north west Grampians newsletter

267 Pohlners Road
Laharum 3401
0427 838207
giliz@activ8.net.au

October 2026 Edition 246



A typical Wimmera scene

Spring is a beautiful time of the year with the fragrance & colour of the flowers, warmer days, the growth of crops, and a busy time for the birds nesting and feeding their young.

Being part of this community brings support and friendship while catching up with the activities and meetings listed in this newsletter.

Liz Hopkins

Gariwerd Artists

Our next gatherings will be on ***Saturday October 17***, ***Thursday November 5*** & ***Saturday November 21*** from 10am-3pm at Laharum Hall.

Please bring your own project, share skills and have some fun! For any enquiries, please call me on 0408 837530.

Gill Venn

Brimpaen Craft Group



Our meeting on ***Tuesday November 3***, being Melbourne Cup, will be held at 167 Rosebrook-Glenisla Road from 10am-4pm. Please bring your own craft.

Our Christmas break up will be held on ***Tuesday December 1*** from 10am-3pm, venue to be decided. Please contact me on 0418 321557 if you need more details.

Loretta Emerson



2026 Victorian State Election

Laharum Hall Polling Station

Saturday November 28, 8am-6pm

NURSE ON CALL
1300 606 024

Sponsored by HORSHAM Rural City Council

Local Vocals

Laharum Hall
Leader - Merryn Eagle



Thursday October 8 at 7.30pm

Tune up your voice and come and join us for a happy and relaxing singing evening

"Singing can bring joy to everyone around"

Come and enjoy the friendship!

New members always welcome – minimal charge

Singing ability definitely not necessary

It's lots of fun!

Laharum-Wartook Produce & Vegetable swap.

SUMMER 2026 at 10am



Nov 1	Diane & Steven Lowe 2 Kimberleys Road, Wartook
Dec 6	Pam & Des Geue 1922 Northern Grampians Rd, Laharum
Jan 3	No swap. Happy New Year everyone!

For further information contact Wendy on 0428 840662

LAHARUM LANDCARE

Brimpaen Tennis Club



Tennis season has kicked off already; it really is hard to believe!
Brimpaen will again enter an A Special side. The season will look a bit different this year with only 5 teams in our grade. Hopefully we don't get too many matches abandoned, otherwise we won't get much tennis in.

We are keen and ready to give it our best for another year. Fingers crossed the young ones in our side can carry the ageing through a successful year.
Courtney Dunn

Wonwondah Community



Wonwondah's Fleece and Flower Show will be held on ***Sunday October 25***, 2pm. Afternoon tea is supplied, free entry.

A schedule is available on the hall's Facebook page or contact me on 0438 304948.
Sue Ahern

Project Exercise Physiology

PROJECT Exercise Physiology

Liam Atkins is offering 1-on-1 exercise and rehabilitation services locally – home visits available.
Exercise physiologists are tertiary educated allied health professionals who help with -

- Managing aches, pains and injuries
- Living better with chronic conditions including cardiac, metabolic, muscle & bone and neurological conditions
- Health and fitness improvements

Liam holds a Master of Exercise Physiology.

Please get in touch to discuss services further on 0432 558059 or **projectxphys@gmail.com**
Liam Atkins

Yoga at Laharum Hall



Yoga will resume on ***Wednesday October 14,*** 7.30pm at Laharum Hall.
Yoga is a mind and body practice which combines movement, meditation and breathing. People practice yoga for many reasons from physical fitness to spiritual enlightenment.

Yoga has many physical and mental benefits including reducing stress, improving sleep, improving balance & flexibility and reducing muscle tension. Minimal charge towards hall hire.

Please contact me on 0417 056219 if you are interested in attending for the first time.
Judy Berendsen

Laharum Hall Committee



Maurice and I have recently attended the Annual Hall's meeting with Horsham Rural City Council. It's gratifying to know that Laharum Hall is one of the well-used halls in the municipality. Thank you to HRCC for their continued support. The committee is working towards the long term sustainability of the hall with solar and battery improvements.

Tickets for Pete Denahy Concert are selling fast and we look forward to a great night of entertainment from the five-time Golden Guitar Winner, Pete Denahy on ***Saturday November 7***, 7pm at Laharum Hall. Go to **www.laing-entertainment.com.au** to purchase tickets - $39.80 adults & $18.40 for child U12 with adult ticket holder.

There will be a Lions Club barbecue tea available from 5.30pm prior to the show. We are so fortunate that Pete is coming to Laharum at the beginning of his tour.

Voting will be available at Laharum Hall for the State Election on ***Saturday November 28*** from 8am.
Judy Berendsen, Secretary/Treasurer

Laharum Tennis Club



Congratulations to Laharum Football Netball Club on all teams being highly competitive or winning the premiership this season.

Laharum Tennis Club season for 2026/2027 commenced on Saturday October 3. This will certainly be a challenging season as we have been promoted to A Grade which will have a total of eight teams. Given the level of our play in the past, I'm sure we will be as competitive. Unfortunately for our first match this season, we were forced to forfeit as we were unable to field a team due to a shortage in available players.

If anyone is interested in having a hit, please call me on 0403 155246. At the moment, we don't have a designated training night, but if there is enough interest, a night can be organised. Additionally, if you would like to have a hit to get a feel of the game, this can also be accommodated. We would especially like to hear from anyone who would just like to fill in when we are short.

Our matches begin at 1.30pm and conclude around 4.30pm on a Saturday afternoon, with each team consisting of four ladies and four men. At the conclusion we have a social drink at the clubrooms or a hotel in Horsham.

I would like to thank Vanessa Lenehan for her tireless contribution to the club as the Secretary in recent years. Vanessa has stepped down this season and passed on the role to Dan Phillips. Thanks Dan for accepting the role which you have already made your own.

Tony Sykes

Wonwondah Landcare Group

Spring brings with it plenty of growth especially on the road sides. This also promotes the growth of unwanted weeds and while members have continued to control outbreaks with weed spraying, it helps to keep watch on any known areas.

The intensive baiting program for slug control this year has also been effective on the snails and at this stage there is little evidence of snail movement.

Our next meeting will be in early November and a grain trader will be present to assist with a forecast on grain price trends and what the best options are for delivery this year. The meeting date once confirmed will be sent out on our 'what's app' for everyone to plan around.

Chris Guest

CFA WELLBEING SUPPORT LINE
One number to manage your wellbeing
1800 959 232

Laharum Landcare Group

We have a few upcoming events:

Bird monitoring in a post-fire landscape - Project Platypus is organising a free bird monitoring event on a Laharum Landcare Group member property as part of their Wimmera Landscape Fire Recovery Partnership. Learn about monitoring methods from ornithologist Jonathan Starks and ecologist Elia Pirtle and see some of the methods in action on a nearby property. Morning tea and lunch included.

When: ***Saturday October 10***, 10am-2pm
Where: Laharum Hall and Wartook property
RSVP: For details and to register, go to **https://bird-monitoring-in-a-post-fire-landscape-laharum.raiselysite.com/**

Gariwerd Grampians Seed Bank presents - The Seed Collection Workshop - Join Laharum Landcare Group and the newly formed Gariwerd Grampians Seed Bank for a free seed collection workshop to learn about gathering and storing native seed.

We'll visit Wartook State Forest to put the learnings into action. Morning tea and lunch provided along with a few tools for the day. Picnic lunch if the weather is good!

When: ***Sunday October 18***, 9am-1pm
Where: Start at Laharum Hall

Bring secateurs and gloves (we'll have a few extras on the day), outdoor shoes/clothing appropriate for the weather and water bottle.
RSVP: Please contact me directly.

Meetings - Next general meeting is on ***Tuesday October 13***, 7pm at Laharum Hall.

Annual General Meeting and end-of-year dinner on ***Tuesday November 10*** at Stapylton Campground (weather permitting). Time TBC. Please RSVP.

Julie Groce, Secretary 0431 882164

Pete Denahy
Saturday November 7
Laharum Hall
Leah Briggs supporting artist
Doors open 6.30pm Show 7pm
$39.80 Adults
$18.40 Child U12 with ticket holder





Batteries

Used vehicle batteries can be left at Pam & Des Geue's property at 1922 Northern Grampians Road.

Spare pallets can be left behind the shed. They are useful for storing the batteries.

Batteries help raise funds for Laharum Hall.

Laharum Cricket Club



Cricket season is now upon us. Laharum once again is fielding teams in the Horsham Cricket Association A and C Grade competitions. After making the semi-final in A Grade and C Grade grand final last season, we are looking to be better again and take home some silverware.

A Grade is looking good again with a good bunch of young players and with a couple of old heads to help guide them through the season. Jackson Hoffmann is stepping up to take over the captaincy from me.

Round 1 was abandoned after all the rain that fell Thursday and Friday before the first game, so now the A Grade will start with a two day game against Bullants at Laharum.

C Grade kick off their campaign a week later on Saturday October 17 with a similar squad to last season, but with still plenty of opportunities for new players looking to join the club. C Grade play 35 over games this year with the aim to give most players a go and develop younger players.

Training this season will be on Monday and Wednesday nights, starting at 6pm at Sunnyside. All new players are welcome to come along and give it a go!

For the younger players, we hope to get a Junior Blasters Program up again in February to introduce kids to cricket. If anyone would like to run this program or even just help out, please reach out to Ben Peucker on 0408 011319 or myself on 0427 748943.

As always, we can't do this without our valuable sponsors - Australian Wildflowers, Horsham Hydraulics, O'Brien and Smith Lawyers, Best Hire, Siemens Gamesa & Wimmera Bearings.

We are looking forward to another summer of fun and friendship on and off the field, and catching up with everyone at Laharum or any of our away games.

Josh Mahoney, Secretary

Branch of Green Park Lions Club

The current rainfall last week has been very welcome.

Driver Reviver was quite busy on Friday September 25, being the AFL public holiday, and again on Sunday September 27. There were a lot of people on the road due to footy and school holidays. We were open also on Sunday October 4 for the end of the school holidays.

Now that Green Lake is over 80% full, we will be expecting a lot of water sport activity this summer.

Footy gates are over at Laharum for the 2026 season. Great to see six teams competing for premiership glory. Congrats to Vanessa, the committee and all teams for a wonderful season of family friendly community sport.

Coming up at Laharum Hall on ***Saturday November 7*** we will be providing a barbecue evening meal prior to Pete Denahy Concert.

In breaking news, we're pleased to announce that we will be hosting the Bushwackers Concert at Horsham Town Hall on ***Saturday April 17, 2027*** - keep the date free.

The 10th anniversary of our Lions Club will be held towards the end of this year - plans are underway.

Our barbecue trailer is available for hire – please contact Mal Griffiths on 0427 884874.

Our next meeting will be held at Green Lake Yacht Club on ***Tuesday October 20***. We always welcome new members.

We are mixing our meeting venues as we have a lot of members close to the Horsham area.

Libby Peucker 0459 936559

DOB IN A LITTERER
1300 372 842 (1300 EPA VIC)

Report pollution of the environment to the 24 hour EPA pollution hotline

CARPENTRY



Design - Timber resawing – Tree felling

Lincoln Shepherd
Registered builder **0417 856786**

Happy Wanderer Holiday Resort

Accommodation, Fuel, General store and Bottle Shop. Open 7 days with week days 12-5pm and weekends 9am-5pm. Public holidays and School holidays 9am-5pm. Phone 5383 6210.
Email: **admin@hwresort.com.au** and website: **www.happywandererresort.com.au**
Jillian & Phill Goullet

Grampians Olive Co

Open Monday to Friday, 11am-4pm. Closed weekends and public holidays.
Organic olive oils, olives, vinegars, skincare, gift packs.
www.grampiansoliveco.com.au
Greg Mathews 5383 8299

ALWAYS DIAL TRIPLE ZERO TO REPORT FIRE

CFA District 17

As we approach the upcoming fire season, CFA District 17 continues to focus on operational preparedness, firefighter capability, community engagement and fleet readiness. Brigades across the district have been actively involved in training activities, equipment maintenance, pre-season checks and community risk reduction initiatives to ensure a safe and effective response to emergencies.

The commitment and dedication demonstrated by volunteers and support members throughout the year have strengthened the district's ability to respond to bushfires, structure fires, road crash rescues and other emergency incidents.

Seasonal Readiness

Operational Preparedness - District 17 brigades have been undertaking a range of activities to ensure operational readiness, including -

- Completion of pre-season appliance inspections and maintenance
- Testing and servicing of operational equipment
- Review of local brigade response arrangements
- Verification of crew availability and response capabilities
- Updating of contact books and communication channels
- Participation in district and regional pre-season exercises

These activities ensure brigades remain capable of safely responding to incidents during periods of heightened fire danger.

Firefighter Training & Development - Training remains a key priority across the district.

Recent focus areas have included -

- Crew Leader development
- Bushfire Firefighter refresher training
- Tanker operations and pump familiarisation
- Incident Ground Safety practices
- Emergency management and incident control functions

Members are encouraged to continue participating in available training opportunities to maintain operational currency and support brigade capability.

A reminder - Fleet & Equipment Readiness --

Brigades are reminded to ensure appliances and equipment remain serviceable and ready for deployment.

Key activities include -

- Completion of routine truck run schedules
- Hose and pump testing
- PPE inspections and replacement where required
- Communications equipment checks
- Operational inventory reviews

Members are reminded to report any equipment defects promptly to ensure issues can be rectified before peak operational periods.

Volunteer Wellbeing & Safety - The safety and wellbeing of our members continues to be a priority. Brigades are encouraged to -

- Promote fatigue management practices where possible
- Monitor member welfare during extended incidents
- Support peer wellbeing initiatives
- Ensure hydration, rest, and rehabilitation procedures are followed
- Utilise available CFA wellbeing services

Looking after ourselves and each other remains fundamental regardless of the season.

Community Engagement - District 17 continue to support community preparedness through:

- Local community events
- Fire Ready information sessions
- Distribution of bushfire preparedness information
- Promotion of property preparedness activities

Proactive engagement with our communities helps strengthen resilience and supports safer outcomes during emergencies.

General District 17 Update

Operational Activity - Throughout the year, District 17 members have responded to a wide variety of incidents including:

- Grass and Scrub Fires
- Motor vehicle accidents support
- Structure fires
- Hazardous situations
- Weather-related incidents
- Community assistance requests

These responses demonstrate the adaptability and professionalism of CFA volunteers across the district, with this in mind, we would like to acknowledge and thank all volunteers, support members, operational firefighters and brigade members who continue to contribute their time and expertise to protecting the community. The ongoing commitment of members ensures our brigades remain capable, resilient and ready to respond whenever called upon.

As we enter the fire season, District 17 remains focused on preparedness, safety and service to our communities. Through continued training, strong leadership, effective equipment maintenance & community engagement, our members are well positioned to meet the challenges of the season ahead.

Thank you to all for your ongoing commitment, professionalism and dedication to serving the communities of District 17. Together, we remain ready to respond and protect.

Lily French, Brigade Administrative Support Officer

POLICE ASSISTANCE LINE AND ONLINE REPORTING – CALL 131 444
Report non-urgent crimes and events to Victoria Police.

Laharum Football Netball Club





What a year it has been for the Laharum Football Netball Club! The 2026 season will go down as the most successful year in the history of our club with Laharum claiming an incredible 4 premierships across football & netball.

Our Senior Men's Football, Under 17 Netball, Under 15 Netball and Girls Football teams all finished their seasons as premiers; with the 15.5 Girls creating a particularly special piece of club history by securing Laharum's first-ever female football premiership. It was not just the premierships that made this season so special. Of our 11 football and netball teams, an incredible nine teams played finals, demonstrating the depth, commitment and growth across our club.

Our A Grade Netball and unbeaten C Reserve Netball teams both made their way through to the grand final, only to fall agonisingly short against two very strong opponents. While the results weren't what the teams had hoped for, reaching the grand final after such outstanding seasons is an achievement the club is incredibly proud of.

Perhaps one of the greatest stories of the season belongs to our Senior Football team. Just three years ago in 2023, the club did not win a game and the club was facing the possibility of merging. Fast forward three years and that same team has gone from strength to strength to become premiers in 2026.

The transformation has been built slowly and steadily, with a strong focus on rebuilding around our local players and creating a team that our community can be proud of.

The commitment shown by these players has been nothing short of remarkable. There were players backing up and playing two games in a round simply to ensure the club didn't have to forfeit games, while week after week they had to listen to opposition teams sing their victory songs. They stuck together, kept turning up and continued to believe in what they were building. To see that commitment rewarded with a premiership three years later is a wonderful achievement.

What a reward for your efforts boys! You have shown what commitment, resilience and a belief in your teammates can achieve. The success of 2026 wasn't limited to what happened on the field & court.

Off the field, it has also been a fantastic year for the club, with some terrific social functions, packed clubrooms and a renewed sense of energy and pride around Laharum.

The club has also been looking towards the future with plans underway to continue upgrading our facilities, including the proposed upgrade of the oval lighting. These improvements will help provide better opportunities for our players and ensure our facilities continue to meet the needs of our growing club and community.

Our Presentation Night was a wonderful way to finish the season and celebrate the people who have contributed to making our club what it is.

Best & Fairest Awards - Congratulations to our 2026 Best & Fairest winners:

- **A Grade Netball:** Ilze Van Zyl
- **Senior Football:** Daniel Easson
- **Women's Football:** Jess Cannane
- **B Grade Netball:** Maya Przibilla
- **Reserves Football:** August Koch
- **C Grade Netball:** Ava Bell
- **C Reserve Netball:** Bridget MacInnes

Club Awards - Our off-field contributors were also recognised for important roles they play within our club:

- **Michele Mibus Unsung Hero Award:** Hayley Crute
- **Chairperson's Award:** Peter Both
- **Best Club Person:** Rowena Doyle
- **Best Junior Club Person:** Eden Dunn
- **Best Junior Club Person:** Hamish Mintern

A very special congratulations also goes to Herb Hallam who was awarded Life Membership in recognition of his long and dedicated service to the Laharum Football Netball Club. Herb is a much-loved member of our club, and we are extremely grateful for everything he has contributed to Laharum over many years. It was wonderful to see his service recognised with this very deserving honour. See photo page 12.

Looking towards 2027 - Now that the final siren has sounded and the season's formalities have been completed, our attention turns towards 2027. It will certainly be hard to improve on the year we have just experienced, but at Laharum we are always firing for the challenge

Commitment and recruiting have already begun as we look to build on the foundations established this season. The next step is aligning our workers on the board with our Annual General Meeting held on October 7 at 6pm.

If you would like to be part of the engine room driving our club forward, we have a seat at the table for you. Whether you can contribute on game day, behind the scenes, through administration, fundraising, facilities or simply by lending a hand when needed, there is a place for everyone at Laharum.

As we reflect on our season, we are incredibly proud of everyone who has worn the Laharum colours in 2026 and contributed to making this a year which will be remembered for many years to come.

Four premierships. One proud club. A year to remember!

Congratulations and heartfelt thank you to all our players, coaches, volunteers, committee members, families and supporters on an extraordinary season! Go Dees!

Rowena Doyle, Secretary

Laharum Rural CFA

Well, the spring weather has certainly arrived with warmer days already experienced. The rainfall over winter has been well received with many dams getting plenty of run off, and most are full or close to it. This will be very handy, not just for stock but also for water points in the case of a fire. However, this isn't the case around the Wartook Valley area. Runoff was limited and the dams I've seen haven't received much runoff. This is something we need to be wary of if we do get a fire in the area.

Since the last newsletter, Laharum Fire Brigade has only responded to the one incident, supporting Brimpaen to a rescue in the Glenisla area near the Buandik Campground. Fortunately the air ambulance was able to winch the patient out, so no groundwork was required.

Aircraft 2 x bombers based at Stawell and Horsham - These will both be on Pre-Determined Dispatch (PDD) when the FDI is over 12. 1 x Black Hawk helicopter (Helitak) based at Stawell. This won't be on PDD but available on request.

Elevated Seasonal Response Initiative (ESRI) - The ESRI Bulk Water tankers will once again be based in Horsham and Edenhope this summer. Locally, we used the Horsham one a few times over last summer and it was very handy to have bulk water close to the fire line to reduce turnaround times for CFA tankers refilling with water.

Fire Preparedness around the home - If you haven't started this, please get onto it as soon as possible. Keep grass mown, burn those piles of tree branches, remove any flammable materials close to buildings. When possible, get some mineral earth breaks put in. Also service your private firefighting unit and make sure that is in good working order. Depending on what the weather does, fire restrictions and the Fire Danger Period could be introduced quickly, so the sooner you get prepared the better. "Can we fit"? Can CFA appliances fit into your property? Please check the CFA website for the "Can we fit". This site will give you dimensions needed for our tankers to access your property. Also check - can we access your water points? Dams? Tanks? Do you have a CFA fitting on your tank? Is there plenty of room to turn around on solid ground?

All these things will determine if we can help protect your property or not. These access points need to be maintained all year round.

CFA Members PPC - Can all members please check their PPC and make sure everything fits. Overalls, helmet, boots, gloves, goggles. If you require new PPC, please call into the District 17 CFA office in Horsham.

Also please check your CFA membership card, make sure this hasn't expired. Having this card will assist you with getting through Traffic Management Points.

Pagers/SAS app - Can all members please check your pager and make sure you have batteries. Plus, if you haven't already, please download the free SAS app. This will allow you to get pager messages on your phone. If you need help, please call into the District 17 CFA office and they can help you set it up. With your pager, SAS app and PPC, you can combine all for a one stop shop at the District 17 office.

Training - Over the coming weeks, brigades will be organising the annual Entrapment Drill Training. We are kindly asking that all members please take the time to come along to these trainings. They don't go for long, it's a basic safety refresher so if things turn pear shaped, you know what to do. We will send messages out about this.

For those who need to do the three yearly Tree Hazard Training, we will get in contact with you so we can organise a group session. Or if you wish, both trainings can be done online via the Learning Hub on the CFA member's site.

Pre-Season Meeting - Laharum Fire Brigade is holding its Pre-Season Meeting on ***Wednesday October 14***, 7pm at Laharum Oval Clubrooms. All members and anyone from the community are welcome to attend.

Please remember, if you have some spare time, feel free to take either of the tankers for a run, even if you aren't on for the rostered week. Keep familiarising yourself with what's in the lockers and give the pump a run with the water recirculating between the tank and pump and back into the tank.

If you have any enquiries for the Fire Brigade, please call myself on 0428 838242

Luke Dumesny, Captain

JONAS
WILDFLOWERS
Hiring pickers, bunchers, farm hands and drivers.
Welcoming new growers, competitive rates paid.
0410 344 699 www.jonaswildflowers.com.au

BEST HIRE
12 SEAT MINI BUS HIRE
CALL BEN 0408011319
BEST.HIRE@OUTLOOK.COM

Horsham Rural City Council

Council Calls for Changes to Proposed Disaster Recovery Funding Reform - Horsham Rural City Council is stepping up its advocacy efforts over proposed changes to national disaster recovery funding, warning some proposed changes could leave regional councils carrying a greater share of recovery costs after natural disasters. Council endorsed a submission prepared by the four councils involved in the Wimmera Emergency Management Resource Sharing Partnership and agreed to continue advocating to both the State and Federal Governments.

One of the key issues is a proposal to raise the Victorian threshold for Commonwealth disaster recovery funding from $240,000 to $2.7 million. The proposed threshold would significantly change how smaller disaster events are funded, but it remains unclear how those costs would be managed.

Councils could face a much greater financial burden if funding arrangements for smaller disaster events were not clarified and regional councils already work hard to maintain roads, community facilities and essential services.

Laharum's Cameron Oval is set to shine brighter, safer and longer with a $250,000 funding boost securing a major lighting upgrade that will transform this local sporting and community hub. The project will deliver 100 lux LED sports lighting, featuring four 30-metre light towers powered by a solar battery system backed by mains electricity. The upgrade will significantly enhance safety, accessibility and the overall capacity of the oval to support football training and competition for all age groups. The project is particularly important for the continued growth of women's and girls' football with participation increasing rapidly in recent years.

Beyond sport, the upgraded lighting will also enhance the reserve's role in emergency response. Cameron Oval is a designated CFA staging area, Bushfire Place of Last Resort and an important site for air ambulance operations.

The project has been developed through extensive planning and collaboration between Council, Laharum Sports Inc Committee, Sport and Recreation Victoria and technical specialists with the local community contributing $38,000 towards the upgrade. HRCC is contributing $175,320 to this important asset upgrade project.

Horsham Municipal Play Spaces Strategy 2026-2036 - Horsham Rural City Council has adopted the 'Horsham Municipal Play Spaces Strategy 2026-2036' (Play for All), establishing a long-term framework to guide how play spaces are planned, renewed and improved across the municipality over the next decade. Developed through extensive research, technical assessment and community consultation, the strategy provides Council with its first dedicated municipal-wide framework for play spaces, helping ensure future investment is targeted, equitable and responsive to the needs of residents. The strategy was informed by a comprehensive review of Council's 26 municipal play spaces, technical assessments and input from more than 760 community members.

Major Milestone reached as Farm Frites Development takes shape - One of the region's most significant private investments has reached a major construction milestone with substantial progress now visible at the Farm Frites development in Dooen. The completion of the facility's main building structure marks the next phase of the project and provides a clear indication of the scale of the $300 million investment taking shape at the Wimmera Agriculture and Logistics Hub. Once operational, the facility is expected to process up to 250,000 tonnes of Australian-grown potatoes annually and create approximately 250 local jobs, further strengthening Horsham's position as a leading centre for agriculture, food production and value-added manufacturing.

Western Councils Unite for a Safer, Stronger Western Highway - The Western Highway Action Committee (WHAC), representing 10 municipalities across Victoria's west, has released a new advocacy prospectus outlining a shared vision and investment priorities for the Western Highway corridor from Melton to the South Australian border. The prospectus identifies key projects needed to improve safety, freight efficiency, regional connectivity and the long-term resilience of one of Australia's most important interstate transport routes.

The WHAC committee's latest prospectus builds on that legacy by setting out a coordinated roadmap for future investment and collaboration between local government and all levels of government.

The prospectus outlines WHAC's long-term aspiration of achieving a fully duplicated, freeway-standard Western Highway from Melbourne to the South Australian border, while prioritising immediate projects that address critical safety and capacity constraints. This prospectus sets out a practical and considered roadmap for future investment. The priorities focus on improving safety, reducing travel delays, strengthening freight productivity and connecting regional communities with jobs, services and opportunities.

WHAC member councils are encouraging the Victorian and Australian governments to continue partnering with local government to deliver the next generation of upgrades identified in the prospectus.

Karen Turner, Senior Media & Communications Officer

CRIME STOPPERS 1800 333 000

Horsham District Landcare Network

Hello Spring! Planting season is just about over, flowers are blooming, cuckoos are calling, the sun is shining and we have lots of wonderful events coming up in the Landcare space!

Winter has involved lots of planting across the district including in Grass Flat, Dimboola, Wartook, Green Lake and Taylors Lake areas. Collectively, over 9,000 native trees, shrubs and groundcover were planted by volunteers and school groups including two groups from Holy Trinity Lutheran College recently at Green Lake. Thank you to everyone who planted, guarded or watered a seedling, helped feed volunteers or coordinated a plant-out. This is a valuable boost for habitat and biodiversity in the years, decades and centuries to come.

Many landholders also took advantage of the returned HRCC Rural Revegetation program, accessing subsidised native seedlings for their properties.

Late August and early September was a very busy time with both the Victorian Landcare Forum and the Wimmera Biodiversity Seminar happening in the same week! Several folks from the Wimmera travelled to Pakenham for the Victorian Landcare Forum, getting ideas and inspiration from across the State. 110+ people converged in Natimuk to learn about wetlands at the Wimmera Biodiversity Seminar. If you missed it, it's always on the first Thursday of September.

We may have some additional training support funding available - if you'd like training support, please fill out the EOI form.

In the wider Landcare world, the 2026 Victorian Landcare Awards and 40 years of Landcare celebration will be held on ***Thursday October 15*** in Melbourne CBD.

From the Laharum area, Bruce McInnes was nominated for an Individual Landcarer Award in recognition for his 30+ year contribution to Landcare in the Wimmera which spans Laharum Landcare, Horsham Urban Landcare and The Patch at the Salvos. You can read his story on the HDLN website.

Woodcroft College are back for their Year 9 camp in Wartook and are looking for environmental restoration activities. Can you host? Possible tasks could include, but not limited to - weeding, planting, and caring for revegetation, fence and rubbish removal. Dates available in October to mid-November. Please get in touch to express interest.

Upcoming events - ***Saturday October 10***, 10am-2pm: 'Bird Monitoring in a Post-fire Landscape', Laharum.

Sunday October 18, 9am-1pm: Gariwerd Grampians Seed Bank presents: 'The Seed Collection Workshop' with Laharum Landcare (RSVP to Julie Groce).

Sunday October 18, 3-4:30pm: 'Grassland walk 'n talk at Pimpinio' – plant ID with Alan Bedggood and light weeding at Nine Mile Hotel Reserve.

Saturday October 24, 10am-3pm: 'Hollows for Habitat' in Natimuk.

Check out Laharum Landcare and Wonwondah Landcare to get involved with your local group and sign up to the District Landcare Newsletter via the 'Newsletters' page on the HDLN website. Visit **https://www.hdln.org.au/** for more information and follow us **https://www.instagram.com/horshamdistrictlandcare/** and **https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61561150481872**

Jen Gao, Landcare Facilitator (Horsham district), Wimmera CMA, **facilitator@hdln.org.au**
0418 835935





C & S Ross Handyman Services

Small welding jobs – trailers, farm equipment & more
Rural fencing repairs – various types
Storm damage clean up - Labouring jobs
Plant operator – execavator, dozer, grader, tractor, header

Garden maintenance - Building maintenance
And much more
Hourly rate or quoted job

Contact Steven Ross 0408 343673
cnsrosshandyman@gmail.com

FIRE BRIGADE TRUCK ROSTERS

October-December 2026 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 0428 838242****; Brimpaen –* ***Gerard Matthews 0419 542569****.*

Truck radio will be on Vicfire Channel 517 for emergency callout (UHF Channel 10 for Grampians Group)
Call Grampians Remote 275# before taking the truck on a run. When returning change back to 517#

LAHARUM

Your rostered week as paged/SMS'd may be earlier than printed in the newsletter

Laharum	Tanker 1 Driver	Tanker 1 Support	Tanker 2 Driver	Tanker 2 Support
Week	**Name**	**Name**	**Name**	**Name**
05/10/2026	Francoise van der Plank	Marieka Dam	Paul van der Plank	Stuart Combe
12/10/2026	Ed Johnson	Paul Johnson	Will Pyke	Nathan Metcalf
19/10/2026	Andrew Crawford	Daniel Berendsen	Francoise van der Plank	Vicky Stevens
26/10/2026	Rob Launder	Charlotte/Ambrose/ Reuben	Maurice Dumesny	Glen Steadman
02/11/2026	Damien Knight	David Pratt	Luke Dumesny	Beth McGennisken
09/11/2026	Marieke Dam	Jo Gardner	Bruce McInnes	David Wegman
16/11/2026	Allan Parfett	Mark Mintern	Francoise van der Plank	Jenny Gaulke
23/11/2026	Mal Griffiths	Nathan Metcalf	Jack Shields	Adam Shields
30/11/2026	Gary Staehr	Rob Staehr	Pat Van Dyke	Liam Atkins
07/12/2026	Steve Suter	Nigel Hallam	Brendan Dunn	Peter Dunn
14/12/2026	Rob Launder	Charlotte/Ambrose/ Reuben	Maurice Dumesny	Glenn Steadman

BRIMPAEN

Brimpaen	Tanker 1 Driver	Tanker 1 Support	Tanker 3 Driver	Tanker 3 Support	Tanker 2 Glenisla Driver	Tanker 2 Glenisla Support
Week	**Name**	**Name**	**Name**	**Name**	**Name**	**Name**
05/10/2026	Brenton Roberts	Amanda Britten	Steve Jager	Ben Starick	Luke Barber	Stephen Barber
12/10/2026	Des Roberts	Christine Roberts	Peter McGennisken	Rachel McGennisken	Matt Barber	Jo Barber
19/10/2026	Andrew Bell	Hamish Bell	Andrew Chincarini	Kerryanne, Tristan, Hugo Chincarini	Ken French	Theresa & Hettie French
26/10/2026	Gerard Matthews	Sarah Matthews	Cameron McDonald	Shannon Arnott	Rod Miller	Sue, Alana, Will & Harry Miller
02/11/2026	Jamie Parfett	Caroline Price	Brenton Roberts	Amanda Britten	Luke Barber	Stephen Barber
09/11/2026	Luke Dunn & Josh Dunn	Rod Miller	Des Roberts	Christine Roberts	Matt Barber	Jo Barber
16/11/2026	Steve Jager	Ben Starick	Courtney Dunn	Shannon Arnott	Ken French	Theresa & Hettie French
23/11/2026	Peter McGennisken	Rachel McGennisken	Andrew Bell	Hamish Bell	Rod Miller	Sue, Alana, Will & Harry Miller
30/11/2026	Cameron McDonald	Mick Bethune	Gerard Matthews	Sarah Matthews	Luke Barber	Stephen Barber
07/12/2026	Andrew Chincarini	Kerryanne, Tristan, Hugo Chincarini	Jamie Parfett	Caroline Price	Matt Barber	Jo Barber
14/12/2026	Courtney Dunn	Shannon Arnott	Luke Dunn & Josh Dunn	Rod Miller	Ken French	Theresa & Hettie French

EMERGENCY HOTLINE 1800 226 226

Total Fire Bans – Fire Restrictions - Bushfire Planning – Major Fires
Fire warnings and updates: Emergency broadcasters: ABC and Commercial radio stations & SKY News TV

CFA WELLBEING SUPPORT LINE **1800 959 232** **cfa.vic.gov.au/wellbeing**
Providing CFA members & their immediate family access to 24 hour support 7 days a week

***ALWAYS* DIAL TRIPLE ZERO TO REPORT FIRE**





Laharum Wartook Veggie Swap on Sunday October 4 ↑ ↓



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 **13 22 00**

132 500
Call anywhere in Victoria for flood, storm, landslide, tsunami and earthquake emergency

The editor reserves the right to reduce the size of articles so the Newsletter fits 12 pages. Opinions expressed in any articles are not necessarily those of the editor. Please contact the author of the article for further discussion.



Laharum Premiership teams



Laharum U15 netball defeated Kalkee 50 - 36



Laharum U17 netball defeated Kalkee 47 - 35



Herb Hallam life member



Laharum Senior Football defeated Noradjuha Quantong 9-8, 62 to 7-8, 50