

North West Grampians Newsletter

267 Pohlners Road, Laharum 3401
Phone 5383 8207 giliz@laharum.vic.au

December 2009

Lots of things have happened this year - the inaugural 'Classics in the Wartook Valley Festival'; exciting changes to Laharum Hall; planning for the new school; local construction of the pipeline.... All of these have involved many meetings and commitment from many community members.

May this Christmas be a happy and safe one for everyone as we look forward to a positive and active year ahead.

Liz Hopkins

Laharum School Parent Club



Parent Club has been busy this term with a number of things. We had a great turn out for our first ever long lunch and photography exhibition. I would like to thank those who came along on the day and we hope that you all enjoyed it. We look forward to seeing you there again next year! Over \$900 was raised from the two events on the day, and the school has purchased some specialised computer equipment with this money, so thank you once again. We had some great photos exhibited on the day and congratulations to the winners from the different categories.

The school concert is on **Thursday December 10** and Parent Club will have a light meal available at 6pm for those who would like a bite to eat prior to the concert. There will be a charge of \$5 per person for the meal at 6pm. Please RSVP to myself on 0429.136 319 or Caroline 5383 6382 asap. Hope to see you all there.

We would like to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season!
Deirdre Baum

Mobile Library



Mobile Library will continue to visit Laharum on **Wednesdays December 9, 23 & January 6, 20**. The Library always comes to Laharum rain, hail or shine!

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.
Bryan Rohde



Community members enjoying the Long Lunch

Laharum Primary School Christmas Concert

THURSDAY DECEMBER 10

6PM LIGHT MEAL \$5

Roast lamb & salad pockets

7PM SHARP - CONCERT

\$5 per person \$10 family

Laharum Hall

RSVP Deirdre 0429.136319 or Caroline

5383 6382 for meal and Santa gift

Parents Club Christmas raffle

Welcome to everyone!



BUSHFIRE INFORMATION LINE

Dial 1800.240667

Laharum Hall subs are now due \$10 per adult

Please send to: Judy Berendsen,
PO Box 621, Horsham 3402

These funds contribute to the ongoing improvement
of Laharum Hall

Laharum Landcare Group



LANDCARE

Thanks to Mark Francisco for his work and commitment as President – he has done a terrific job in his term of office.

He has stepped down due to his commitments as fire brigade captain. The annual meeting decided to try a new system in which a Chairperson would be elected each two months. This should allow more people to get involved and also spread the load more evenly. Bill Gardner was elected Chairman, John Fisher and Alison White remain as Secretary and Treasurer.

Activity continues on weeds (Patersons curse, St John's Wort, blackberry and bridal creeper in particular) and noxious animals - rabbit, hare, and fox. Talking with the Sporting Shooters Association their records show about 3,500 foxes were shot in the district and surrounds in recent years. Landcare encourages them with our \$5 bounty for foxes and \$2 for hares killed in Laharum which helps with costs.

We are holding a forum on 'Straw for fuel and electricity' on **Friday December 11** at Laharum Hall, 6:30pm start followed by a tea to be catered by the Kinder mums. We will celebrate the group's 15th birthday since incorporation - about 20 years since the group formed! Hopefully the forum will lead to a new industry in the region and an additional outlet for farmers with excess stubble, plus address the renewable fuel issue. Your support is needed to get this initiative started. Everyone welcome.

Bill Gardner

The Wander Inn



On **Thursday December 17**, 6.30pm we will be having a pre Christmas get together. Cost \$10 per head with meat and nibbles provided – please

bring a salad or dessert. Drinks available at special bar prices – no BYO drinks. Please book on 5383 6377. Raffle tickets for a Christmas hamper for the 2010 Classics festival are available at \$1 each at The Wander Inn. Prize donated by Jenny Hill – drawn on Christmas Eve.

We will be closed on Christmas Day.

Fresh seafood is available every Friday.

Jenny, Tony, Demi and staff wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. We thank everyone for their support since we have been here.

Jenny Wilson



Horsham Rural City Council
urban rural balance

Horsham Rural City Council is continuing with slashing and roadside works and will continue as long as weather permits.

Free permits for removal of firewood from storm damage are still available from Council.

Major works are continuing on the Wonwondah/Toolondo Road.

Wishing readers of this newsletter a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous new year.

David Eltringham

Laharum Community Christmas PARTY

At Cameron Oval Reserve
On 19th of December
From 6pm

Meals- \$10 Adults

- Kids Under 10 free

Bar in operation



With a Special visit from Santa, and lollies for the kids!

Hosted by Laharum Tennis and Cricket Club

Enquiries to -

Deb MacInnes - 5383 8203 / 0428 838203

Brooke MacInnes - 0417 276676

Laharum Tennis Club



The tennis season is going well and all grades are having mixed fortunes with a few wins and a few losses.

The junior teams are super keen and are really enjoying their tennis on Saturday mornings.

We've held two junior coaching mornings.

Thank you to Denise McGennissen for giving up her time to come and give the kids some valuable coaching tips. It is very much appreciated by all and they are all improving each week.

Our Christmas breakup will be held after our final match for this year on **Saturday December 19** at Laharum football ground. It will be a combined get-together with the community, cricket, football and netball clubs and everyone is invited. A BBQ meal will be provided and of course Santa will be dropping in to visit with lollies for the kids. We have hired a Juke Box for entertainment on the night. Come along!
Deb MacInnes

Brimpaen Tennis Club



The Christmas break is fast approaching and both Brimpaen teams are off to a slow first half of the season with only three wins between us!! Both teams are having a good hit each week, but just coming up short at the end of the day. Looking on the bright side, there is plenty of room for improvement in the second half of the season!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

Courtney Dunn

Laharum Primary School



Year 5 & 6 students Leadership/ Adventure Days at Natimuk - Year 5 & 6 students participated in rock

climbing at Mt Arapiles with Natimuk PS students. We were given this opportunity by receiving a grant from the School Focussed Youth Worker program. This funding has provided this unique opportunity for our senior students free of charge and in combination with the Natimuk students.

Long Lunch October 22 - What a wonderful success this was for our inaugural luncheon. It was a real credit to our parents and shows just what can be achieved through initiative, commitment and team work. The setting was beautiful, the food delicious and the weather gods were certainly on our side! I'm sure that once the word gets out about the 2009 event, everyone will want to attend next year! Well done to everyone who worked so hard on the day. This of course includes the fantastic efforts of the students of Laharum PS who must be complimented for their outstanding enthusiasm, behaviour and participation before and during this event. Many people commented on the wonderful interaction of the students when delivering and clearing meals. It must have been hard carrying all that delicious food and then only having a sandwich for lunch!! So as a fitting reward for their excellent efforts, Deirdre organised a mini long lunch for all the students just like the adult version!

Another wonderful feature of the lunch was the Photographic Competition, coordinated by Jenny Gaulke. The photos were amazing and were beautifully displayed on



the day. It was certainly an extra highlight for our visitors. Congratulations to our prize winners:

- P-2: Oliver Baum - Green Arrow
3-4: Brandon Day - Two North Facing Buildings
5-6: Alana Carter - Recycled Billycart
Open: Robyn Jones - From Little Things Big Things Grow
Peoples' Choice: Alison White - Rock Landscape



Congratulations to our five students who achieved Honourable Mentions in the recent Water Wise poster competition. Gillian and Phil the Bucket from GWM Water

presented certificates and prizes to Jimmy, Dane, Meg, Debbie (absent) and Shaeleigh. Well done!

Warrnambool Camp - Kites, beaches, stingrays, hammerhead shark, shipwrecks, sea stacks, wind! Our camp to the southern coast was wonderful. Students were so engaged in all the activities, the weather was extremely kind to us and the sights were spectacular.

It was terrific to see and hear the students finding and discussing things that we had learnt about in the classroom. They were so excited to relate their learning to the 'real world'. I think their greatest surprise was in the magnitude and beauty of the Loch Ard Gorge and the Twelve



Apostles. Once again it was an absolute pleasure to take the students away. Their behaviour was wonderful, especially their manners and cooperation with both their peers and staff. We were complimented by patrons in the restaurant about how well behaved the students were; we were complimented in the caravan park by tourists (including several ex-teachers); by presenters and even by a couple on the beach at Warrnambool - they had actually seen us the night before at the restaurant too. We look forward to next year's adventures!

Hope to see you on the Concert Night on **Thursday December 10** starting at 7pm sharp.

We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

Robyn Jones, Principal

Laharum Cricket Club



The club is enjoying a run of successes recently and we hope to continue this way after the mid-season break.

Our B Grade is on top of the ladder. Both bowlers and batsmen are doing their jobs with Dylan Carroll, Matt Gannon and Dan Mibus leading the bowling, and Ben Peucker, Daniel Griffiths and Robbie Miller starring with the bat.

C Grade is also going along nicely and is currently in the Top Four. Jarrod Mibus and Dan Griffiths both scored great centuries recently and Daniel Chaplin has been getting the team off to a good start with some good scores as an opener. Rob McInnes and Darcy Wills are arguably the best opening bowling pair in the comp. and along with Ash Marra and Rohan Adams, take plenty of wickets.

Special mention to some juniors who have filled in when required and performed with aplomb - Stuart Hill with a fine 39 and Sanjay Sarup with a wonderful catch and good batting too.

The U/16 team are seriously making their presence felt with two very solid victories against an over-confident Blackheath and a strong Jung team. All players are contributing but Daniel Griffiths is the stand out with a 50 in each match played. Daniel, Brandon Campbell, Jake Hobbs, Sanjay and 'Chops' Cutter have picked up the wickets.

The U/14s are playing good cricket and enjoy both their training and playing. A *big* thanks to the parents of all the juniors for their support and transport to the games and training.

See you all at the Christmas break-up on 19th.

Peter Levey

Friends of Grampians Gariwerd



The only major event planned for the New Year is the *Ptilotus erubescens* count on **Saturday January 9**. The activity will start at 10am so the gate to Cooina Burrong will be unlocked just after 9am, but must be kept closed. It is important that all those intending to participate advise me of their interest, as we may be forced to change the date due to weather or fire conditions.

Stan Parfett 5383 6349



After the success of the Classics in Wartook Valley Festival, the committee has

incorporated and will hold the festival again in September 2010. We look forward to seeing you all there. In the meantime the following events are planned, and everyone is welcome!

The official launch of the public art sandstone sculpture produced by Kevin Free for the 'Classics' inaugural festival is to take place on **Saturday January 16, 2010 at 7pm**; in the gardens at The Wander Inn. Name of Sculpture: Classic Dream. A seafood, beef and salad meal will be available at The Wander Inn after the launch and bookings are essential - cost \$28 per head. Please ring Jenny to book your meal on 5383 6377.

There will be fundraising events next year for the festival. These will be:

March - Rock & Roll night

May - Gambling night. Purchase and play with monopoly money followed by a Dutch auction using your winnings

July - Red Faces; start planning your act now!

More details on exact dates and times of events will be advised in the February newsletter. Pencil these events in your social calendar!

Loretta Emerson

Classics Committee Secretary 5383 6233

**AUSTRALIA DAY
BREAKFAST**



**Tuesday January 26, 2010 8am
Brimpaen Hall**

Guest speaker – Chris Velthuis
Flag raising ceremony
\$5 per head; \$12 family
Raffle 1st prize donated by The Wander Inn

All welcome

Organised by Brimpaen Ladies Social club
Enquiries ☎ Margo on 5383 9250

Brimpaen Craft Group



Our first meeting for 2010 will be held on **Tuesday February 2**. We will be organising our syllabus for the year. Come along and join in the discussion!

Jill Sinclair

Laharum Neighbourhood Watch



Rural

Our first meeting for next year will be 8pm on **Monday February 8** at Laharum Hall.

Judy Gardner

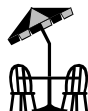
Yoga at Laharum Hall



We will resume yoga next year on **Wednesday February 3**. Yoga is very beneficial to the young and also those 'not so young'! It helps maintain a good level of fitness and keeps our bodies flexible. Come along and discover the benefits.

Judy Berendsen

Brimpaen Ladies Social Club



We will be arranging next year's syllabus on **Tuesday February 23** at Brimpaen Hall, so come along and join in the planning.

Margo Hamilton

Horsham South Garden Club



Our first meeting for 2010 will be on **Thursday February 25** at the home of Elizabeth Johns. Please bring lunch to share. This will be the AGM and election of office bearers.

Lola Ervin

GRAMPIANS TEXTURE

**Saturday-Thursday February 20-25, 2010
Halls Gap**

Come and join other textile/art enthusiasts for the annual **Grampians Texture**: part festival - part forum. Fifteen talented tutors are offering a range of 2 and 4 day workshops covering topics: felting, embroidery, small scale sculpture, jewellery, printing, stitching by hand and machine, knitting, book making, fabric and fibre manipulation, crochet, devore velvet, basket weaving, wax resist and dyeing plus much more. **Treat yourself to a great experience!**

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

Tutors include:

Liz Gemmell, Keith Lo Bue, Wim de Vos, Jane Siddall, Anne van der Kley, Abi Thompson, Adele Outteridge, Felicity Matthews, Rose Kingsmill, Phil Hali, Phillipa Rooke, Tony Dyer, Jacinta Leishman, Wendy Golden, Anita Larkin.

For bookings and further information:

grampianstexture@gmail.com Ph (03) 5361 4444

Early bird bookings close 1 December 2009

www.visithallsgap.com.au/grampianstexture



Family movie

Friday January 29, 2010

6pm meal provided at minimal cost

Screening 7pm - Laharum Hall

Free movie & popcorn



The 2010 Art is... elemental festival will be launched with a performance by the Australian Scholars on **Saturday February 27, 2010** at 8pm at Wesley Performing Arts Centre, Horsham. Each year the Australian Vocal Scholars

Program provides a selection of young singers with an invaluable opportunity to learn from and perform with singers of world standard. This will be the second year that Art is... has hosted The Scholars. In March 2009 The Scholars supported the performance of world famous soprano, Yvonne Kenny AM, together with Australia's favourite tenor, Roy Best at the Horsham Town Hall.

Early bird general seating tickets are now available for \$30 until January 1, 2010 - \$35 after that date. A booking form can be downloaded by going to the Art is... website at www.artis.com.au or call the office on 5381 0297 and a copy can be sent out.

We hope that you can join us to share in the beautiful feast of arias, songs and ensembles performed by Victoria's most promising young vocalists.

Abby Cooper, Media and Marketing Manager



Neil Murray at Wartook

Renowned Australian singer, songwriter, poet and writer, Neil Murray will perform at The Wander Inn, Wartook during the Horsham Art is...elemental Festival next year.

Date **Thursday March 25, 2010, 6.30pm**
 Cost \$55 per head including meal & performance
 \$35 per head performance only - 8pm.
 Bookings now open.

Early bird booking discount: Book and pay before February 1, 2010 and get a \$5 discount off your ticket. All bookings to be made at Wartook Artists Studio 5383 6243; credit card payments available.

Wartook Artists Studio will also have an exhibition relating to the theme 'elemental' which will open prior to the performance.

Threatened Species Group

All Threatened Species Group enquiries are now to be directed to Pauline Rudolph pauline.rudolph@dse.vic.gov.au or ☎ 5362 2111 Tues, Wed & Thurs only.

In mid March we hope to have another look at the local colony of the little-known Grampians Monotoca which was badly affected by the heat wave in late January early February 2009. The number of plants had increased since the first encounter in 1987, but now we will see how many survived the heatwave.

Stan Parfett

Laharum CFA



At the pre-season meeting Don Sudholz stood down as captain. A *big* thanks to Don for all his time as captain. There has been a change in a few lieutenant positions: Luke Dumesny is 1st Lieutenant, and we welcome Andrew Bos as 2nd Lieutenant - he is taking over the role as training officer.

The Grampians and Jilpanger Groups had a joint training exercise in early November with between 12-14 vehicles involved - it was an interesting day.

Kevin Bolwell from Horsham CFA ran a Bushfire Safety Meeting at the football ground last month. Let's hope we don't need to implement some of our plans.



Mark & Kevin

On the southern end of Roses Gap Road a strategic water tank for fire fighting has been filled and is operational.

We concluded burn-offs around the oval, tennis courts, school, Hall and fire dam.

A new shed for Tanker A will be going up in the New Year. It will be made and erected by WorkCo under Lee Hutchinson's supervision.

WHERE IS YOUR PAGER?

IS IT IN A DRAWER WITH A FLAT BATTERY?

Recently we had the hay shed fire call out and we had 3 members who responded to the pager message. I know this fire was in Horsham, but they support us if we need help, so let's support them! Thank you to those who attended this fire straight away and to those who were part of the relief crews. **Roster runs** - Please take the time to take the trucks for a run. It doesn't have to be done on that day nor does it matter if they go out more than once a week.

Have a safe and happy Christmas.

Mark Francisco, Captain

**PREPARE.
ACT.
SURVIVE.**



Your Bushfire Survival Kit

Copies of this comprehensive kit can be picked up at CFA Office, 19 McLachlan Street, Horsham.

The kit includes:

- Understanding your environment
- Household bushfire site assessment
- Preparing your property
- Leaving early
- Defending your property
- Understanding fire danger ratings

and much more. CFA website is: www.cfa.vic.gov.au

Kevin Bolwell is grateful to Wilson Bolton & Co Pty Ltd for the use of a car to travel to regional areas for CFA community information sessions on bushfire protection procedures and information.

Laharum Preschool



It has been an incredibly busy last few weeks with the end of the year approaching. Some of the topics that we have been focusing on have been: pet safety, schools, dinosaurs, musical

instruments, beaches, Aboriginal Australia and of course Christmas.

We recently had a visit from Wags the Beagle. This is part of the pets Responsibility Program run by DPI. It teaches the children how to be safe around dogs. 'Wags' is used to showing the children how to approach dogs in a safe way. Thanks to Cecilia Myers for coming and showing the kids how to be safe.

We have also completed our transition program. Our two future Preppies thoroughly enjoyed visiting school and Oliver says, "School was awesome!" I will be sorry to see both Jim and Oliver go, but luckily they won't be far away!!

We have also been doing loads of artwork, particularly Aboriginal paintings with mixing powder paints. The children have loved doing these and they look fantastic. We have also been painting on bark and hand painting on the easel.

Our school concert is fast approaching and we have been busy practicing our songs. We will be performing two songs that I'm sure all parents and broader community will enjoy. The children have been doing a great job and we can't wait to get up on stage. I hope to see you all there.

Christmas is certainly upon us as well. We are making lots of Christmas decorations and have put up our Christmas tree. The children are particularly excited by our Christmas party which will be held on Monday December 14. A mock Santa will come and give gifts to the children and then we will feast on some delicious party food. On Wednesday December 16 kinder will be closed to the children as this is our designated pack up day. If you have any spare Christmas decorations, we would love to have them for future use, also any Christmas materials that may be used for pasting.

This week we will have a PJ day. The children will come to kinder dressed in their PJs and will have breakfast at kinder - staff will too!! They will then get dressed by themselves. The idea of this day is to teach them self-help skills that will be required for school readiness. They love this day...especially seeing Tracey and me in our PJs!

We have recently been presented with our Smiles for Miles Award. Taryn Marks, coordinator of the program visited us and presented the award to the children. She commented that it was a great effort from all for providing healthy lunches, which is the main idea of the program. Well done to all parents for your commitment to making lunches healthy.

Thanks to Kerry-Anne Chincarini for the beautiful photos this year. They look fantastic and all the children have lovely smiles. The colour and quality are excellent. Kerry-Anne is a professional photographer and is available for private photo shoots.

Lastly, keep those donations coming please - they are greatly appreciated. Anything you think the

kinder might use, please bring it in. I thank this year's committee and welcome next year's who are exactly the same people! Your support is greatly appreciated.

I wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and look forward to an exciting 2010.

Jo Bone

Laharum Hall Committee



The Ararat Theatre Co has once again given us a great night of laughs and entertainment. It was great to see so many at the Hall with quite a few having enjoyed

previous performances. To those who didn't make it, be sure to come next year - you missed a good night! Proceeds from the night will go towards Hall improvements.

Thank you to the committee for help cleaning the Hall prior to and after the melodrama. The wonderful array of salads for our meal were provided by the committee. Thank you to Judy Johnson for organising the food.

Thank you to Gil Hopkins and Barry Berendsen for the mowing done around the hall. Without this hard working committee the Hall would not be the great facility that it is **for all to use**.

May you all have a safe and happy festive season.

Judy Berendsen



Wonwondah Landcare Group

Wonwondah Landcare Group held its last meeting for the year and it was interesting to look back at what has been achieved. Plans for next year were discussed.

A biodiversity pond has been constructed with a working bee on the Norton Creek Reserve just south of the Wonwondah Hall. It will be fenced and secured early next year in time for the new pipeline to supply water for it. Additional landscaping and a general clean up will make this a pleasurable site to visit and see the good effect it will have on the area.

Further rabbit ripping will occur during the next month to conclude this year's program and additional funds have been sought from Wimmera Catchment Management Authority for an autumn attack on new burrows.

Ian Wentworth from JK Milling spoke to members on marketing options for this harvest. Our next meeting is planned for early February 2010.

Chris Guest

⤵ BE AWARE ⤵

During the Haven fires in February, Mal Griffiths noticed that evaporative air conditioners on roof tops were alight, probably because power was lost and no water was pumped into their pads

RECOGNISING A STROKE

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer severe brain damage when people nearby fail to recognise the symptoms.

A neurologist was quoted to say that if he can get to a stroke victim within 3 hours, he can *totally* reverse the effects of a stroke. He said the trick was getting a stroke recognised, diagnosed, and then getting the patient medically cared for within 3 hours.

Now doctors say a bystander can recognise a stroke by asking three simple questions:

- **S** - Ask the individual to **SMILE**
- **T** - Ask the person to **TALK** and **SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE** coherently, ie "It is sunny out today"
- **R** - Ask him or her to **RAISE BOTH ARMS**.

Remember the '3' steps - **S T R**

If he or she has trouble with any of these tasks, call the emergency number 'triple zero' **immediately** and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

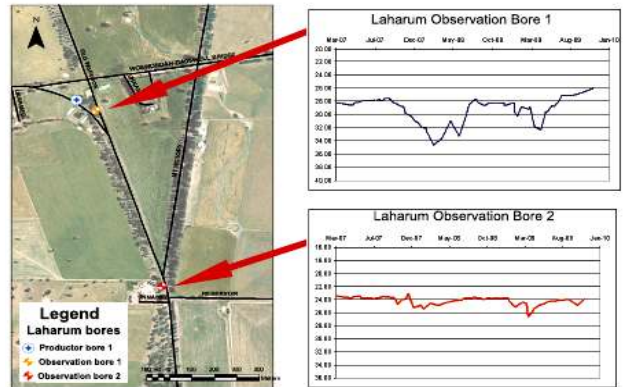
A new sign of a stroke is to ask the person to "*stick out your tongue*". If the tongue is crooked or goes to one side or the other, it is also an indication of a stroke.

Laharum bore update



Update 1 December 2009

GWMWater



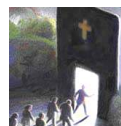
GWMWater continues to monitor the groundwater levels at the Laharum bore field on a regular basis. We are coming up to our third year of monitoring and a trend is becoming apparent – refer to the above graphs.

The groundwater level responds to changes in the pumping rate and recovers quickly when the pumps are switched off or pumping rate reduced. Current groundwater levels are the same or greater than those recorded when monitoring commenced in 2007.

Groundwater extraction was increase last month on Production Bore 1 up to 2 Megalitres per day. Currently extraction has reduced again to 1 Megalitres per day. This water will continue to be used as a base flow into the treatment plant at Mt Zero.

GWMWater 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.

Wartook Christian Home Meeting



Our group meets every Friday evening from 7pm - venues vary. Any resident of Laharum, Wartook or Brimpaen is welcome to join our meetings. Good supportive fellowship is assured.

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

CODE RED DAYS AND TOURISM

Although no statement has come from DSE or ParksVic, it is expected that during Code Red or Catastrophic days, people will be advised *not* to camp in the National Park where there isn't a clear road exit and **listen to the radio for the latest information**.

Gil Hopkins

HOUSE FOR RENT

Laharum

Contact Carole & Bernie

☎ 5383 8232

4x4Kids!

Muddy good fun.

G'Day & welcome to 4x4Kids!

At 4x4Kids! we have stuff for 4x4kids! who are stuck living with their 4x4mad! parents.

Online shop at: www.4x4kids.com.au
Email: 4x4kids@live.com.au

Kids, if you can't beat 'em, join 'em!
It's "Muddy good fun!"

Muddy good fun.

Owned & operated by an Aussie-work-from-home-mum.

Riding for the Disabled



As the end of 2009 approaches, Horsham RDA has wrapped up its riding rallies and all that remains of our year is the Christmas breakup on Friday 4th

December. Our horses have started their annual holidays and our volunteers will also be taking a well-earned break. As years go, 2009 has seen the full range of ups and downs at our Centre with positive things like several new volunteers starting, coach trainees practicing and riders making great progress with their skills, as well as not-so-positive things such as the sad loss of some of our long time volunteers and horses.

Our Centre lost a great friend in the second half of the year, Dot Frizon, who was one of our long-term volunteers, coach and great friend. Dot had taken leave from Horsham RDA a year or two ago so that she could live her dream to travel around Australia. She died in Ballarat after a short battle with illness.

We also lost two of the longest serving horses in our equine team: Miss Piggy and Misty. They were to be retired this year but fate stepped in and the hard decision had to be made for each of them.

And so we look onwards to 2010. We continue our quest to find the perfect replacement horse (many are tried, few are chosen) as well as continuing to recruit new volunteers to help out with our programs (a few try it out, all are welcome). On top of that we continue to provide the best riding, driving and vaulting programs for all who register with us.

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

Tina Pallot

WANTED

**Boys clothes size 5-6
Any amount Any condition**

Happy to pay or make a donation to Laharum PS or Laharum Kinder or simply take it off your hands, for those of you still spring cleaning!

Contact Lisa Barton on 0428.132 894 or email: lifacarol@hotmail.com or drop it off at Laharum Kinder

Brimpaen CFA



Please remember to check the Truck Roster and take the truck for a run when on duty. It can be taken out on any day during your rostered week and if you are unavailable during that week, please arrange a swap with another person.

Andrew Chincarini

FOR SALE

German Coolie puppies

Terrific sheep dog or family pet
Intelligent and good looking - multi colours

1 boy and 2 girls - DOB 4.11.09

Contact Jenny McInnes on 5383 6244
for expression of interest.

To be collected in early January at 8 weeks old -
\$140 each. Vet check optional for \$60



Bravura Cleaning Service

- Steam cleaning carpets and upholstery
- Window washing
- Vacant house cleaning
- Vacant blocks mown



Contact Conrad on 0488.435 083

Conrad and Amanda Winfield

CASUAL WORK AVAILABLE

Seeking casual work during the Christmas festive and holiday season?

Contact Jenny Wilson on 5383 6377

*Opinions expressed in articles appearing in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor.
For further information or discussion please contact the author of the article.*

LOST PROPERTY

Pearl ring found near sink at Laharum Hall
Please ring Judy on 5383 6265

Check out the websites

www.laharum.vic.au

and

www.wartook.vic.au

If you misplace your newsletter or your friends/family would like to read it - it's on the website.

See how you can change your email address to:
@laharum.vic.au or @wartook.vic.au

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

Johno's Bricklaying



Bricklaying, rendering, concreting,
tiling, paving, small building jobs,
bobcat - post holes, small tip truck

Phone Johno on 0419.116 711 or AH 5383
6285

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Users of the recycle bins at Laharum Hall please make sure **all** materials are put in the bins.

***Anything left on the ground
will not be collected!***

*Photos and articles for this newsletter are
always appreciated*



Laharum Primary School students at the Long Lunch after they have served meals to the community and having a well deserved rest!

Community Building Initiative Laharum/Wartook Community Links News

Well, works to Laharum Hall have taken a bit longer than expected, but it really is getting close to being completed now and it does look great. Unfortunately the funding we had available to run activities has now been spent. However, we do hope to continue to provide services and run activities so we can make use of the new space and facilities that we now have in the refurbished Hall.



At an information evening last month, Diane Hinchcliffe, Regional Nurse/Melanographer informed everyone about the facts and fiction of skin cancers. This coincided with National Skin Cancer Awareness Week.

If anyone has any suggestions for health services, activities or adult education courses for next term, please let me know.

We are grateful to Denise McGennissen and helpers for offering junior tennis coaching sessions for children Under 15 years this term. On Sunday November 29 we welcomed back the Ararat Theatre Co for another production for the third year in a row. Once again they did not let us down. It was a fantastic show and we had a really good roll up to enjoy it.



Confusion with babies at 'Caravans 2'!

Deb MacInnes

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

LAHARUM / WARTOOK ACTIVITIES PROGRAM DECEMBER 2009/JANUARY 2010		
Date & Time	Venue	Activity
Saturday December 19 6pm	Cameron Oval Clubrooms	Combined Community/Laharum Tennis & Cricket Christmas Party Meals \$10 Adults. Kids under 10 years free. Bar in operation. Special visit from Santa with lollies for the kids. Juke Box Music. All welcome
Friday January 29, 6pm 2010	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
Continuing 2010 To be advised	Laharum Hall	Local Vocals. Community sing-along just for fun. Bi-monthly singing evenings. Ring Liz on 5383 8207 to confirm

North West Grampians Newsletter - Community Calendar of Events 2009/10

December

Thursday	10	6pm	7pm sharp - Laharum Primary School Christmas Concert
Friday	11	6.30pm	Laharum Landcare at Laharum Hall
Thursday	17	6.30pm	Pre Christmas get together at The Wander Inn
Saturday	19	6pm	Laharum Community Christmas Party at Cameron Oval Reserve

January

Saturday	9	10am	Friends of Grampians Gariwerd
Saturday	16	7pm	Launch of 'Classics' Sculpture at The Wander Inn
Tuesday	26	8am	Australia Day Breakfast at Brimpaen Hall
Friday	29	6pm	Meal following at 7pm Family Movie

February

Tuesday	2	10.30am	Brimpaen Craft Group at Brimpaen Hall
Monday	8	8pm	Laharum Neighbourhood Watch Rural at Laharum Hall
Tuesday	23	daytime	Brimpaen Ladies Social Club
Thursday	25	lunch	Horsham South Garden Club
Saturday	27	8pm	Art Is.... Elemental – Australian Vocal Scholars

March

Thursday	25	6.30pm	Neil Murray at The Wander Inn – Art Is.... Elemental
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Mobile Library – Wednesdays December 9, 23 & January 6, 20 –Laharum PS from 9.30am

Yoga - Wednesdays 7.30-9.15pm – Laharum Hall – commencing February 3

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

Grampians Texture - Saturday-Thursday February 20-25, 2010

North West Grampians Fire Brigade News

November 2009



How can a CFA Volunteer benefit the Workplace?

Volunteers come from a wide variety of backgrounds and work in a range of professions, jobs and industries. Many are self-employed.

To be a CFA volunteer requires commitment, the ability to cope in an emergency and being able to work under pressure. Often the work of a volunteer is challenging, both physically and psychologically. Volunteers are usually driven by an ethos of helping others.

Our volunteers, particularly those in active firefighting roles, are highly trained and participate in many varied activities. They often gain additional training in areas such as leadership, teamwork, communication, emergency management, first aid, diversity and equal opportunity.

All skills learnt as a volunteer transfer to the employment environment. Skills gained with CFA have assisted many employees in their business and/or working lives.

Benefits of Employing a Volunteer

The Federal Government provides a payroll tax exemption for wages paid to employees attending emergencies or incidents during working hours.

For more information, employers should go to the State Revenue Office website www.sro.vic.gov.au or call 132 161.

Employee Leave Agreements

You make a significant contribution to your community when you release a CFA volunteer from work responsibilities to respond to emergencies. CFA encourages all its volunteers to negotiate with their employer suitable leave arrangements early in their employment relationship, prior to the need to attend an emergency. These arrangements may be informal, such as a verbal agreement.

Many employers choose to have a more formal arrangement, putting the agreement into writing. As with any formal employment agreement, it is wise to seek independent legal advice prior to making any commitment. Notwithstanding legislative requirements in the National Employment Standards and the Fair Work Act, the decision as to how leave will be processed is at the discretion of the employer. Options may include leave without pay, time in lieu, fully or partly paid leave.

Injury and Liability

While performing their CFA role, volunteers are fully covered by the CFA Volunteer Compensation Scheme. This includes loss of earnings and all medical costs.

Volunteers are also protected from legal liability as a result of their actions, either by the CFA Act or CFA's insurance policies.

Employer Recognition

CFA has a commitment to recognising employers who support CFA by releasing their employees, where possible, to respond to emergencies.

Employers are often recognised with Certificates of Appreciation and/or acknowledgement stickers that can be displayed at their place of business to let the public know they support CFA volunteers.

Employers can be nominated to receive a Certificate of Appreciation and/or stickers.

By encouraging employees to volunteer for CFA, you will not only be contributing to the vital work carried out by CFA, you will also be helping your community.

For assistance, clarification or support in relation to employing a CFA volunteer please call CFA Member Services on 1800 232 636.

Farmers must minimise risk at work

Fires are an inevitable part of summer for those living in rural Victoria and CFA is warning they can affect farms just as much as bushland.

Many day-to-day tasks on farms become potential fire hazards during summer, and CFA is stressing farmers need to be sensible when using machinery and other equipment.

CFA Operations Officer David Chugg says a farmer’s priority should be on minimising risks on their properties.

“Farmers rely on their equipment to provide for their families so the thought of shutting down probably frightens them,” Chugg said. “But they should be scared of the risks if they ignore the warnings and continue working.”

“On days of high danger farmers should strongly consider stopping harvesting and similar jobs.”

“Tractors, grinders, welders; think about what’s really important. On days of high fire risk, you should be thinking about stopping the use of any machinery.”

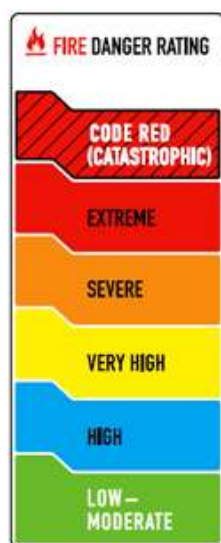
“As a farmer you have a lot to lose when threatened by fire, so make sure your life and that of your family & staff are your highest priority,”

There are many things you can do around your property to reduce your risk of fire and to prepare for the bushfire season ahead:

- Reduce potential fire fuels around your house and sheds by keeping grass low. Cut it regularly or graze stock to create a fire break.
- Ensure you have an adequate water supply, a diesel pump in case mains power is cut and enough hoses to reach every area you want to protect.
- Clear gutters of leaves.
- Maintain spark arrestors on your tractors.
- Have working UHF radio on all farm vehicles.

Extra care is essential on farms particularly on days of Total Fire Ban.

You can find further information on preparing your farm for bushfires in our free publication *On The Land* – to obtain a copy phone 03 9262 8403.



RATING	Recommended Action
CODE RED (Catastrophic):	If you live in a bushfire prone area the safest option is to leave the night before, or early in the morning.
EXTREME:	The safest option is to leave early in the day if you live in a bushfire prone area and your Bushfire Survival Plan is to leave. Only stay if your home is well prepared, well constructed and you can actively defend it.
SEVERE:	The safest option is to leave early in the day if you live in a bushfire prone area and your Bushfire Survival Plan is to leave. Only stay if your home is well prepared and you can actively defend it.
VERY HIGH:	If you live in a bushfire prone area and your Bushfire Survival Plan is to leave, the safest option is to leave at the beginning of a day.
HIGH:	Check your Bushfire Survival Plan
LOW-MODERATE:	Check your Bushfire Survival Plan