

February 2012

Edition 158

I recently received \$5 donations for nominating this Newsletter when joining as a member of Horsham Sports & Community Club. This helps towards the running costs of the Newsletter – thank you.

There's lots of activities and meetings in our community - let's get active and involved!

Liz Hopkins

Brimpaen Craft Group



We will be organising the syllabus for the year at our meeting on **Tuesday February 7**, 10am-2.30pm at Brimpaen Hall.

Jill Sinclair



Gathering at Brimpaen's Australia Day Breakfast

Yoga at Laharum Hall



10 years of yoga at Laharum Hall!

Yoga resumes on **Wednesday February 8** at 7.30pm. Come along and discover the benefits! It is very beneficial to all ages and we welcome anyone who has not done yoga before. It helps maintain a good level of fitness and keeps our bodies 'flexible and bendable' and our 'bits moving'!!

Please contact me on 5383 6265 if you are interested in attending for the first time.

Judy Berendsen

Grampians Wartook Promotion Group

Our first meeting for the year will be held on **Tuesday February 14**, 7.30pm at The Wander Inn. New members most welcome.

New issues will be discussed including the possibility of mountain-biking single trail tracks from Rosebrook to Zumsteins and a longer trail including olive plantations.

Sue Taylor

Mobile Library



Next visits to Laharum with the Mobile Library will be on **Wednesdays February 15 & 29; March 14 & 28; April 11.**

2012 is the National 'Year of Reading', so come along and get stuck into a book. You might just enjoy it!!!
Bryan Rohde

Local Vocals

Laharum Hall

Leader – Merryn Eagle



THURSDAY FEBRUARY 16, 7.30PM

Minimal charge

Singing ability not necessary

Come along and enjoy this informal and fun evening of singing in a relaxed atmosphere including a cuppa & chat!

District Gathering BBQ tea and chat

Wonwondah Hall

Saturday February 18, 6.30pm



BBQ meat, bread, fruit salad, ice cream, tea, coffee and cordial supplied

Bring a salad to share

\$15 per family; \$5 per single adult

\$10 one adult & children

Kids bring your tennis racquet along for a hit of tennis

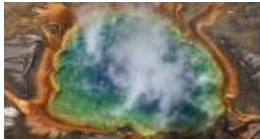
For more details contact Jill Warren on 0428 837500

Sustainable Living Festival – Statewide screening

Saturday February 18, 8pm 🎬

'HOME' – Free Movie – Laharum Hall
BYO drinks and nibbles

'Home' is a multi-award winning film, one of the most unique and powerful documentaries ever produced. It is beautiful and captivating, suitable for the whole family and has been filmed from low-flying aircraft to show the beauty of nature and give an insight into human impact on the world. It gives a powerful message of hope for a sustainable future. Check out the website - www.homethemovie.org/en. All enquiries ☎ 5383 8207.



Laharum Landcare Group



The next meeting of Laharum Landcare Group will be held on **Thursday February 23** starting at 7.30 pm at Laharum Hall.

Members are reminded that updated registration forms and subscription monies are now due.

There has been some great work done late last year on spraying St Johns Wort in the Wartook area. We are reducing the problem considerably over time.

The Group has recently been successful in obtaining grants for revegetation projects in the area and is always keen to hear from local landholders as to additional revegetation required in the future. Recently we also applied for some substantial grants for more Landcare works, including into Wonwondah area.

We have also achieved funding for a part-time Landcare Facilitator for the Horsham Rural City area, and this position will probably be based at Laharum Hall, initially. Anyone interested in applying for this position, please keep an eye on the papers for the advertisement.

The Group is concerned at the outbreak of Myrtle Rust in Victoria. This is a serious fungal disease affecting the plant family *Myrtaceae* which includes many common Australian native plants like Eucalypts, Bottlebrushes, Paperbark, Tea-tree, *Thryptomene*, *Micromyrtus*, etc. Myrtle Rust now occurs from Victoria to south-east Queensland. It has been found in commercial plant nurseries and may affect public gardens, parks and bushland. Some experts are advising not to buy *Myrtaceae* from nurseries until we know what to look for and how to treat the rust. Under damp conditions, Myrtle Rust may slow regeneration of native forests after harvesting or bushfires and could change forest biodiversity. For further information please contact the Landcare Group (Gil 5383 8207) or www.dpi.vic.gov.au.



Young rust growth on shoots



Rust ready to shed spores

Rob Lucas

Laharum Cricket Club



As we enter the run home to end of the cricket season, all grades are promising to be very competitive in trying to get to the finals.

A thrilling one run victory by C Grade Blue against a strong Homers' team was cancelled out by a disappointing loss for our previously unbeaten B Grade, also against Homers. I also heard a whisper that veteran stand-in, Pat Dunn took one of the best catches seen for quite a while fielding in gully for Blue. Son Tom picked up the vital wicket of David Hopper to give the team their one run win! Darcy Wills' 5/13 off 8 overs was a superb spell of bowling.

The B teams thrashing of final's contender Rup/Minyip after the break saw Robbie Miller and Ben Peucker share in an unbeaten opening partnership of 153 off 26 overs! Damien Bunworth's 7/11 off 8 against the Bullants was certainly worthy of reporting too.

B Grade seems headed for the finals but both C Grade teams need to keep winning all games to have a chance. The BIG Derby between the two teams to be played at the Griffith's Oval on **Saturday February 18** should be well worth being a spectator at, so put this one in your calendar, as B Grade are playing at the Cameron Oval on the same day - a veritable cricket feast for the locals! I'm sure that a BBQ will follow for everyone to enjoy after the games, along with the tennis teams.

Peter Levey

Horsham South VFF

Our branch will be meeting for the Annual General Meeting on **Monday February 20**, 7.30pm at Wonwondah Hall. Supper will be provided – all welcome.

Neville McIntyre, Secretary

Wonwondah Landcare



The project of filling in the old Wonwondah North Channel from Chandlers to Pymers - approximately 700m - is in the planning stages with 'dial before you dig' plan sought.

Other arrangements are being made to achieve a good job at a minimal cost.

Rabbit ripping will resume in another month once it has cooled a bit with eight new sites to be destroyed, as the rabbit numbers seem to be on the increase again!

Our next meeting on **Tuesday February 21**, 7.30pm at Guests dairy will include a guest speaker to focus on the best options for this coming season and how to maximise the marketing of our grains.

Chris Guest

Horsham South Garden Club



Our meeting on **Thursday February 23**, 12noon at CWA Hall will include our Annual General Meeting and we will discuss ideas for the year's syllabus. Please bring your lunch to share.

Lola Ervin

Laharum Fishing Competition

Sunday 26th February, 2012

7am - Registration at Laharum Football Ground

Dinner and Bar available in the evening

PRIZES TO BE WON!

Enquiries to -

Nadine 0429 836 214

Brooke 0417 276 676



Many Thanks to our sponsors -

Webcon, Rob Dolan, Erwin Motors, Barbeques Galore, & Wimmera Outdoors



Summer crop walk

Friday February 24, 10am*

Starting from Wonwondah CFA shed

There has been growing interest in summer cropping over recent years with parts of the Wimmera receiving above average summer rainfall. The opportunity to sow a crop on a significant rainfall event in late spring or early summer may become a useful risk management tool in helping growers adapt to a changing climate. This field walk will provide farmers with an opportunity to share their experiences and knowledge of growing summer crops.

SMS Rural will be supplying cold refreshments en route and Pioneer will be contributing to lunch at Balmoral Hotel.

Program

11am **Stop 1** Dunstan's at Telangatuk – corn crop and precision seeder

12.30pm Lunch at Balmoral Hotel

2.30pm **Stop 2** Stephen and Wendy Hobbs – corn crop

3.45pm **Stop 3** Damian Holmes – maize and sorghum

5pm Finish

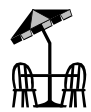
***Note** Travel to venue and between stops will be in your own vehicles.

For more information – contact Chris Pittock 0458 620759.

Proudly supported by:



Brimpaen Ladies Social Club



Our AGM will be held at the first meeting for the year on **Tuesday February 28**, 2pm at Brimpaen Hall. We will also be setting the agenda for the year, so please come along with your ideas. We welcome anyone who would like to join our club for the first time and "there's no fear of getting a job"!!

Tuesday March 27 is next month's meeting – agenda to be advised.

June McGennicken

SUNDAY MARCH 4



Let's help the environment by cleaning up our area

Clean Up Australia Day is a simple way you can take action to clean up, fix up and conserve our prized Australian environment!

In 2011 an estimated 565,510 volunteers cleaned up 16,454 tonnes at 7,479 sites right across Australia

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

Get together with your neighbours and keep our district clean!

Laharum Rural CFA



It had been a quiet fire season when writing, with only two attendances since December – a hay fire on the back of a semi trailer south of Cherrypool and a fire at Meereek State Forest near Edenhope which Laharum Tanker 1 assisted as part of a Strike Team. But then we had the 60ha fire at Glenisla-Rosebrook Road involving many people, trucks, bulldozers and aircraft including helicopters, last Saturday.

The CFA is introducing a member ID System which is a plastic card with the member's photo on it. This card will help facilitate access through Traffic Management Points providing the member has their Personal Protection Clothing with them. Without this card you will be refused access through a Traffic Management Point, unless you are on a CFA vehicle.

On **Friday February 24**, 7.30pm at Laharum Football Clubrooms, Marianne from CFA will be taking photos for the cards. Everyone will need to attend to obtain a card. Also there will be a brief training session on the new radio system as new radios will be fitted into our vehicles in March.

Any queries please ring me on 5383 8218 AH.
Mark Francisco, Captain

LAHARUM COMMUNITY

GARAGE SALE

Saturday March 24

9am - 1pm

Laharum Hall

Come and check out what's for sale!

Stallholders welcome

Sausage sizzle and soft drink available

To book a stall and for all enquiries contact Sharon on 5383 8240



grampians texture

**Centenary Hall, Halls Gap
February 25–March 1, Halls Gap**

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

Open to the public as part of the Grampians Textures week in Halls Gap are:

Twilight Market - Saturday February 25, 5-7 pm

Students and tutors of Grampians Texture will be selling their exotic craft in the beautiful art and grounds of the Mountain Grand.

Traders Saturday February 25 to Thursday March 1, 8.30am–5pm - Halls Gap Centennial Hall

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

Exhibitions:

Kookaburra Restaurant

Ripe Art - an exhibition of large silk paintings, depicting fruits of the season by local artist Barb Venn.
February 25–April 30 open daily from 4pm (except Mondays)

MOCO Gallery

'Contempo Textiles' - four Wimmera artists with a passion for working with textiles and 'Interpreting Place' an exhibition featuring cyanotype and prints on fabric.
Exhibition opens daily Saturday February 25-Thursday March 1

The Gap Winery

'Just Felt Like It' - Local felting groups showcasing the work over the past 12 months - 10am-4pm (Wed-Sun).
Until Monday April 30

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

For more information go to website
www.grampianstexture.com.au
or phone 0428 825971

WARTOOK ARTIST STUDIO

Check out our new range of handcrafted glass jewellery from Angie's studio in Horsham and Alison's amazing tea cosies

You will find the perfect gift for all occasions and Australian souvenirs for your visitors



FIBREWORKS will be trading at Grampians Textures in Halls Gap at the end of February and will also be hosting a new beginners knitting workshop (*KnitKnax*) and a regular knitting group (*KnitWits*) in Horsham in April

Enquiries info@fibreworks.net.au or 5383 6243

**The Studio will be closed from
Monday February 6 until Thursday February 16**

Normal trading hours: Thursday to Sunday 10am-5pm

Riding for the Disabled



There's nothing quite like publicly setting a goal for oneself to really inspire the 'work ethic'! And when you also challenge others to do likewise, well – then the pressure really is on!!! At the end of 2011, I confidently informed the coaches and volunteers of Horsham RDA that we would hire a horse truck and take a 'proper' team down to the RDA National Multidisciplinary Championships at Werribee in November 2012. There would be a riding team, a driving team and a vaulting team. The reactions of my colleagues were, shall I say, mixed and only time will tell if it ever gets off the ground!

Admittedly, the old 'work ethic' is taking a bit of a beating at the moment and it's not easy to be keen while it's nice and hot! But Horsham RDA is sensible enough to delay the riding year until March, when the weather will be less draining on riders, volunteers and horses alike.

We always begin the year with a couple of Training Days. Our first will be on **Friday February 24** and the second on **Wednesday February 29**, and they are an opportunity for coaches, volunteers and horses to ease out of 'holiday' mode before the riders begin their program on **Friday March 2**. It's a chance to learn something new and recall old skills.

While there's plenty of catching up with what everyone has been up to over the break, we really love to see new people come and try their hand as well. So if you are looking to do something different on a Wednesday or Friday morning during school term between 9am and 1pm at Horsham's Riverside Recreation Reserve, we would love to see you. There are 'horsey' and 'non-horsey' jobs available... something for everyone!

For any more information about our rallies or RDA in general, you can contact our President Jan Hutton-Croser 0429 935 382 or Tina Pallot 5382 2346.
Tina Pallot

EASTER MARKET DAY

➔ **Saturday April 7** ➔
9am–4pm

The Wander Inn

Stallholders welcome

Contact Jenny on 5383 6377 to book a stall

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

The Wander Inn



Our trading hours are Tuesday & Wednesday from 10am-5pm and Thursday to Sunday from 10am-8.30pm for meals – closed Mondays except public holidays. Fresh fish comes in on Fridays to 'eat in' or take-away. Our new Provedore is available with our own homemade goodies, essential oils, kitchen wares and much more.

Our Easter Market will be held on **Saturday April 7** from 9am-4pm. Stallholders welcome.
Jenny Wilson

Laharum Hall Committee



Laharum Hall Committee has received a very generous donation from the disbanded 'Classics in Wartook Valley' Committee. This is a wonderful contribution towards improvements to the kitchen. We greatly appreciate this generosity.

Thank you to some of the Committee who catered for Grampians Community Health Christmas meeting and break-up last December. They thoroughly enjoyed their visit to our Hall and appreciated the effort and delicious lunch that was prepared. All proceeds will again go towards the kitchen.

Our successful solar electricity grant has meant that we haven't had to pay for electricity since – though the service charge was still there. Now the 'smart' meter has been installed we are already in credit and can begin to calculate the income. We expect to have an opening of the facility as soon as we have some useful data to show!

Judy Berendsen

Brimpaen's Australia Day Breakfast

Another very successful Australia Day celebration was held on January 26 at Brimpaen with a gathering of about 80 people. Everyone enjoyed a delicious cooked breakfast, cereal, fruit juice and hot drinks.

Following this, guest speaker James Garrett spoke about his growing up and his teaching in America. On his arrival in Australia, he continued to teach. He was also very much involved in the Arts Council. It was a very informative, enjoyable and interesting talk.

We then concluded with the flag raising and singing the Australian Anthem.

We thank Horsham Rural City Council for their grant which contributes towards our breakfast.

Coral Smith

Telstra Priority Assistance

For people with life-threatening medical conditions, Telstra will provide an 'immediate response' to telephone connection if your landline breaks down - phone **132 200**

Laharum Neighbourhood Watch Rural



We have a newly assigned Neighbourhood Watch Police Liaison Officer for the Horsham Police Service Area - Sergeant Jason Bergen. He would like people to know that Horsham Police are very dedicated to the future of Neighbourhood Watch in the division and expect that our ongoing partnership will provide a greater ability to address local crime and safety issues.

Please contact your zone leader if you have any concerns.

Judy Gardner

Laharum Parent Club



Thank you to all those who participated in the sales of our cookbook! At our first meeting for the year we will have the results of our sold-out cookbook - an update will be given in the next newsletter.

Parent Club has been busy tending the vegetables over the holidays and a big thank you to those who have watered and cared for them. I hope you received the rewards of good tomatoes! The New Year will bring our chooks to the school - eggs will be available to sell soon.

A big welcome to new parents and to our meetings, the first of which will be notified as school newsletters are sent out.

We look forward to a new and productive year in establishing our school grounds.

See you at Parent Club to discuss and be part of our new activities.

Jenny Gaulke



OLD ROSEMONT QUILTS

ISABELLE MARTIN

138 McTavishs Rd. Laharum

5383 6229

oldrosemont@skymesh.com.au

OPEN Thursday & Friday

10am – 4pm

Ring on weekends

Fabric – Wadding – Cottons

Patterns – Quilts – Buttons

Ribbons – Ric Rac

Handmade items can be viewed and purchased from www.madeit.com.au

New Year Sale at Old Rosemont Quilts, fabrics from \$10/m.

A beautiful new range of fabrics has arrived in blues, pinks and greens.

Please ring Isabelle to make an appointment.

WCMA Group Support Update



2012 Victorian Landcare Calendars

These free calendars have been distributed to networks and groups to pass on to members and volunteers. If you've missed out, please let us know as we have a small number still available at the CMA office.

25th Anniversary of Landcare opportunities

There are still opportunities for groups and volunteers to access support to celebrate this milestone with events, publications, signs and new works. Landcare has played a prominent role in our communities and landscapes. There is much to be proud of and it is a good time to look back on past achievements. Contact the Wimmera Landcare Program at the CMA to discuss options for local celebrations.

Wimmera Machinery Field Days – March 6, 7, 8

Wimmera Landcare will again have space in the marquee opposite the food court, shared with the Wimmera CMA and Dept of Primary Industries. We will be building a picture of our Landcare community over the last 25 years and are on the hunt for copies of old photos of Landcare people and Landcare events. Any memorabilia with a special link to Wimmera Landcare that could be used, copied or borrowed for the Field Days display would be greatly appreciated.

Joel Boyd, Regional Landcare Manager

On the land – past, present and future

Join us at the Wimmera Machinery Field Days, Site D1-D6, to celebrate the past, discover present projects and look to a better farming future –

Tuesday

- 10-11am Bio-security demonstrations –
Get the goods on sheep guts and de-weeding your farm ute
- 11-12pm More ducks and yabbies –
Look after the wetland on your farm
- 2-3pm Chat about – *fending off unwanted pests, diseases and residues on the farm*

Wednesday

- 10-11am Bio-security demonstrations (as above)
- 11-12pm Chat about – *what the weather's looking like this year and making social media work for your business*
- 12.30-1.30 Chewing the fat on - *carbon farming*
- 2-3pm *What will the Regional Catchment Strategy mean for you?*

Thursday

- 10-11am Bio-security demonstrations (as above)
 - 11-12pm *Is your soil performing at its peak? What are our farmers learning through trials?*
 - 12.30-1.30 *Lessons learned on the land*
- La Vergne Lehmann**, Community Engagement Officer

Brimpaen Tennis Club



The Christmas break is over and the second half of the season is off to a very hot start! A Grade was lucky as they didn't have to play the first match because of a forfeit. B Special sweated out an easy win!

A Grade will be playing in the finals. B Special needs to continue winning to make sure they make it!

Courtney Dunn

Veggie Swap

Come along and share your produce! Bring along any vegies, fruit, herbs, seedlings, seeds, jams, pickles, eggs, plants, etc



Simply bring something to swap

This is a non commercial event – no money changes hands!

Where: Shields big green shed
1982 Northern Grampians Road, Laharum
When: 1st Sunday each month from 10-11am

Enquiries contact Jo Shields on 5383 6302 or 0419.879447
or Jo Gardner on 5383 6205

Anything left over will be donated to Laharum Primary School, Laharum Kinder or the Salvos

Laharum Primary School 2805



2012 DATES

- Term 1 - Friday Feb 3 to Friday March 30
- Term 2 - Monday April 16 to Friday June 29
- Term 3 - Monday July 16 to Friday Sept 21
- Term 4 - Monday October 8 to Friday December 21

Term 1 General Information

- Session 1 - 9am-11am
- Session 2 - 11.30am-1pm
- Session 3 - 1.45pm-3.15pm

School dismissal time is 3.20pm with bus departing school at this time.

Mrs Sally McKenzie will be teaching Prep One Two Class and Mrs Robyn Jones/Mrs Kath Pallot will be teaching Three Four Five and Six Class.

The School Office is open each morning between 8.30-9.30am.

Please contact the school during this time as we are unable to answer the phone during school session times as listed above.

Robyn Jones, Principal

Welcome Pack for new residents

If you are in business or if you are involved in a community group and would like to be included in the local businesses and community groups list, please forward your contact information to me at giliz@activ8.net.au or ring on 5383 8207. Details such as: name of business or group, address, phone no, email address and a short description of your business or group can then be included. Thanks!

Liz Hopkins

BATTERY COLLECTION

Please drop off any dead lead-acid car and tractor batteries to Pam & Des Geue's place, 1922 Northern Grampians Road on pallets just inside their gate.

If anyone has spare pallets, please leave them next to the batteries.

All proceeds go to Laharum Hall.



Prepare a Bushfire Survival Plan for your pets

Decide whether you will keep your pets with you or move them elsewhere during days of high fire risk - include these details in your Bushfire Survival Plan. If you choose to keep your pets with you, it's important to confine them early. Pets are safest inside a secure room, on a lead or in carriers. It is important that your pets are micro chipped and wearing a collar identification tag at all times.

Make a list of where you could house your pets if you decide to leave early. This may include boarding kennels, a relative/friend's place or you may be able to keep them with you. Discuss with neighbours how your pets might be protected in case you are not at home or cannot make it home during a bushfire.

Bushfire relocation kit for pets should include

- food and water
- bowl for each pet
- second collar and lead
- carrier for cats and smaller pets
- bedding and a woollen blanket
- pet first aid kit – seek your vet's advice
- favourite toy
- medications your pet is taking plus a written list of them
- your pet's medical history including proof of vaccination
- vet's contact details

Warning signs during extreme hot weather

- excessive panting
- salivating
- pets that whine or seem agitated

In cases of severe heat stress or heat stroke, pets may stop panting and vomit.

Ten tips for keeping your pets cool on hot days

- Have fresh, cold water available at all times
- Ensure your pets have shade at all times or bring them inside into a cool room
- Wipe your pets down with a cool, damp towel or leave wet towels out for them to lie on
- Wet your dog with cool water several times throughout the day
- Consider buying a wading pool for your dog
- For cats, rub damp hands over their coat or along their tummy
- Place ice blocks in your pet's water bowl
- Place ice in a pillow case and place it near your pets
- Consider having your dog clipped if its coat is long and thick
- Never leave your pets in a vehicle on a hot day

Further information

Animal Welfare – Department of Primary Industries

dpi.vic.gov.au

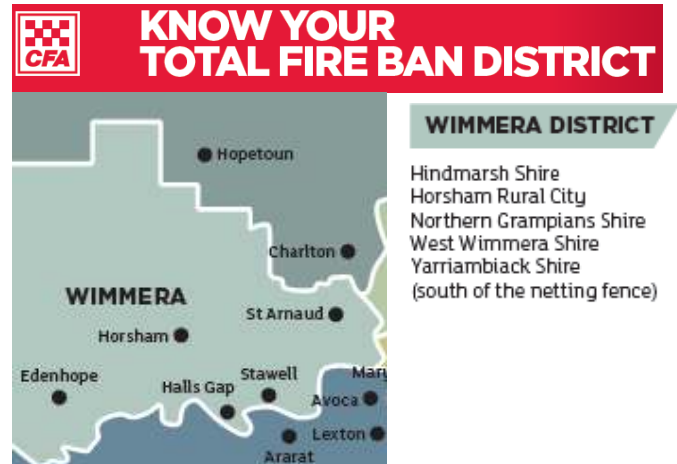
Free pet identification – National Pet Register

petregister.com.au or 1300 734 738

Bushfire safety and property preparation – CFA website

cfa.vic.gov.au

Victorian Bushfire Information Line **1800 240 667** (or via National Relay Service on **1800 555 677** if you are hearing impaired)



Louise McGillivray

BASO Horsham & Yarriambiack Catchments
CFA District 17, Grampians Region

Zumsteins Picnic Area Planning

The Reinstatement of Zumsteins has reached a milestone with draft Site Plans being completed by Landscape Architects Hansen Partners. The landscape architects have been working hard since October to finalise the plans, so local Parks Victoria staff were able to provide draft plans to the local community by February.

A local community group was formed back in May 2011. The group included local tourism businesses, history enthusiasts and people with a long association with the Zumsteins area. They have provided important feedback to staff on several occasions in winter and spring.

At a workshop-style meeting in early February the group met with Park staff and the Landscape Architects to discuss the site analysis that has been undertaken, and then went on to review a draft concept plan for the site. The draft plan will be revised to take into consideration the feedback from the meeting and will then be made available through the Parks Victoria website for broader comment.

Parks Victoria is committed to revitalise the site following the last year's floods by promoting the heritage values and community connection to the site, the picnicking opportunities and broader recreational links that Zumsteins provides to the nearby Wartook community and MacKenzie River Walk.

With 2012 being the 100th Year of Walter Zumstein, Parks Victoria looks forward to celebrating with the community this key anniversary with the reopening of the site later in the year.

Prue Daley, ParksVictoria



Department of
Sustainability
and Environment

DSE Wimmera District Update

With the start of 2012 extremely hot and windy, DSE and CFA were kept busy ensuring both Agencies met the required preparedness levels. Overnight on Tuesday January 3 a band of lightning crossed the Wimmera District resulting in a number of small fires being ignited on private and public land and all being contained by lunchtime on January 4.

At 1300 hours on January 4 a Parks Victoria staff member sighted smoke in the Victoria Range, approximately 34km NE Cavendish near Sawmill Track, with it looking like a single tree fire. Crews from Halls Gap, Cavendish and Horsham Depots were deployed initially, including a grader and D5 bulldozer. The fire quickly spread in a remote area of the Grampians National Park, with a number of aircraft being utilised for aerial suppression and contract bulldozers brought in to assist constructing control lines.

Fire crews worked throughout the night in an attempt to contain the fire, often working in steep and inaccessible terrain. Local DSE and Parks Victoria (PV) crews were later supported by a CFA strike team and two DSE/PV taskforces from Ballarat and the Otways the following day. At the peak of the fire there were 140 fire fighters and 13 aircraft, including the Erickson Airplane and four fixed wing bombers.

The 'Sawmill Track' fire as it became known, was contained at 230ha and remained within the National Park, 5km from the nearest private property.

An extensive number of 'warning and advice' messages were issued to communities in the Mirranatwa area, as well as far away as Ararat and Cavendish given the smoke that was visible from the Western Highway and Henty Highway. In total, 25 media interviews were undertaken by Incident Controllers from local, regional and Melbourne radio stations and print media. Local residents in the Mirranatwa area were also door-knocked by a Parks Victoria staff member and a local CFA volunteer to keep them informed on the fire situation, which was very well received.

Lauren Todman

Laharum Tennis Club



Competition continues after a break over Christmas. Although our teams are unlikely to reach the finals, it has been an enjoyable season. Our junior teams are playing extremely well.

We'd like to see players turn up for tennis practice on Wednesdays from 5pm.

Gary Staehr, President

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

LAHARUM COMMUNITY LINKS OFFICE - LAHARUM HALL

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



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

Gardening Services available

General mowing, fire prevention work, slashing & rotary hoeing, pruning, rubbish removal, chainsaw and brush-cutting work



Contact Bruce Winfield on 5383 6201

REMINDER

Laharum Hall subscriptions due - \$10 per adult
Please forward to Judy Berendsen
PO Box 621, Horsham 3402

Conrad S Winfield Cleaning Service

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



Contact Conrad on 0488 435 083

FOR HIRE


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

Contact Judy on 5383 6265

This newsletter can be viewed at

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

Printed on 100% recycled paper



478 Laharum / Grahams Bridge Rd
Laharum Vic 3401

Phone 0419 116 711 A/H 03 5383 6285 Satellite 0147 166 711

**Bricklaying, rendering, concreting, tiling, paving,
small building jobs, bobcat – post holes,
small tip truck, trenching also available**



Horsham Council met with Northern Grampians Councillors recently to review joint issues, particularly boundary roads, including Winfields Road and Roses Gap Road (eastern end).

These discussions have continued at Officer level and Horsham Council will consider at their next meeting a proposal to rationalise the maintenance and construction arrangements for these two roads, considering the importance of them to our Tourist and specialist production interests, to enable better strategic planning, particularly with Winfields Road where sections of it are totally within the Northern Grampians Shire or National Park, not in Horsham Council area!!

It is intended that with agreement between the Councils, future Construction programs for these boundary roads can be accelerated by redefining funding options. Council will continue to work towards these highly requested projects and will further consider the issues at Estimates.

Whilst talking of estimates for the 2012/13 year, Council has commenced the process, so now is the time to draw our attention to any issues for consideration.

We are continuing to finalise 2011 flood reinstatement works with a major contract being awarded recently for \$550,000 plus for repairs to damaged roads in various locations.

It is with many mixed feelings that I advise that this will be my last contribution to this Newsletter. I will retire from Horsham Council service on March 2 after a most rewarding, challenging, but most of all period of change and achievement as General Manager Technical Services over nearly 17 years. These have been good years of change, with an amalgamated municipality and I wish to convey to all those in the Wartook/Laharum/Brimpaen areas my appreciation for your assistance and to the many close associations and friendships I have made.

My position will be taken over by John Martin (from GWMWater) on March 19 and in the interim, our Operations Engineer, Martin Duke will be in an Acting role.

My best wishes and I trust our current fire free period continues.

David Eltringham, General Manager Technical Services



CFA Firestar Rose
Official Rose of CFA

Firestar Rose was created as a consequence of the events of Black Saturday 2009. The rose honours the lives lost, the many dedicated CFA members who were involved and celebrates the regeneration of new life - bred in remembrance

Type: Floribunda
Colour: Orange, becoming raspberry-pink
Scent: Light
Flower: Double, about 30 petals in clusters
Won national & international recognition



When purchasing online at www.firestarrose.com.au your local CFA brigade receives about \$11 per rose.
Order any time - bare rooted roses



Designer Builder

Interested in development and construction of projects specific to clients' needs and environment

Particular attention given to natural materials and appropriate site solutions

- Registered Builder
- Appropriate design
- Decks & Pergolas
- Buildings
- Renovations

Lincoln Shepherd

Aughey's Rd
Wartook

03 5383 6378



VICTORIAN BUSHFIRE INFORMATION LINE

1800 240 667

Total Fire Bans – Fire Restrictions
Bushfire Planning – Major Fires

North West Grampians Newsletter

Community Calendar of Events February - April 2012

February			
Tuesday	7	10am-2.30pm	Brimpaen Craft Group – Brimpaen Hall
Thursday	9	7pm	Wartook Heights Fire Guard Group – The Wander Inn
Tuesday	14	7.30pm	Grampians Wartook Promotion Group – The Wander Inn
Wednesday	15	9.30-11am	Mobile Library - front of Laharum Primary School
Thursday	16	7.30pm	'Local Vocals' – Laharum Hall
Saturday	18	Day	Laharum Cricket Club – 'Big Derby' – Griffiths Oval
"	18	6.30pm	District Gathering BBQ & Chat – Wonwondah Hall
"	18	8pm	Free movie 'Home' – Laharum Hall
Monday	20	7.30pm	Horsham South VFF – Wonwondah Hall
Tuesday	21	7.30pm	Wonwondah Landcare Group – Guest's dairy
Thursday	23	12noon	Horsham South Garden Club – CWA Hall
"	23	7pm	Wartook Valley Fire Guard Group – The Wander Inn
"	23	7.30pm	Laharum Landcare Group – Laharum Hall
Friday	24	10am	WCFA Summer Crop Walk – from Wonwondah CFA shed
"	24	7.30pm	Photo taken for CFA Traffic Management Points - Clubrooms
Sunday	26	7am–	Laharum Fishing Competition
Tuesday	28	Day	Brimpaen Ladies Social Club
Wednesday	29	9.30-11am	Mobile Library – front of Laharum Primary School

March			
Sunday	4	Day	Clean Up Australia Day
Wednesday	14	9.30-11am	Mobile Library – front of Laharum Primary School
Saturday	24	9am-1pm	Laharum Community Garage Sale
Tuesday	27	Day	Brimpaen Ladies Social Club
Wednesday	28	9.30-11am	Mobile Library – front of Laharum Primary School

April			
Saturday	7	9am-4pm	Easter Market Day – The Wander Inn
Wednesday	11	9.30-11am	Mobile Library – front of Laharum Primary School

- Wartook Christian Home Meeting** – Fridays from 7pm - venues vary
- Grampians Texture** – February 25–March 1, Halls Gap
- Yoga** – Wednesdays from 7.30pm – Laharum Hall
- Wartook Artist Studio** – Closed from Monday February 6 until Thursday February 16
- Wimmera Machinery Field Days** – March Tuesday-Thursday 6, 7, 8
- Vegie Swap** - 1st Sunday each month from 10-11am – Shields big green shed

School Terms 2012

- Term 1** - Friday February 3 to Friday March 30
- Term 2** - Monday April 16 to Friday June 29
- Term 3** - Monday July 16 to Friday September 21
- Term 4** - Monday October 8 to Friday December 21



LAHARUM FIRE BRIGADE TRUCK ROSTER February - April 2012 IN CASE OF FIRE DIAL 000



The trucks need to be driven 30km a week

WEEK START	LAHARUM TANKER		TANKER A	
	DRIVER	CREW	DRIVER	CREW
05/02/12	Leigh Mibus	Colin Flack	Gil Hopkins	Graeme Wood
12/02/12	Brad Geue	Adam Shields	Gary Staehr	Robert Staehr
19/02/12	Hugh Russell	Howard Black	Rob Launder	Andy Crawford
26/02/12	Alison White	Vikki Stevens	Robert Jess	John McIntyre
04/03/12	Alan Arnott	Norm Booth	Trevor Winfield	Ray Zippel
11/03/12	Chris Vincent	Barry Berendsen	Mark Francisco	Damien Knight
18/03/12	Will Pyke	Francoise van der Plank	Maurie Dumesny	Neil Seymour
25/03/12	Jim Carter	Rob McInnes	Cam Ellifson	Alex Ellifson
01/04/12	Brad Geue	Adam Shields	Bill Gardner	Judy Gardner
08/04/12	Deb MacInnes	Caroline Geue	Mal Griffiths	Tim Martin
15/04/12	Andrew Bos	Steve Suter	Brendan Dunn	Peter Dunn
22/04/12	John Fisher	Colin Flack	Luke Dumesny	Jenny Dumesny

Anyone with a heavy rigid licence can take trucks for a run - please mark your turn in your calendar! If a date on the roster does not suit, please do a mutual swap with anyone else! If you notice a fault with the truck during the run, please notify Mark Francisco immediately on 5383 8218. Always complete the log book at the end of your run. Thanks.

For fire warnings and updates: Tune into your emergency broadcasters: ABC and Commercial radio stations and SKY News TV.

Laharum Football Netball Clubs



Here we are again, the 2012 season is only 8 weeks away and it is looking like a very exciting season. This year Round 1 starts the week before Easter, **Saturday March 31**.



The Interleague game this year will be on May 26 against Maryborough District. We also have a week off this year on Saturday July 7, due to a split round which will be played over 3 weeks, so everyone can have a break!

This year after many years, Laharum Football Club and Laharum Netball Club have become one club – 'Laharum Football Netball Club'. The two committees have combined into one and so far it's been working well. Laharum Football Club was formed in 1923 after Brim Springs and Rosebrook Football Clubs combined and created Laharum Football Club.

Laharum Netball Club was formed in the mid 1960s and has played alongside the Football Club ever since.

Some of the positions this year are:

Chairman - Cameron Mibus; Director of Admin - Roxanne Smith; Director of Finance - Deb MacInnes; Director of Football - Brian Burke; and Director of Netball - Rachel McGennisken.

The senior footballers trained for three weeks before Christmas under Coach Marcus Demaria and assistant coaches Hamish Roberts and Shannon Argall. They have been training again for about 3 weeks at Horsham College Dimboola Road Oval on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6.15pm. Everyone is welcome to participate or come and watch. They will be moving out to Laharum on Tuesday February 21 and will then train on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting 6.15pm sharp.

The Chairman of selectors this year for the seniors will be Zane Taylor. Reserves Coach this year is Jamie Parfett and assistant to be confirmed. Junior Football Training will start on Thursday February 23 at 5pm at Laharum under coaches - Brian Burke Under 17s and David Laffy Under 14s.

Netball training has started at both Aquatic Centre and Central Park alternate weeks. They will move out to Laharum on Thursday February 23 starting at 6.15pm. We welcome A Grade Coach Tamika Burdett this year. Tamika previously played in the Mallee League, has coached and is a B Grade Umpire.

B Grade Coach is Nat Okely. Nat coached A Grade and 17/Unders last year. C Grade is yet to be confirmed. 17/Under is Nat Okely; 15/Under yet to be confirmed and 13/Under is Jane Dunn. Jane coached the girls last year.

This year there will be up to 3 practise matches before Round 1- times and dates haven't been confirmed as yet.

We are still in need of a few more people to fill a couple of jobs around the club from - Trainers, First Aid, Team Managers, someone to enter the match results into the computer and most of all supporters.

Any questions please contact me on 0429 435068, or anyone else on the Board.

Cameron Mibus, Chairman



Fire Guard for Wartook

A meeting of local residents at The Wander Inn in early February decided to set up Fire Guard Groups for the Wartook area.

Fire Guard is a program operated by CFA to inform and encourage neighbourhood understanding and cooperation in preparation and security around bush fire events. Groups are established and managed by the participants with the support of CFA.

<http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/firesafety/bushfire/help/community-fireguard.htm>

It was decided to base the groups on neighbourhoods that were small with close physical relationship to one another and the opportunity to interact informally on a day to day basis. The Group for the south west area of Wartook to be registered as Wartook Valley Group, is being coordinated by John Fisher (5383 6263) and north east area to be registered as Wartook Heights Group coordinated by David Thompson (5383 6247). It was considered by the meeting that another group for the Rosebrook/Happy Wanderer area should be established at the prerogative of these residents.

The program runs six sessions for groups including preparation of properties, development of household Bushfire Survival Plans and Personal Security. The meetings are arranged according to the groups' preference and provide for community specific issues and input. Michele Bos, CFA Community Engagement Officer for the Grampians Region (0418 986246) is the facilitator for the program in our area and would like to hear from people interested in setting up or joining a group.

Given the nature of our area there is a convincing case to have effective self-reliance in times of emergency and a means of supporting neighbourhood security. Many neighbours are part-time residents and will not be expected to be participants in the information sessions, but it is hoped the establishment of a communication system in the groups will provide awareness of residents' plans and location on fire danger days.

As the first steps in the process, the Wartook groups are developing a phone tree to facilitate contact in case of emergency and have scheduled meetings at The Wander Inn.

Wartook Heights Group - **Thursday February 9**, 4pm
RSVP 5383 6247.

Wartook Valley Group - **Thursday February 23**, 7pm
RSVP 5383 6263.

Any local resident interested in the program and not already approached, should contact Michele, John or David.

David Thompson



June McGennissen welcoming James Garrett to the Brimpaen Australia Day Breakfast



Riding for the Disabled



Zumsteins Picnic Area planning session



Raising the flag at Brimpaen on Australia Day

Something to think about! ☺

*"Nothing in life is to be feared.
It is only to be understood". Marie Curie*

*"Life is something to do when you can't get to sleep".
Fran Lebowitz*

*"Why is it, when we have a few white hairs,
only the coloured ones come out in the comb?!"
PK Shaw*

*"Nothing great in the world has ever been
accomplished without passion".
GWF Hegel*

*"The really happy person is the one who can enjoy
the scenery, even when they have to take a detour".
Sir James Jeans*