**

February 17, 7.30pm at Guest's dairy.

Chris Guest


Grampians Wartook Promotion Group (GWPG)

We will be meeting on **Tuesday February 17**, 7pm at The Wander Inn where we will discuss the printing of the Mat Pad for tourist information.

Jenny Hill

Singing Get-Together (Vocal Nosh)

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 19, 7.30PM
Laharum Hall
Leader – Merryn Eagle
Supper included – no cost
Singing ability not necessary
Come along and enjoy



GRAMPIANS TEXTURE

Saturday-Thursday
February 21-26,
Halls Gap

Grampians Texture will give artists the opportunity to develop their artistic practices, under inspiring direction of tutors from across Australia, West Timor and New Zealand.

Places are still available in a number of workshops. Please ring on 5356 4616 for more information and bookings.

Open to the public:

Traders Hall: Interested in finding specialist materials, fibres, buttons, books etc? There will be a number of traders at Halls Gap Centennial Hall, open between 8.30am–5.30pm selling wonderful and unusual resources for textile artists.

Open Class Room: Sun Feb 22 and Thurs Feb 26, 3.30–4.30pm, Centennial Hall will display the work produced by students in the Grampians Texture workshop. (Please note classrooms are not open to the public to visit).

Texturation: An exhibition of contemporary textiles by Lynette Cox Hayward and Susan Cunningham at The Gap Vineyard, 4113 Ararat Road, Halls Gap. The exhibition explores the physical qualities of thread and fabric: their colour, movement, and the textures that they offer are central to the work of both artists.

This exhibition is open for viewing
Fri Feb 20–Sun Mar 1, 10am–5pm.

In Beauty May I Walk: An exhibition of work by Lyn Dickson at the Kookaburra Restaurant, Main Road, Halls Gap. Lyn's inspiration comes from observation of the patterns, texture and images of nature combining varied materials and techniques in collaging papers and fabrics. The exhibition will be open café hours until Sun April 12.

Brimpaen Craft Group



We had our AGM and discussion of the 2009 syllabus at our February meeting.

Next meeting will be held on **Tuesday March 3**. For more information contact

Carman Miller or Jill on 5382 5559.

Jill Sinclair

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.

ON TOTAL FIRE BAN DAYS

Mt Zero Transfer Station is closed

Threatened Species Group



Thursday March 5 – to be confirmed, depending on rainfall. We will assist in searching for the Southern Pipewort (*Eriocaulon australasicum*) near Woohlpooer which is a Nationally Endangered plant.

Saturday March 21 – assist in searching for the Grampians Pincushion-lily (*Borya mirabilis*) in the Grampians National Park.

For more information please contact me on 5361 4001 or svanderp@parks.vic.gov.au.

Sylvia van der Peet

Friends of Grampians Gariwerd



Sunday March 8 (Labour Day weekend) - all day activity. This survey will involve checking the number of surviving little-known rare plant 'Monotoca billawinica' - Grampians Monotoca. We will also be checking along the way for the more common 'Monotoca scoparia'.



'Monotoca billawinica' – male flower

It is about a 2.5km walk in and out through fallen trees etc, following the original old single wire party phone line to Wartook Reservoir to this colony's area which is in timbered heath. You will need to carry your lunch and water etc and wear good shoes and hat.

If it is a day of Total Fire Ban, the day will be cancelled or reprogrammed. Please meet at the scout camp by 10am. It is important to let me know if you're going in case arrangements need to be changed.

Please phone me on 5383 6349.

Sunday April 5 - Park Heritage Day at Brim Springs. See information on page 5.

Saturday May 9 – Red Gum Walk working bee. Please contact Margo Sietsma for more information and requirements for the day on 5356 4524.

You may still have a chance to witness the rare and beautiful display of the Incense Plant (*Calomeria amaranthoides*) that is located in the Boggy Creek Gully crossing on the Asses Ears Road.

Stan Parfett

Horsham South Garden Club



Thursday February 26 at 12 noon will be our first meeting to discuss the year's syllabus and our AGM - please bring lunch to share. The venue will be at the home of Elizabeth Johns, 9 Withell Street, Horsham.

Thursday March 26 meeting – contact me for more information.

Lola Ervin

Brimpaen Ladies Social Club



On **Tuesday February 24**, 2pm at Brimpaen Hall will be our AGM and first meeting for 2009. We will also discuss our syllabus for the year.

Tuesday March 31 meeting – contact me for more details.

On Monday January 26 we had our Australia Day breakfast with 83 attending. The crowd thoroughly enjoyed listening to Ann Penny speak of how she met her husband – a very interesting and informative talk.

Margo Hamilton



CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY SUNDAY MARCH 1

*Let's help the environment by
cleaning up our area*

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

To register a site please go to

www.cleanup.org.au

or ring 1800.282329

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

Wimmera Rural Skills Connect



This is a State wide skills initiative launched by the State Government last year and Tim Martin has been appointed as Project Manager for the Wimmera. Tim 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, but this project will help".

Tim encourages anyone interested in the project to contact him on 0429.957 643 or email timmartin@westwimmera.vic.gov.au.

Wimmera Rural Skills Connect will have a stand in the Moore Pavilion at the Wimmera Machinery Field Days during **Tues/Wed/Thurs March 3, 4 & 5**. A representative from Skills Stores will assist people with Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and courses.

50th Birthday Celebrations

To all past members of the
Horsham Senior Citizens Club

Friday March 13

RSVP February 28

at 17 Roberts Avenue, Horsham

Cordially invited by The President, Mrs. Nola Kelly and
members

RSVP to secretary, Mrs Beryl Moloney,
15 Anderson Street, Horsham. Phone 0428.330781



Art Is...tasty

Horsham's annual Art Is...festival, Art
Is...tasty, kicks off on **Friday March 27**
with the launch of the festival's major

art installation *The Orchard in the Garden of
Earthly Delight* at May Park. The evening will include
family-friendly entertainment, special performances
and free music. May Park will be the venue for
celebrations throughout the festival with special
activities and events each day.

Special guest, chef, author and creator of
the Kitchen Garden Foundation, Stephanie
Alexander, will participate in a Grey Matters forum
on **Sunday March 29**, and comedian Fiona O'Loughlin
will be on stage at Wesley Performing Arts Centre
also on **Sunday March 29** at 8pm. Bookings at
wesleypac.com.au or Chisholm Hi Fi ☎ 5382 4343
for bookings.

Combined with kid's puppet theatre -
CheckOut! at Wesley on **Thursday April 2**, morning
melody Nougat at the same venue on **Wednesday
April 1**, and internationally acclaimed soprano
Yvonne Kenny and tenor Roy Best at Horsham Town
Hall on **Saturday March 28** (bookings:
horshamtownhall.com.au or *Chisholm Hi Fi ph 5382
4343 (*booking fees apply). This year's festival
promises a lot of entertainment for the whole
community.

The visual centrepiece of this year's festival will be
the *Garden in the Orchard of Earthly Delight* which
will transform the 24 palm trees which ring May
Park. Community groups and schools are currently
working on sculptured fruits to
be suspended from the trees (as
per photo).



See the website for regular
updates www.artis.wimmera.com.au or phone 5381
0297.

Excursion to Cranbourne Annex of the Royal Botanic Gardens

This is a wonderful opportunity to travel by bus
to visit the beautiful native Cranbourne Gardens on the
weekend of **Saturday/Sunday March 28/29**.

The bus will be leaving Horsham at 7.45am on
the Saturday; visiting Maranoa Gardens in Balwyn and
Kuranga Nursery at Mt Evelyn; staying overnight at
Carrum Downs Kingston Lodge; guided tour of
Cranbourne Gardens on Sunday and return to
Horsham by 7pm.

This excursion has been organised by
Wimmera Growers of Australian Plants with some
seats still available. The cost is \$92 per person which
includes accommodation and continental breakfast and
admission to the gardens.

For full details of this excursion, please contact
Graham Goods on 5383 2229. *Bookings close Friday
February 13.*

Wartook Tea Party Exhibition

Organised by Wartook Artists Studio
Sat April 4 - Mon April 13, 10am-5pm daily
Admission free

Venue: Wartook Artists Studio, Wartook Pottery

An exhibition of textiles and
ceramics by Wartook artists based
on a 'tea party' theme

An eclectic mix of crochet, knitting,
felt making, patchwork, embroidery,
pottery and antiques



*Join the artists at the official opening on
Sunday April 5 at 4pm*

Special afternoon tea available for sale at
The Wander Inn

Contact Gill Venn on Ph/Fax 5383 6243 or AH
5383 6246 Email: gvenn@netconnect.com.au

The Wander Inn/Wartook Pottery

Easter Saturday Market

Saturday April 11, 10am-3pm

Something for everyone!

Stallholders most welcome, cost \$15
Limited trestles available on request

Please phone Wendy on
BH 5383 6243 or AH 5383 6220



Brim Springs Heritage Day 'Celebration of Culture'

Sunday April 5, 10am

Horsham Historical Society,
Barengi Gadjin Land Council and Parks Victoria

Invite everyone to celebrate our rich European and
Aboriginal Culture

Location - Brim Springs Picnic Ground, Asses Ears Road

*Bring your friends & family and listen to the many
stories*

RSVP Friday March 27 to be sure of lunch
Call 13 19 63 or email prue.daley@parks.vic.gov.au

Feel free to bring along any memorabilia

Laharum Primary School



Welcome back everyone to the new
school year – a year that will be very
exciting in regard to Laharum Primary
School. We look forward to being

involved with the wonderful changes to the provision of
education in the community - changes for both now and
for the future. We have the opportunity to make a real
difference for the students of Laharum for many, many
years to come.



Included in the newsletter are some photos of
our School Concert. Thank you for your continued
support of this event – we were very proud of all the
efforts of the students. Using the theme of 'Australia',
we were able to showcase some of the work we had
completed throughout the year. Although we had some
little troubles, we were pleased to be able to display the
fantastic ICT (computer) work that the students had
completed and integrated into their study (below).



As always, it was sad to farewell our six Year 6
students to the exciting world of secondary school, but
it is most exciting to welcome our 6 new Prep students
to our school.

We welcome: Ruby, Charlotte, Jordyn, Gus,
Rory and Oliver and wish them all well with their
primary education. We welcome Katrina and Damien
Knight as a new family to our school community.
Staffing remains the same as last year:

Robyn Jones: Year 3-6 classroom; Yr 5-6 English & Maths
Kath Pallot: Prep-2 classroom; Science/Technology 3-6
Janine Eagle: Yr 3-4 English & Maths; The Arts P-6
Helen Strachan: Literacy Support for P-4
Helen Mills: ICT (Terms 2-4)
Sharon Crawford: Office Manager

There may be an opportunity for another staff
member to join us part time. Paul and Francoise will
continue to provide LOTE (Dutch) and Peter and June
will provide RE. Judy Johnson will continue as our
much appreciated school cleaner and gardener.
We also welcome Jo, Tracie and the kinder students
back to our school and we look forward to continuing
the wonderful learning bond that exists between us.

More exciting news for the school – the arrival
of our brand new school bus! How wonderful it is!
Student safety and student comfort have been greatly
improved with the acquisition of our new bus.



We will now be able to travel as a whole school
to events and there will be plenty of storage room for
the student's bags and belongings. We thank the
Education Department, Don Carter and Peter Bruning
for all their efforts in the process. Please take great
care when parking in front of the school – the bus
requires much more room than the previous one. For
the safety of all, we will be marking a bus zone - no
cars are to be parked in this area during bus times.

Despite the heat, we are looking forward to a
busy and exciting time at the school. Prep-2 students
will be studying 'Me' whilst the senior students will
be studying 'The World Around Us' in Term 1. We hope
that community members will continue to be involved
with the school – sharing knowledge is such a vital part
of learning. Please contact the school if you would like
to be involved as a Helper - in the classroom, sporting
activities, gardening, cooking, arts, mentor – whatever!
Your help and involvement would always be
appreciated.

Cheers

Robyn Jones, Principal

Laharum Rural Fire Brigade



Don Sudholz is unavailable due to ill health at present and we wish him a speedy recovery. I will be acting as Captain until Don is back on his feet.

It has been a quiet season so far - please take care and be careful!

Please keep in mind the truck's weekly run.

Mark Francisco, Acting Captain ☎ 5383 8218

Laharum Tennis Club



The Tennis season is over halfway already! All four senior grades and the Under 14 boys have enjoyed a few wins and are being quite competitive.

The new tennis complex has been a joy to play on and continues to impress our opposition teams. We have just found out we have received a grant to purchase much needed shade for the courts and also some play equipment for the kids.

We will be having a working bee or two in the next couple of weeks to erect a shade sail on the north end of the courts and also some shade sails up the alleyway between the courts.

Good luck to all Laharum teams who make the finals, including the cricketers - hope they get lots of barrackers to cheer them on!

Deb MacInnes

Solar electricity and hot water

The story goes on! It's certainly difficult to get the band-wagon moving when everyone else is trying to jump on! But I am confident it will happen. And thank goodness I haven't had to get on the roof these last weeks!

If you have contacted me about being in this bulk-buy scheme I have your details and have passed them on. If you haven't told me of your interest in solar hot water or solar electricity, please do so immediately before the Government subsidies stop! Please contact me 5383 8207.

Gil Hopkins

Brimpaen Fire Brigade



If anyone has any paper clippings or photographs of the championships held over the last 50 years, we would be grateful to have a loan of them. Please contact me on

5383 9266.

Andrew Chincarini

Laharum Cricket Club



Both cricket grades are currently in the top four. B Grade had a very good win against top side St Michaels with Robbie Miller 34; Heath MacInnes 27 and Daniel Mibus 2 for 17

leading the way. C Grade needs to keep winning to play in the finals.

Daniel Griffiths made an excellent score of 64 in the Victorian under 14 Championships in Melbourne recently.

Peter Levey

Horsham South VFF

The president and members of the Horsham South branch of the VFF would like to congratulate David Grimble on his election to the Horsham Rural City Council. We hope that David's time in Council is rewarding for both him and the community.

Also, landholders should be aware that there is continual representation from members of our branch at meetings with GWMWater. Our aim is to make the tariff structure equitable for all users of the pipeline system in Supply System 6.

Andrew Bell

Laharum Netball Club



Netball is about to start and we look forward to a good season! If you have any queries or interested in playing, contact can be made with any of the following committee members listed: Bronwyn Roberts, Chris O'Connell,

Faye Muszkeita, Hailey Roberts, Jessica Grimble, Leah Matthews, Penny Iredell, Maree Liston, Melissa Mills and Alastair Griffiths.

We have entered Grades A, B & C; U17; U15; U13 and Modified teams this year.

Alastair Griffiths



Horsham Rural City Council
urban rural balance

Council is arranging for Laharum Primary School to have some line markings to assist with their new school bus in the next fortnight.

Major work is taking place on the Dadswells Bridge/Wonwondah Road to widen another kilometre of road and will continue for the next 2-3 weeks.

Council has installed a new flag pole and provided a new Australian flag at Brimpaen Hall for their Australia Day breakfast. The flag is now lit with a spotlight and will be flown at night. David Eltringham would like other halls to follow suit! Drainage improvements have also been completed at Brimpaen Hall.

Council is working with CFA and GWMWater to locate strategic 28,000L fire tanks, with couplings to suit fire trucks. These are being located for Supply System 6.

Water is also available at Arnott's Road bore for general use with a permit required from Horsham Rural City Council.

The Iluka sand mining proposal at Jallumba, called the Echo deposit, will commence during the next six months. Prior to that, Council and Iluka will be doing road works on the Wonwondah/Toolondo Road to facilitate the B-double trucks from Echo mine to Douglas.

Julia Holbery has been appointed as temporary HRCC Landcare Coordinator (replacement for Melissa Douglas) during the next six months. She will be getting to know all the Landcare groups and be working with the Grampians to Little Desert Biolink project.

David Eltringham

Horsham RDA Centre



Everyone feels for all the children returning to school with all the very hot weather, but perhaps you could spare a thought for the horses, riders and volunteers who are about to gear up for another year of Horsham Riding for the Disabled. We are definitely hoping for a break in the weather because riding horses in 40° plus heat (especially in the big covered arena) is not particularly fun!

While our centre will continue to bring a quality riding and driving program this year, we also hope to re-start a basic vaulting program on our Wednesday rallies, all thanks to John Bennett of Wartook. John is a Life Member of Horsham RDA and has very kindly given our group a long term loan of his horse Mr Bo Jangles, who has been a very useful horse on alternate Friday rallies and now will be available to all our groups. Bo has had some previous experience as a vaulting horse, so we hope he will be able to pick it up again without too much trouble.

John is not the only Life Member of Horsham RDA to come from the Laharum-Wartook area. At our Annual General Meeting last year that honour was also bestowed upon Hennie and Bill Neve for their long standing and generous service to our centre. They have done so much over the last 15 years - from leading horses, carpentry work, painting and being Santa at our Christmas Breakup!

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

Tina Pallot



Department of
**Sustainability
and Environment**

It's early February and the weather conditions are continually

reminding us that we are right in the middle of our Wimmera Fire Season. Luckily we have managed to escape any serious fires up to this point and let's all hope that our luck continues to hold out.

On average, by the beginning of February we would have expected to have had 2 lightning storm events in the Grampians. Each of these lightning events would have started an average of three fires. We can be very thankful that this year the Grampians has been lightning free (touch wood!) We are very fortunate in this regard as right now the Grampians is as dry as it's ever been.

Two of the big three fires in the Grampians in the last 10 years have been caused by lightning. These are Mt Lubra in 2006 and Mt Difficult – Laharum in 1998. The other big fire, the Fulham – Telangatuk fire in 2005 was an escape from an unattended campfire.

The period of weather last week from Tuesday to Sunday rewrote the record books with six straight days over 40°. In fact the six-day average for Horsham was 42.9°, that's 109°F in the old language! The record prior to this was four days over the New Year period 12 months ago. Prior to that we go back to about 1908 when they had a stretch of 4 out 5 days above 40°.

Last week five Total Fire Bans in a row is also a record. I was talking with Dale Russell from the CFA and we think that three in a row is the previous record; five in a row is unprecedented.

All of the above can be summarized in one important message - "It's extremely hot and dry and we all need to be very alert and careful".

Geoff Evans

Brimpaen Tennis Club



After a long Christmas break, Brimpaen players are keen to get back into tennis and get some form back before the finals. Both grades will be playing finals this year which is a good effort. We will start to settle our sides down with a few rounds to go to iron out any problems and hopefully we will have two premierships at the end of it all. Good luck to everyone else in the finals.

Courtney Dunn

Laharum Social Tennis



Please contact me on 5383 8288 if you are interested in social tennis.

Judy Gardner



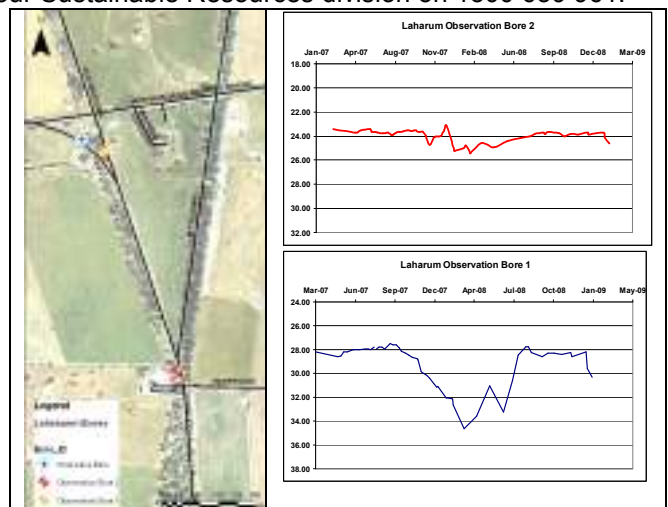
GMMWater has been extracting groundwater from the Laharum bore field at the reduced rate of 0.8ML per day leading up to December 2008.

Since January 14, 2009 we have increased the groundwater extraction rate to a maximum of 1.9 ML per/day.

The updated graphs show that water levels have declined by a modest amount in response to this increased groundwater extraction, compared to the extent of declines that occurred during summer-autumn 2008.

GMMWater will continue to provide regular updates on bore levels in the Laharum area.

If you require more information, please contact our Sustainable Resources division on 1300 659 961.



Too hot for denials

The latest wave of hot dry weather fits exactly with the scientific predictions for dangerous global warming of extreme weather events. Vested interests say that changes in our weather patterns are nothing more than normal climate variation because they think we are a largely scientifically ignorant society, but they are now 'feeling the heat' due to the close fit of predictions and events.

When I took up residence in Wartook 15 years ago our seasonal creek regularly kept flowing into January each summer. Our creek has not even flowed for 10 years indicating more of a pattern than just an historical dry spell.

There is now twice the CO₂ in our thin layer of atmosphere than there was before the industrial revolution. The history of the earth records the dramatic impacts of such disturbance of our atmosphere - meteor impact, wide-spread volcanic activity and high CO₂ levels have all resulted in massive species extinctions and the slow recovery of life taking new directions.

It is crucial that we start to prepare for the new reality and develop arrangements to limit the changes to survivable levels, and establish sustainable communities. Small resilient and adaptable communities are best placed to adjust to change. We must foster our sense of interdependence and cooperation if our children and grandchildren are to have an acceptable future.

Despite the differences of opinion on effects of climate change and ways to address it, the prudent approach is to take precautionary action now, rather than putting it off until our actions are too late to protect us.

Local production of energy and food, social cooperation and support, trialing new environmentally sensitive technologies are all matters that our community should be developing. Let us react to the warnings and start to change our personal and community approaches so we can protect our future.

David Thompson



My dam January 2009

Photos and articles for this newsletter are much appreciated

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

Need printing? ████████████████████

Why pay more than necessary?

Sometimes smaller is better



Thanks to advances in technology you can now get quality printing done in quantities that suit you. No need to order more than you really need to get a good price.

You probably don't always need thousands of business cards, or letterheads, or brochures, or books, or ... whatever. So why pay for a large run if you don't really need to? Short run printing makes sense.

Vickers Printing, 7 Olga Ave. Horsham Tel 5382 3110

Dutch poems written by Laharum Primary School students Years 3-6 last year.

What do you think they are about?

Schapen

Lekker, lief, lam.
Mèèè
Hongerig, stoffig, stom.
mèèè, mèèè
Klik gaat de schaar.
mèèè, mèèè, mèèè.
Bzzz, vliegen op het dode lam.

De haai

Visje
Zwemt
En zwemt
En zwemt.
Er komt iets.
Groot. Donker.
HAP!

De mug

De mug zoemt
Zzzzzzzzzzzz.
Vervelend in mijn oor.
Zzzzzzzzzzzz.
Bloed. Dik. Dik. DIK. DIK.
PLAT!
De mug is dood.

Laharum/Wartook Community Links News

Plans for Laharum Hall refurbishment are now finally complete and ready to go to tender so hopefully it will not be long before we see some action down at the Hall site.



On Wednesday January 28 a Community Meeting was held to help make the decision as to the location for the new Laharum Primary School. Despite it being an extremely hot evening 34 people attended and after much discussion, participated in a secret ballot to vote for their preferred site for the new school between the current site and a site abutting the Cameron Oval. The vote was

unfortunately very close and did not give a general consensus for one site or the other. Full details of the meeting and voting are included in this newsletter.

The 'Vocal Nosh' at The Wander Inn on December 12 was a fun night out and all enjoyed a good sing along session lead by the very talented Fay White. There were quite a few people from the night who were keen to form a singing group in Laharum. Merryn Eagle has agreed to lead a singing group evening at the Laharum Hall on Thursday February 19 from which a regular group may be formed. Please let us know if you are interested even if you are unable to attend the first night. Please remember you don't have to have a great voice, you just have to enjoy singing!

I hope the activity program for this term has something that may interest you. If anyone has any suggestions for activities or adult education courses for next term, please let me know. Thanks again to Laharum Primary School for allowing the use of their computers for the courses.

Deb MacInnes

Laharum Community Links facilitator

Phone 5383 8203 Work 0438.377453; Email: debbie.macinnes@hrcc.vic.gov.au

LAHARUM / WARTOOK ACTIVITIES PROGRAM TERM 1, 2009 FEBRUARY, MARCH

Date & Time	Venue	Activity
Thursday 19 th February 7.30pm	Laharum Hall	Singing Get together - Lead by Merryn Eagle Community sing along just for fun! Ability not necessary Supper provided. No charge. Please ring to register <i>Could form a regular group if enough interest</i>
Saturday 21 st February 9am	Griffiths Sporting Complex	Junior Tennis Coaching Morning - free coaching for Under 15 Years Racquets will be available to borrow
Wednesday 25 th February 12 midday	Laharum Hall	'Time for You' workshop – 'Recharge, Re-energise, Revitalise for the new year. Two hours that could change your life! Speaker Sue Winfield: Practicing Life/Success Coach. Helping women in agriculture to become the best they can be! Light lunch provided at no cost. Please ring or email to register for catering.
Friday 6 th March 6pm	Laharum Hall	Movie Night (family movie to be decided) Movie screens at 7pm - Meal provided at minimal cost. Proceeds to Laharum Preschool - free movie & popcorn
Tuesdays 17 th , 24 th & 31 st March 7.30-9.30pm	Laharum Primary School	Computer Course - follow up to Beginners Course Tutor: Helen Mills – 3 sessions Introduction to Publisher, Word & File Management Cost: \$30. Please ring or email to register
Friday 20 th March 9am-12 midday	Laharum Hall	Health Check Day. Wimmera Community Health Nurses will be attending with information on all aspects of health including blood pressure and diabetes tests. Call in for a free cuppa and a check up!

Community Meeting regarding location of Laharum Primary School held on Wednesday January 28 at 6pm

These notes were taken at the meeting and are a general summary of some of the points presented and questions that were asked

The meeting was chaired by Cr Bernard Gross, Mayor of Horsham Rural City Council with 34 people in attendance. The intention of the meeting was to discuss the siting options for the new Laharum Primary School and to make a community preference for the school, which is required by February 6.

Bronwyn Wade - Education Department

- Reinforced that no decision has been made yet on the school location
- Once we have a recommendation from the community it is then taken from there
- \$2m would encompass purchase of the site and buildings
- Site would be 0.8-1.2ha in size
- Can apply for separate funding for roads/parking (Good Neighbourhood funds)

Robyn Jones -Laharum Primary School

- Building Sub committee has been formed
- 1st draft of building rationale has to be completed by February 6 and finally by February 20
- Current facilities at Laharum Primary School are past their 'use by date'
- Sporting facilities are appalling
- No combined meeting area
- Lack of space

New school will provide

- Open, modern, inviting, energy efficient
- Withdrawal areas for large and small groups
- Education staff and school student motivation
- ICT facilities-electronic whiteboard
- Better links with students/staff
- Better conditions for students

A good school facility will be a foundation for the future of the Laharum community - sporting, social, citizenship, community, academic

- School can be involved in the environment
- Excellent sporting and outdoor facilities at oval
- Fire safety - oval is the fire refuge for the community
- Laharum is a community that values the school - family pride/generations
- Community precinct – gardening, cooking using the skills directory

Jim Carter - School Council President

- School history is important but it is important to look forward
- Chance to build a community precinct
- Opportunity to create a place where all parts of the community can go
- Better links/synergies/funding opportunities
- Current site physically undersized will need to acquire land at current site
- Hope we can expand the school
- Environmental benefits - eg solar generation for the whole precinct
- No disruption to students while the school is being built

General Comments

- Landowners should have been approached earlier
- This is a rural community and should have been common courtesy to consult landowners
- If there is not a general consensus, school isn't going to railroad the decision
- Education is the most important issue
- Community has worked well despite any disadvantages
- Strong advantage for sports groups to have the school on one site
- Diversity is important
- Everyone wants a new school
- Haven't had enough information to make a decision or to have a consensus on the location of the school

The meeting then broke into small groups to discuss strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for the community to discuss both sites. Results of the small group discussions are listed below.

Whilst it was not the focus of the meeting, the meeting did give an overwhelming indication that the community was in favour of new school facilities.

A vote by secret ballot took place on the location of the school. Of the 31 votes cast at the meeting, 16 were in favour of the school remaining at the current site, 14 were in favour of the school moving to the Cameron Oval area and one person did not indicate a preference. There was also six of the yellow survey forms received prior to the meeting. Of these, four were in favour of the school remaining at the current site and two were in favour of it moving. Further information of next steps will be provided to the community.

Community Information Meeting on January 28, 2009 - Comments from meeting

School at current site		
<p>Strengths Infrastructure already here –power, roads More money to spend on school Distance to oval not too great Land is available next to hall to extend Kinder can be provided at hall Established trees/gardens Access to hall and new hall extensions Toilet block Next to hall – concerts, activities Purchase of land less difficult Kinder and school together Access exists now and can be used History</p>	<p>Weaknesses Possible interruption while building Distance from sporting facilities Land to be acquired Water (but pipeline is coming) Sporting facilities inadequate</p>	<p>Opportunities for community Access to hall Can combine school and kinder by building school close to hall Combining with adult learning</p>

School at Cameron Oval Reserve		
<p>Strengths Availability to sporting facilities CFA refuge - safer in case of fire New start- new facilities - clean slate Bore water available Laharum Sports Inc are in support Chance to open ideas/new ideas New opportunities Aesthetically site has more potential Established sporting facilities Community kitchen/Registered kitchen</p>	<p>Weaknesses Acquisition of land to be made Facilities more open to abuse, rubbish Vandalism Next to licensed premises Extra rubbish after big events Does not allow for 2 events at same time Community will have to raise funds to move hall and children facilities What happens should sporting clubs fail? Management issues – rubbish, papers, spectators on school site Need for management plans Hall isolated- would cost \$50,000 to move Willingness of landowners to sell? Additions made to new hall not maximised at current precinct No funding for kinder Historical value of school lost Leaving hall behind Cost of moving hall/kinder Unknown length of time that kinder is separated from school Community asked to make uninformed decisions quickly</p>	<p>Opportunities for community Greater Grant opportunities Total community centre Adult learning Reduce duplication of facilities Whole community Whole town concept-future long term Good neighbour policy – roads, school, oval More community groups Community use of facilities, equipment Lifelong learning precinct New way of learning Current site has so much history it can be restrictive</p>

<p>Other comments Laharum School History Old classrooms Not a big issue - has already been moved Things change Identify with current site Feel a sense of loss Risk of losing diversity</p>

Will be Laharum Primary School no matter where it is

Not a great deal – security, safe

Current Site

Feel of school is important - country school

People have been the history - creation of the future

Brilliant school – education/community, buddy system

Issues

Kinder - everything!!

Land - site, where?

Acquiring tennis courts/land near hall - site suitability report

Financial cost to the community

Southside of tennis courts at Cameron Oval unsuitable - too wet

Can both sides be evaluated?

School and kinder to stay together

Cost of the 2 sites? Has there been a comparison done?

New school buildings are a good thing - attraction for people

Process to not disenfranchise landowners

Allowance for kinder

**North West Grampians Newsletter - Community Calendar of Events
Activities and meetings in the district 2009**

February

Monday	9	8pm	Laharum Neighbourhood Watch Rural at Laharum Hall
Tuesday	10	2-5pm	Farming with Pipes at Laharum Clubrooms
	10	7-10pm	CFA Plantation Fire Fighting training
Thursday	12	7.30pm	Laharum Landcare at Laharum Hall
Sunday	15	9am-4pm	CFA Plantation Fire Fighting training
	15	9am-5pm	AIIMS Course
Tuesday	17	7.30pm	Wonwondah Landcare at Guest's dairy
	17	7pm	Grampians Wartook Promotion Group at The Wander Inn
Thursday	19	7.30pm	Singing Get-Together at Laharum Hall
	22	9am-5pm	AIIMS Course
Sat-Thurs	21-26	9.30am-4pm	Grampians Texture workshops at Halls Gap
Tuesday	24	TBC	Brimpaen Ladies Social Club at Brimpaen Hall
Thursday	26	12 noon	Horsham South Garden Club

March

Sunday	1	all day	Clean Up Australia Day
Tuesday	3	TBC	Brimpaen Craft Group
Thursday	5	all day	Threatened Species Group
Sunday	8	all day	Friends of Grampians Gariwerd survey
Friday	13		Horsham Senior Citizens, 50 th birthday celebrations
Saturday	21	all day	Threatened Species Group
Thursday	26	TBC	Horsham South Garden Club
Sat/Sun	28/29		Excursion to Cranbourne Annex of the Royal Botanic Gardens
Tuesday	31	TBC	Brimpaen Ladies Social Club

April

Sunday	5	10am	Brim Springs Heritage Day – Brim Springs Picnic Ground
Saturday	11	10am-3pm	Easter Market – The Wander Inn/Wartook Pottery

Yoga at Laharum Hall – Wednesdays 7.30-9.15pm

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

Mobile Library – Feb 18; Mar 4 & 18; Apr 1, 15 & 29

Wimmera Machinery Field Days – Tues/Wed/Thurs Mar 3, 4 & 5

Art Is...Tasty Festival – March 27–April 5

Wartook Tea Party Exhibition – Sat April 4–Mon April 13