

December 2019

Edition 205

2019 has been a busy year for the community with regular sporting and social activities, meetings, information sessions & gatherings.

Let's hope for a good harvest, no fires and relaxing times with family and friends over the Christmas break. Wishing everyone a very happy New Year and safe travelling.



Liz Hopkins

BRIMPAEN CHRISTMAS TREE

Saturday December 7, 6.30pm

Brimpaen Hall

Please bring a salad and sweet

Meat supplied - BYO drinks

\$20 family; \$8 single



Carols with Peter & Denise McGenniken

Visit from Santa, gift up to \$15 - Raffle

For more details contact Denise on 5383 9236

AUSTRALIA DAY BREAKFAST

Sunday January 26, 8am 2020

Brimpaen Hall

Free of charge

funded by Horsham Rural City Council

Guest speaker, Gurjit Sondhu

Flag raising ceremony

All welcome

Enquiries please ring Denise on 5383 9236



The BILLY TEA BUSH BAND



End of school year celebration and community bush dance

Thursday December 12

Laharum Hall

5.15 pm Barbecue

Followed with Bush dancing until 8.30pm

Formalities will be speeches, awards & graduation of Year 6 students & farewell to families



Laharum-Wartook Produce & Vegetable swap

SPRING/SUMMER 2019 second Sunday at 10am sharp

8th December - Alison White &

John Fisher's 75 Snell's Rd, Wartook

Please note change of swap day to first Sunday

5th January - Pam & Matt May's

84 Wartook Rise, Wartook

2nd February - Gill Venn's

1366 Tatlock's Bridge, Brimpaen.

For further information contact
Wendy McInnes 5383 6220



Laharum Tennis Club



Our A Grade tennis team is doing really well with getting a few wins on the board.

We have had a social tennis night for the community which was supported well. The next date for another social tennis night will be sometime after the Christmas break.

Take care over the Christmas holidays and have a very Merry Christmas.

Debra Hutchinson

NURSE ON CALL 1300 606 024

Mobile Library



Laharum will be visited by the Mobile Library on **Thursday December 19** from 9.30am in front of Laharum Primary School. Although dates for 2020 have not been finalised, you can go to our website for more information – www.wrlc.org.au.

Greg Maybery

North West Grampians Branch of Horsham Lions Club



We will be having our last Lions meeting for 2019 with a Christmas get-together on **Tuesday December 10** (2nd Tuesday of the month this time) at Laharum Hall 6.30pm for nibbles, 7pm BBQ meal. Please bring a salad or sweet to share plus your drinks. All welcome. Please RSVP Tim Eagle for catering on 0429 846206.

We had another great performance by Tim Sheed and Christine Middleton - 'Flies, Lies and Black Cockatoo Pies' held at Church of Christ in River Road. While the crowd was smaller it was still a very successful and enjoyable afternoon of outback yarns, poetry and music plus a great afternoon tea.

Driver Reviver opening hours over the Christmas School holidays are from 10am-5pm on the following dates: Christmas Eve **Tuesday December 24**; Boxing day **Thursday 26, Saturday 28, Sunday 29, January Wednesday 1, Saturday 4, Sunday 5, Saturday 11, Sunday 12, Saturday 18, Sunday 19, Saturday 25, Sunday 26 & Monday 27**.

If anyone would like to assist us in serving tea & coffee, please contact me on 5382 5221.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Lion Mark Uebergang and his family on the recent death of his mother Marg; a long time district resident.

Lions Christmas Cakes are available for \$17 large and \$13 small.

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and a safe holiday.

Libby Peucker



Amethyst, Oscar & Annabelle showing their painted face at the Wartook/Laharum Community Day in November



PREPARE FOR SUMMER DON'T LET GORSE BE A BARRIER FOR OUR FIREFIGHTERS

The Victorian Gorse Taskforce (VGT) and the Country Fire Authority (CFA) urge you to control your gorse before this fire season. Gorse poses a serious danger to our firefighters. It's high oil content makes it extremely flammable and ignites from sparks ahead of a bushfire. It gives off a large amount of radiant heat creating natural blockers for firefighters to access other fires. Gorse fires are difficult for firefighters to bring under control. So do your bit, control your gorse now and **help our firefighters!**



Get more info here: <https://www.vicgorsetaskforce.com.au/>

This document has been created and is supported by the CFA



Successful airlift by ParksVic staff was completed to empty the toilets at First Wannon, the remote hike-in camp on the Major Mitchell Plateau

Horsham Rural City Landcare Facilitator



This year I attended Wimmera Leadership training through Wimmera Development Association. I have really enjoyed the program and have since recommended it to others. We graduated after our group presentations at Federation University. I'd like to thank Wimmera Catchment Management Authority for making this possible and their ongoing support for the Wimmera Landcare facilitators.

Green Park Pre-School students welcomed me to help them plant some native plants in their playground and Roberts Avenue Pre-School are asking to run some environmental activities next year.

The Patch at the Salvos held their first birthday breakfast Sunday November 17 with delicious pancakes for everyone.

Horsham Urban Landcare ran children's environmental education activities at the Spring Garden Show with Boomerang Bag making and Nest Box painting enjoyed by many children. Their monthly produce swap continues to be very popular attracting between 30 and 40 people each 3rd Sunday of the month with the new summer time of 9.30am to avoid the heat. The Beauty of the Buzz workshops were also received well. Those attending especially enjoyed the native bee presentation by Tracy Lansdell of Green Tree Naturopathy.

Tidy Town's Awards were held in Dimboola as they won the State Award in 2018. The Patch at the Salvos Community Garden was highly commended and Beechworth took home the State Award.

It should be an interesting year with three local plantouts already in the calendar, Chris Humfrey's Wild Action Zoo at the Horsham Fishing Competition on **Sunday March 8** and the Wimmera Landcare Harmony Day event with Sophie Thomson (Gardening Australia) on **Friday March 27** and on the Saturday morning Sophie will lead a workshop making and painting worm tubes with kids at the Patch Community Garden.

This is the chance to thank many of you for your involvement in Landcare this year and wish you a very happy and safe holiday!

Wendy McInnes, Landcare Facilitator

Local Vocals

Laharum Hall

Leader - Merryn Eagle

Thursday February 20, 2020 7.30pm

Singing is for everybody who has a voice!

Singing together contributes to our wellbeing,
social inclusion and connection

Come and join us for a happy and
relaxing singing evening

Enjoy the friendship - it's heaps of fun!
We love to see new faces - Minimal charge
Singing ability definitely not necessary



Laharum Landcare Group



First meeting next year will be **Tuesday February 18**, 7.30pm at Laharum Hall.

Our AGM was well attended and it's a great result to have new Secretary Kelsey McDonald and Treasurer Alison White. Jess Bettess and John Fisher were thanked for their many years as previous Secretary and Treasurer.

Rabbit management workshops with James Rowe from Ag Vic will now be in early 2020 for both Laharum Landcare Group and Natimuk Urban Landcare. As an interim measure we held a rabbit fumigation demonstration (see photo page 12). An ACUP qualification is required for handling poisons so our group is welcoming more members to do this training which also allows them to help neighbours with rabbit fumigation.

Wartook Rise residents are spraying weeds and will soon be involved in rabbit removal actions. We were able to get funding for these actions because we knew they wanted to do this. If you have noxious or environmental weeds, rabbits or foxes, or would like to revegetate areas, please contact Wendy McInnes on 5383 6220 so we can organise help.

All landholders are welcome to Landcare and our events including the Vegie Swaps. Membership is only \$10 for each family, and this also means you are covered by our insurance at Landcare activities.

Gil Hopkins, Vice President

Wonwondah Landcare Group



As the year draws to another end, Wonwondah Landcare Group is more than happy with its achievements with the weather stations operating very well and providing the users with good information. They have also been used by agronomists and the CFA group captain to determine dangerous harvesting conditions.

Recently a paddock walk at Pymer's canola trials was of great interest in the new varieties to come through in the next couple of years.

Our Christmas dinner is on again at the Royal Hotel, **Friday December 6** gathering at 6.30pm. Anyone wishing to attend, please contact me 5383 7518 to book a seat.

Wishing everybody a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Chris Guest

Laharum Hall Committee



At the recent AGM of the hall, Gil Hopkins was re-elected as President and I was re-elected as Secretary/Treasurer.

We would like to thank the committee for their support at working bees, catering and meetings over the past year. Laharum Hall Committee will be catering for Wimmera Growers of Australian Plants Christmas breakup in December.

Laharum Hall is a well maintained community asset. We thank the community for their ongoing support and we encourage new members onto the committee.

A happy and safe festive season to you all.

Judy Berendsen, Secretary 5383 6265

Education News



Term four is always a busy time with excursions, swimming program, transition and end of year assessments, and this year has been no exception.

Well done to our students who participated in the **Remembrance Day** service in a respectful manner. Ava, Selena and Sam lead our service with a theme of Peacekeeping and support in times of conflict. The service had a variation this year in line with our small cohort. All students formed a unified circle around the flag pole where remembrance flowers had been placed and recited The Ode in unison.

Sam and Josh attended the **Primary School Golf Tournament** in Edenhope with Mr Bruce who has been a regular relief teacher at our school this year - 45 boys participated across the area. Our two lads produced great results – 4th and 12th placed. Well done to both boys. Josh was placed 4th and this gave him entry to the Wimmera Junior Championship in Horsham on November 11 when Josh participated in the **Wimmera Junior Golfing Championship** at Horsham Golf Course. He played a wonderful game with a very close score to being eligible to be part of the state junior golfing tournament. A special thank you to Mr Bruce who supported Laharum Primary School and Josh with this extracurricular event and to Norm who has been providing golfing tips to Josh and Sam at school – see photo page 11.

This term we have been fortunate to have a couple of experiences with the **Melbourne Symphony Orchestra's 'Dangerous Animals'**. We had a visit from members of the orchestra at school prior to attending the MSO performance in Horsham. See photo page 11. Schools from the district attended the performance and were entertained with a very different musical experience which included student participation and education about the many musical instruments within the orchestra.

Tony from Cricket Victoria ran a clinic at Laharum Primary School as a follow up from the cricket clinics students had attended in Horsham earlier in the term. We are appreciative of the willingness of the support given to the school to ensure the students receive every opportunity available to other schools in the district.

Thank you to Libby and Judy from our local Red Cross who volunteered time to work with the students on a fire preparedness activity involving a pillow case. The students appreciated the pillow cases to put in their required goodies.

Students have prepared a morning tea to show appreciation to our many volunteers who support our school in many varied forms. A huge thank you to everyone who has attended events, assisted with programs or helped in the school grounds. We are very appreciative of the time and support provided throughout the year.

The end of the year is quickly approaching. We have transition visits for our senior students, bush dance and graduation organisation and practice and a trip to **Cape Bridgewater**. The excursion has the theme of a 'Day at the Beach'. It is a relaxing day and the opportunity for students who may not go to the beach very often to have a play in the sand and surf.

We hope to see you at our community bush dance on **Thursday December 12** to celebrate the end of the school year. We will have a BBQ prior to the bush

dance and conclude the dancing around 8.30pm to commence our formalities of the evening.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and safe travels if you are on the road during the busy summer break.

Jane McLean, Principal

Laharum Cricket Club



Cricket season is in full swing now, even though the warm weather has hardly arrived. A Grade has had mixed results with only one win and a wash out draw so far. The English imports are dominating our wicket-taking to date. Runs have proven quite hard to come by for most of us this year.

The season high 71 from Tony Molly on the city oval last week was probably the pick of the season to date. A 65 run partnership with Sean Wouters was fantastic to watch and turned the momentum back our way. Sean's highest score of 25 was also a real treat.

C Grade has enjoyed a great start to their season, sitting second on the ladder with 3 wins. Connor Cowan is leading the way with the ball, taking 5 wickets so far. If not for a couple weeks up in A Grade, he could be further ahead of the chasing pack. Runs have been spread evenly with some low scores being chased down. The highlight so far probably came in round 4 with our guys making 5-226 off their 40 overs, Dan Mibus and Cooper Tyler retiring on 50runs.

The U16.5 is a joint team with the Bullants. There are 5 teams competing in this Saturday morning competition. Last week we were able to come away with our first win at Nhill against West Wimmera. Jim McInnes was the standout with the ball taking an economical 1 for 3 off his 3 overs,

The U14 is a joint team with West Wimmera. Although the 2 districts couldn't be further apart, it is great to see this joint team coming together to have a bit of fun on a Friday night. The highlight to date being a round 3 win by 5 runs against Horsham Saint Black at Dock Lake. The highlight of this match was 21 retired for Josh Hutchinson and wickets being taken by Matilda Sudholz, Chase Whelan and Sophie McNeil.

The Woolworths Blast cricket has been running on Sunday mornings with sessions being held between Laharum Oval and Horsham West. Six sessions have been completed and we now break for harvest/warmer weather and will restart mid-February for another 6 sessions.

Upcoming events include - December Members Draw at the clubroom on **Wednesday December 4**; A Grade Twilight Game at City Oval starting at 4pm, finishing under lights **Saturday December 14**; Summer Community Christmas Party being hosted by Cricket/ Tennis Clubs on **Saturday December 21**.

A massive thank you to our club sponsors and to everyone who helps out running the club on a weekly basis, especially with the effort being put into junior programs.

Hoping everyone has a fruitful harvest and a safe and enjoyable Christmas.

Ben Peucker, President 0408 011319

Grampians National Park



Park update - Lots of progress in park operations has been made during this shoulder period leading into the busy summer period. A successful airlift was completed to empty the toilets at First Wannon, the remote hike-in camp on the Major Mitchell Plateau – see photo page 2. The airlift also enabled staff to complete some training in sling-loading and get reaccreditations.

The project fire fighters have returned to work in time for the fire season and have begun hazard reduction burns. Ongoing works on the clearing of access tracks will continue in the coming weeks. Seasonal rangers will soon join the team to help manage high visitation and fire and emergency operations over summer.

A successful spring school holiday program was delivered with a total of 98 junior rangers engaged in a variety of fun nature-based learning activities. See photo page 11. Some of the topics covered include learning about the local flora and fauna, and navigation using compasses and maps.

Work on the Management Plan has involved six workshops; a drop-in and five listening posts throughout September where community members could provide their ideas and feedback on the future management of the landscape. Altogether 270+ people attended across the 12 events. If you are interested in learning more about the project you can visit Engage Victoria <https://engage.vic.gov.au/grampians-management-plan>.



Using the BRP funding (Biodiversity Response Planning) rangers have been implementing widespread monitoring and pest control techniques focusing on foxes, deer and goats. Fox management is implemented throughout the park, however the goat and deer management is focused on critical locations. The outcomes have been focused on reducing populations in herb-rich woodland. Cat control is expected to commence in the near future.

Grampians Peaks Trail Community update - Come along to a community information drop-in session, to receive an update on the Grampians Peaks Trail. Join the Parks Victoria team to learn more about recent progress and discuss any questions at The Wander Inn on **Thursday December 19, 1.30-3.30pm** - no need to book.

If you are unable to make it to The Wander Inn, other sessions will be held at Halls Gap Visitor Information Centre December 5 and Grampians Store Pomonal December 13.

Kailee Savoia



**Police Assistance Line
131 444**

Call us any time to report
non urgent crimes and events



1800 333 000

CFA District 17



Private units at fires - If you are attending a fire in your private vehicle, safety is your priority. Look for hazards. Have an escape route. Keep calm and take care.

Make contact with a fire truck or Incident Controller. Use Grampians Group UHF Channel 10. You should team up with a fire truck or other private units to work safely and effectively. Follow instructions and co-operate.

Use an amber beacon & keep your headlights on. It is important to know your limits. Stay within your skill level and comfort zone, and operate within the limits of your equipment. Wear safety gear- long cotton pants, long cotton sleeves, safety boots, gloves, goggles, facemask and a helmet.

Stay well clear of hazardous trees. Trees marked with a **K** or taped off have been identified as 'killer' trees. If you identify a potential 'killer' tree, report it immediately. If you are a CFA member you must have Minimum Skills plus current Entrapment Drill and Hazardous Trees safety updates to be covered by CFA Volunteer Compensation, regardless of whether you turn out on a CFA or private vehicle.

Aircraft at fires - Aircraft are automatically dispatched to most fires during the Fire Danger Period. They may arrive BEFORE any CFA tankers. Be alert for aircraft. There will usually be two water-bombers working together even at smaller fires. Larger fires may be attended by additional aircraft such as helicopters, air cranes and large air tankers. You may also see an observer aircraft that is 'directing traffic'. The incident controller can communicate with the aircraft via CFA radio.

It is essential to remain in contact with CFA crews so they can instruct you when to leave the fire line. SAFELY LEAVE THE DROP ZONE and stay well clear or the aircraft will be unable to drop on the fire.

CFA now has the capability to do night-time water bombing if conditions allow it. Night bombing must be requested in time for aircraft to arrive, travelling from Ballarat during the day time.

Harvest guidelines - The cooperation of farmers and contractors with fire brigades on the harvest guidelines has provided an obvious reduction on harvest fires over the last couple of years. Thank you!

Remember that it is recommended that harvesting operations cease with the Fire Danger Index reaches 35. You can calculate this using freely available apps for your smart phone using weather observations from your own weather device or BOM weather stations.

Incident status of bushfires - Wondering exactly what the lingo means? Here's a description that may help:
GOING - Fire is expanding in a certain direction or directions.

CONTAINED - The spread of the fire is halted.

CONTROLLED - The complete perimeter of a fire is secured and no breakaway is expected.

SAFE - No further suppression action or patrols are necessary.

Louise McGillivray, Brigade Administrative Support Officer

**ALWAYS DIAL TRIPLE ZERO
TO REPORT FIRE**

Laharum Rural CFA



Since the last newsletter, Laharum Brigade has responded to two call outs. One was to support Dadswell's Bridge to a fire along the highway which was possibly started from a discarded cigarette butt. The other was a truck fire that was carrying hay. Luckily the driver of the truck was able to put the fire out with extinguishers carried on the truck, before the CFA got there.

As many of our members are aware, the CFA Chief Officer has asked that all members complete the Entrapment Drill and the Hazardous Trees Awareness Training refresher before the Fire Danger Period in our area. We have had great attendance from our members with over 50 completing the refresher training so far. We really appreciate everyone attending so they can help out at any incidents. The status of members who have not completed the refreshers will change from firefighter to Brigade Member/non-operational. They will still be a member of the brigade and can still do the training when they can. Call Françoise van der Plank on 0484 909150 to arrange a date and time to do the refresher training and drill at your property, if that's more convenient. CFA admits there are many grey areas for non-operational members on what they can & can't do in or around a fire.

Tanker 2 Update - So far we haven't heard if our grant application was successful - hopefully we'll hear soon. Currently we've raised over \$9,000 from the community towards the replacement. Thank you very much to everyone who has donated so far. We are still accepting donations.

Fire Danger Period - On November 18 the Fire Danger Period was introduced north of the line Wonwondah-Dadswells Bridge Road. South of that line will follow shortly. Hopefully everyone has completed most of their fire prevention works. Remember it's an all-year round job so please maintain your property where possible. Also make sure your own private units are in good working order - Motor/pump is serviced, Air cleaner is clean, fuel filters clean, starter cord is in good condition and not frayed.

Aircraft will once again be deployed with the same call we get. Bombers will be based at Stawell again so don't be surprised if they arrive quickly - it's a very quick flying time from Stawell to our area over the mountains.

Haystacks and Harvesting - Getting hay baled has been a longish process this year with many paddocks getting some regrowth before the hay is getting baled. So farmers, please keep an eye on the stacks with the potential for regrowth getting into the bales causing spontaneous combustion. With harvesting about to kick into gear, can we all please think of fire safety and fire suppression. This means having a fire fighting unit hooked up ready to go during harvesting as well as knapsacks/fire extinguishers serviced and ready for use. Plus, please all follow the Harvest Code which is a joint code that the VFF and the CFA signed off too. No harvesting once the Fire Danger Rating goes over 35. We'll be once again sending out messages via text and social media for harvesting operations to cease if conditions worsen, especially on Total Fire Ban days.

Laharum Brigade training schedule - Members who feel a little out of practice can come along to sessions listed below to have some fun familiarising themselves again with both Laharum tankers and to reacquaint

themselves with the basic activities required for CFA work. The sessions are short - 1 hour, practical and mainly 'hands-on'. No tests, certification or question lists involved! Time to socialise afterwards! All training sessions start at 6.30pm at Laharum Tanker 1 shed, unless otherwise indicated. Bring your PPC every time. Depending on fire activity in the region, sessions may be cancelled.

Mon Dec 16 - Tanker layout & branches;

Mon Jan 6 - Radio communication, theory & practical;

Mon Jan 20 - Draughting water, Tanker driving safety;

Mon Feb 3 - PPC, pagers & map reading;

Mon Feb 10 - Home visit exercise, tanker tactics.

Please contact Françoise 0484 909150 if you have any questions.

Wishing everyone a safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please think 'fire safety' wherever you go and whatever you do. Hopefully we all have a harvest free of breakdowns and fires. Make the most of time with family and friends over the festive season as the summer is an unknown.

Luke Dumesny, Captain 0428 838242

Yoga at Laharum Hall



Yoga at Laharum Hall for over 17 years!

Yoga is currently on Wednesday nights at 7.30pm. After the Christmas break, it will resume on **Wednesday February 5, 2020.**

Join the 'regular' participants and experience the benefits of yoga. It keeps our bodies flexible; builds muscle tone; maintains a good level of fitness and is a great stress relief - particularly important as we get older! Come and give it a go with our friendly group of participants!

Please contact me on 5383 6265 if you plan to attend for the first time.

Judy Berendsen

CFA WELLBEING SUPPORT LINE

1800 959 232

Providing CFA members and their immediate family access to 24 hour support 7 days a week

cfa.vic.gov.au/wellbeing

Brimpaen Tennis Club



Tennis is off and running. Our pennant team has had a few wins and a couple of bad losses!! The tennis has been good though. A Grade is having a battle with numbers again this year. When we have a full team we are very competitive; other weeks we struggle to get a team.

Fingers crossed one of our teams can make the finals this season.

Courtney Dunn

DOB IN A LITTERER

1300 372 81300 372 842 or 1300 EPA VIC

Report pollution of the environment 24 hour hotline



Applications for the 2020 Australia Day Awards close on December 2.

Grampians Peaks Trail Community Listening Post -

Parks Victoria will be hosting the community listening post and inviting the community to discuss the Grampians Peaks Trail at The Wander Inn, Northern Grampians Road, Wartook Valley on **Thursday December 19**, 1.30-3.30pm. Booking not necessary.

Horsham Urban Transport Plan - Wimmera people have until **Monday December 9** to make their opinions on Horsham transport issues count. The draft Horsham Urban Transport Plan is now open for comment and people can complete a survey or provide written feedback at <https://www.hrcc.vic.gov.au/Have-Your-Say/Transforming-Horsham/Horsham-Urban-Transport-Plan>. Horsham Rural City Council wants to know what the community thinks about the plan before it decides whether to adopt it, and ultimately plan to implement its recommendations.

Draft City to River Masterplan - Council has made alterations following the public consultation period. A notable decision was to include Horsham Croquet Club, lawn tennis courts and the miniature railway in future Botanical Gardens planning developments. Meanwhile, the preferred location of the proposed new regional standard facilities for both outdoor and indoor sports will be revisited.

Horsham South Structure Plan - Work has commenced. This plan will guide how Horsham South develops over the next 20+ years. The plan provides the foundation for more detailed statutory planning provisions, amendments to the Planning Scheme as well as design and development initiatives, for specific areas and activities in Horsham South. To find out more about the Plan go to <https://www.hrcc.vic.gov.au/Have-Your-Say/Transforming-Horsham/Horsham-South-Structure-Plan>

Domestic Animal Management Plan - Horsham Rural City Council is required to prepare and implement a Domestic Animal Management Plan every four years. This plan sets out a program of actions which aim to ensure compliance with statutory requirements and to implement objectives for effective animal management control in the HRCC municipality. The draft plan is now available for review and comment at <https://www.hrcc.vic.gov.au/Have-Your-Say/Domestic-Animal-Management-Plan>

Road Maintenance - Our Operations Team is making improvements to facilities with the following works and projects currently underway in rural areas:

- Rural road pothole repairs, multiple locations, short term works, signage in place
- Replace damaged culverts, various rural roads/drainage works
- Fixing patches various rural roads, Council Roads and VicRoads.
- Rural road re sheet program – various locations
- Rural gravel/grading program – various locations - weather permitting
- Reconstruction Longerenong Road (part) reduced speed limits apply
- Dimboola Minyip Road reconstruction, 1km
- Shoulder re-sheet program
- Fire breaks various locations

Call out to farmers - Council is undertaking a detailed review of rural roads and is seeking representatives from across the municipality to be involved. They are looking for community representatives to help understand the current issues and to support Council to engage with locals to understand the planning processes and aims of the project; to identify issues, problems and opportunities and communicate the outcomes as they develop. The community role in the project will begin in February 2020. The geographical areas, nomination forms and further details can be obtained from the Have Your Say section of Council's website. Nominations close on **Monday December 23**. Contact Community Facilitator Martin Bride on 5382 9777 with any questions.

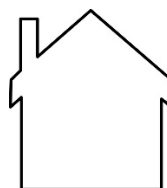
Outdoor pool update - Horsham Aquatic Centre's refurbished outdoor pool will be filled with water this week as its re-opening draws closer. Changes which have occurred are - Removal of the hobs around the pool to provide a flat wet deck for easier access to the pool; A ramp for all-abilities access to the pool; Modified depths of the pool (maximum depth is now two metres, shallow end is now 1.1m, previously it was 0.9m); Improved filtration for water quality benefits and reduced loss of water from the pool to improve the efficiency of the pool's operation.

Broadband business boost - Mayor Mark Radford attended last week's launch of the enhanced broadband project for Horsham. Funded by the Victorian Government, the fixed-wireless service will cover all of Horsham including the CBD, Horsham enterprise park, aerodrome and freight terminal with speeds up to one gigabit per second in both directions.

Coffee for a cause - Council has partnered with the city's cafes for the 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence. Cafe Jas, Cafe Red Cherry, Cheeky Fox, Laneway Cafe and The Fig Tree Cafe will use takeaway coffee cups featuring the 'Call It Out' logo which aims to start conversations about the prevention of violence against women. The 16 Days Campaign runs from November 25 (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) until December 10 (International Human Rights Day).

Teens help paint mural - A mural has transformed the side wall of the Centre for Participation into a surge of colour. Graffiti artist Dan Wenn and Horsham Rural City Council's Youth Services Officer Annie Mintern were on hand this week to oversee the finishing touches on a mural that has transformed the side wall of the Centre for Participation. The mural is 4.8m by 7.5m and depicts the act of people putting their hands up to participate, with the Grampians and canola crops in the background. See photo page 12.

Susan Surridge, Coordinator Community Relations & Advocacy



House for private sale

3 bedroom house on 10 acres
in the Laharum area
Contact Carole on 5383 8232

Laharum Football Netball Club



Well, it's been a welcome break for many, after a busy year down at the club, and I have certainly enjoyed having some Saturdays back to do some much needed jobs around the house.



We had our AGM on October 29 with still a couple of positions yet to fill. The board elected hasn't changed a lot from last year with myself and Ben Peucker Chair and Deputy respectively and Vanessa Lenehan taking over Deb MacInnes' roll as Director of Finance.

A big thank you must go to Deb as she has spent many years working tirelessly in the role and also to Roger (Pud), who has retired after many years as trainer. We thank them for the amazing amount of time they have contributed to the club.

Shannon Argall is back at the club as senior footy coach with some recruits and other coaching appointments to be announced shortly. Senior training starts on December 4, 6pm at the Soundshell.

Netball coaches are Caitlin Story and Erin Mellington coaching the A Grade this year; B Grade TBC; C Grade is Carmen Driden; C Reserve is Steph Irvin and U17's and U15's is Shannon Arnott and Carmel Quick - U13's and moddies TBC.

It was a great finish to the year with A Grade bringing home the Cup beating Natimuk by only a solitary goal in overtime in an absolute thriller, and boy do the girls know how to celebrate a grand final win!!

We will keep you up to date on Facebook with any more announcements.

Enjoy the festive season responsibly and for all the farmers out there, be safe over the harvest period. Have a great Christmas and Go the Demons in 2020.

Tim Nagorcka, Chairperson



Kailash

Come and explore both traditional and contemporary practices of Yoga and Meditation which can be used to establish a healthy body and mind and to re-awaken a connection to the soul.

Our classes are fun, approachable and friendly - no previous skill or ability is required. Classes are located in our beautiful yurt and are on a donation basis.

For more information please see our website www.kailash.co To register, please email info@kailash.co or message David on 0415 703324.

Meditation Wednesday 7-8pm

Yoga (Beginner friendly) Thursday 6.30-7.45pm

Yoga (Intermediate) Friday 6.30-7.45pm

Mountain Yoga Saturday 9.30-11am

Sound Meditation Saturday 6-7.30pm

David and Rajni



General Store

Open 7 days a week from 9am-6pm
Groceries, milk, bread, frozen food
available plus petrol and liquor

Phone Garry & Janet on 0404 696629 or
email enquiry@happywandererresort.com.au



The milder weather in the Wimmera, excluding the extreme weather day on

November 21, has allowed Forest Fire Management to complete some important township protection planned burns over spring. These include McRae Road Stawell, Nhill Swamp and a trial fairy grass management burn at Clear Lake. Some ongoing annual burns were also completed at Yarram Park in the Grampians National Park and the Northern break at the Western block of the Little Desert National Park.

Since November 2 the district has had a number of fire fighters deployed to NSW to assist with the escalating fire situation. The first task force to depart flew into Kempsey, between Coffs Harbour and Port Macquarie and were part of a 20-person taskforce comprising of crew from Murray Goldfields, Mallee, Midlands and Wimmera Districts. See photo page 11. All are experienced, arduous fire fighters and many have commented that it was some of the worst conditions they have seen. *"Every day the temperatures were between 26-30°, relative humidity 7% and dew point -7 with winds gusting between 30-50km/h. This caused spotting well ahead of the fires and changing wind directions made the fire behaviour hard to predict"*. Wimmera District currently have two task forces assisting the bushfire effort in the east of Victoria and more are to travel over at the end of the month.

This year 20 new seasonal fire fighters joined the Wimmera team across Horsham, Wail, Cavendish, Halls Gap and Edenhope. The intensive training has been completed and the district is at full working capacity for the summer season.

Danielle Leehane, Senior Community Partnerships Officer

Laharum Cricket Club – valued sponsor



Gareth Hiscock
Branch Manager

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HORSHAM, VIC 3400

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KnitKnaX & KnitWitz

Our weekly knitting and crocheting group which meet on Mondays from 4-6pm at Redrock Books & Gallery will resume in February 2020. Enquiries please ring on 5381 0866 or email info@fibreworks.net.au.

Gill Venn



Open 11am Thursdays to Sundays with lunch from 11.30am-3pm.
Dinner Friday night 5.30-8pm.
Breakfast now served Saturdays & Sundays 9am-12noon.

Christmas/New Year business hours/days -
December Mon 23-Wed 25 *Closed*; Thurs 26-Sun 29 *Open* with usual hours; Mon 30-Tues 31 *Closed*;
January Wed 1 New Year's Day *Open* 11am-4pm;
Thurs 2-Sun 5 *Open* with usual hours

Take away fish & chips and pizza available - please ring to order. Bookings for dinner appreciated via Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/TheWanderInn/> or call me on 5383 6388.

Dianna



Batteries

Used vehicle batteries can be left at Pam & Des Geue's property at 1922 Northern Grampians Road which helps raise funds for Laharum Hall

Handyman and Home Help in the Northern Grampians



Ladder work, Fire season preparations, Gutters cleaned, Windows and Solar Panels washed, Smoke Alarm Maintenance, Doors Shaved, Chainsaw and Firewood work, Home Maintenance, Lawns mowed, Heavy lifting, Parcel collection and Light cartage, Flatpack assembly.
I'll even cook your barbecue!

Contact Rod

5383 6247 or 5383 6305 AH; 0427 836366 or bikechet@activ8.net.au

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I look forward to seeing you



LAHARUM FIRE BRIGADE TRUCK ROSTER

December 2019 – February 2020

IN CASE OF FIRE DIAL 000



The trucks need to be driven at least 30km a week, and water pumped for at least 5 minutes. Fuel, tyres, lights checked. Refuel if less than ¾ full. **Fill in the log book.** Immediately report any problems to the Captain. Captains are: Laharum - **Luke Dumesny 0438 838242**; Brimpaen - **Ken French 5380 1500**.

Truck radio will be on Vicfire Channel 517 for emergency callout (and VHF Channel 10 for Grampians Group)

Call Grampians Remote 275# before taking the truck on a run. When returning change back to 517#

LAHARUM TANKER 1			LAHARUM TANKER 2	
WEEK START	DRIVER	CREW	DRIVER	CREW
09/12/20	David Pratt	Pam Pratt	Rob Jess	Daniel Doherty
16/12/20	Roger MacInnes	Deb MacInnes	Brendan Dunn	Peter Dunn
23/12/20	Gary Staehr	Robert Staehr	Will Pyke	Htoo Kaw Jah
30/12/20	Mark Uebergang	Jenny Uebergang	Francoise van der Plank	Vicky Stevens
06/01/20	Bill Gardner	Stuart Gardner	Mall Griffiths	Ray Zippel
13/01/20	Gil Hopkins	Eh Doh Jah	Rob McInnes	Leigh Mibus
20/01/20	Jim Carter	Graeme Wood	Mark Uebergang	Jenny Uebergang
27/01/20	Bruce McInnes	Jessica Bettess	Bill Gardner	Stuart Gardner
03/02/20	Jamie Parfett	Adam Shields	Gil Hopkins	Eh Doh Jah
10/02/20	Rob Jess	Daniel Doherty	David Pratt	Pam Pratt
17/02/20	Brendan Dunn	Peter Dunn	Roger MacInnes	Deb MacInnes

BRIMPAEN FIRE BRIGADE TRUCK ROSTER

Date	Tanker 1 Brimpaen		Tanker 3 Brimpaen		Tanker 2 Glenisla	
07/12/19	Cameron McDonald	David Schmidt	Steve Price	Gerard Matthews	Luke Barber	Laura Anderson
14/12/19	Brenton Roberts	Amanda Britten	Des Roberts	Chris Roberts	Brian Campbell	
21/12/19	Peter McGennissen	Ra McGennissen	Anthony Smith	Ben Starick	Robert Barber	Will Barber
28/12/19	Ron Winfield	Courtney Dunn	Andrew Bell		Ken French	Teresa & Hettie French
04/01/20	Andrew Chincarini	Kerry Anne & Tristan Chincarini	Dean Winfield	Maggie Winfield Bailey Pilgrim	Rod Miller	Sue, Alana & Will Miller
11/01/20	Cameron McDonald	David Schmidt	Steve Price	Gerard Matthews	Luke Barber	Laura Anderson
18/01/20	Brenton Roberts	Amanda Britten	Des Roberts	Chris Roberts	Brian Campbell	
25/01/20	Peter McGennissen	Ra McGennissen	Anthony Smith	Ben Starick	Robert Barber	Will Barber
01/02/20	Ron Winfield	Courtney Dunn	Andrew Bell		Ken French	Teresa & Hettie French
08/02/20	Andrew Chincarini	Kerry Anne & Tristan Chincarini	Dean Winfield	Maggie Winfield Bailey Pilgrim	Rod Miller	Sue, Alana & Will Miller
15/02/20	Cameron McDonald	David Schmidt	Steve Price	Gerard Matthews	Luke Barber	Laura Anderson

VICTORIAN BUSHFIRE INFORMATION LINE 1800 240 667

Total Fire Bans – Fire Restrictions - Bushfire Planning – Major Fires

Fire warnings and updates: Emergency broadcasters: ABC and Commercial radio stations and SKY News TV

Community Calendar of Events: December 2019 - February 2020

December

Friday	6	6.30pm	Wonwondah Landcare Group – Royal Hotel
Saturday	7	6.30pm	Brimpaen Christmas Tree – Brimpaen Hall
Monday	9	day	Horsham Urban Transport Plan comments close
Tuesday	10	6.30pm	North West Grampians Branch Lions Club – Laharum Hall
Thursday	12	5.15pm →	Laharum PS Billy Tea Bush Band end-of-year celebration – Laharum Hall
Saturday	14	4pm	A Grade Cricket Twilight game – Horsham City Oval
Thursday	19	1.30-3.30pm	Grampians Peak Trail community update – The Wander Inn
Saturday	21	evening	Summer community Christmas party hosted by Cricket & Tennis Clubs

January 2020

Sunday	26	8am	Australia Day Breakfast – Brimpaen Hall
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February

Wednesday	5	7.30pm	Yoga resumes – Laharum Hall
Tuesday	18	7.30pm	Laharum Landcare Group meeting – Laharum Hall
Thursday	20	7.30pm	Local Vocals – Laharum Hall

March

Friday	27	day	Wimmera Landcare Harmony Day with Sophie Thomson
Saturday	28	morning	Workshop making & painting worm tubes with Sophie Thomson – Patch garden

Veggie Swaps – Sundays December 8, January 5 and February 2, 2020

Mobile Library – Thursdays December 19 from 9.30am, Laharum Primary School

Laharum Brigade Training Schedule – Mon Dec 16; Mon Jan 6; Mon Jan 20; Mon Feb 3; Mon Feb 10

Driver Reviver - Tues Dec 24; Thurs 26, Sat 28, Sun 29, Jan Wed 1, Sat 4, Sun 5, Sat 11, Sun 12, Sat 18, Sun 19, Sat 25, Sun 26 & Mon 27



Melbourne Symphony Orchestra visited Laharum Primary School students in November



Holiday school program led by ParksVic



Norm giving Josh some golf tips



Crowd at the mining meeting November 12, Laharum Hall



Grampians Region Task Force 2 November



A practice 'Entrapment Drill' in Tanker 1 at the Wartook Laharum Community Day showing all systems going ↑
Everyone enjoying a catchup at the Vegie Swap →



Mural painted on Centre for Participation's wall with graffiti artist Dan Wenn & Horsham Rural City Council's Youth Services Officer Annie Mintern



Rabbit fumigation demonstration held on November 17 led by Bruce McInnes