



Veggie Swap at Pam & Des Geue's

It's great to read about everything the different groups & organisations have been doing throughout the year, whether it's sport, events in the hall or other activities.

Our Local Vocals Group will be getting into the spirit of Christmas when they sing Carols at Sunnyside Lutheran Retirement Village on December 13.

Wishing readers a happy and safe Christmas.

Liz Hopkins



NURSE ON CALL
1300 606 024

New Year's Eve

Happy Wanderer Holiday Resort



493 Northern Grampians Road, Wartook

Tuesday December 31, 7pm

\$5 Entry

**All money raised goes to
Laharum CFA**



Live Music by Wild Colonial Boy
Karaoke

Sausage Sizzle

The store will be open until 9pm

All Welcome

Let's support Laharum CFA

Wimmera Emergency Management Team



Wartook residents and visitors Are you Fire Ready?



Local News

Listen to ABC local radio, commercial and designated community radio stations and watch Sky News TV. You can find a complete list at www.emv.vic.gov.au



VicEmergency Hotline

1800 226 226 Free call



VicEmergency App

Download from the App Store or Google Play



Social Media

www.facebook.com/vicemergency

www.twitter.com/vicemergency



VicEmergency Website

www.emergency.vic.gov.au



Keep an eye on the weather and forecasts

at the Bureau of Meteorology Website – www.bom.gov.au



In some circumstances you may receive an SMS to your mobile or a call to your landline phone



This guide was developed by the Wimmera Emergency Management Team in conjunction with the Country Fire Authority

Disclaimer - This information was correct at time of Publication. Prepared November 2023



Wimmera Emergency Management Team



The Wimmera Emergency Management Team has prepared a Fire Ready Guide for Wartook.

This guide was developed because the Wartook area has an extreme bushfire risk due to its location in a valley surrounded by State and National Parks.

The Wartook Fire Ready Guide will help you and your family plan and prepare for days when hot, dry and windy conditions create a fire risk in your area. It contains important information to help you prepare your Bushfire Survival Plan, a fire map of the area, emergency contact information and an overview of the Australian Fire Danger Rating System.

The Wartook Fire Ready Guide and other important emergency information is available on the **Wimmera 72** and **Horsham Rural City Council** websites.

If you have any questions about the Wartook Fire Ready Guide or would like a copy emailed to you, please contact the Wimmera Emergency Management Team at wemt@hrcc.vic.gov.au



AUSTRALIA DAY BREAKFAST

Sunday January 26, 8am 2025
Brimpaen Hall

Egg & bacon rolls, hot & cold beverages
to be served from 8am

An informal gathering to catch up for a chat

9am Flag raising ceremony

All invited

Free of charge

Funded by Horsham Rural City Council

Please contact Megan Gardner on 0427 755151

CARPENTRY

Design
Timber resawing
Tree felling



Lincoln Shepherd

Registered builder **0417 856786**

Laharum Landcare-Wartook Vegetable swap

SUMMER 2025 First Sunday of the month at 10am

January 5 No Swap scheduled

February 2 Julie & Andy
230 Smiths Road, Laharum

March 2 Diane & Steven Lowe
2 Kimberleys Road, Wartook

For further information contact
Wendy on 0428 840662



Yoga at Laharum Hall
will resume in Term 1, 2025

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.



Gariwerd Artists

Now having a little break until February 2025.

2025 Gatherings

Thursday February 6 & Saturday February 15

Thursday March 6 & Saturday March 15

All welcome to join our group

Mosaic Workshop

Learn basic mosaic skills with Jodie Mathews

All materials and tools provided

Saturday February 8

Laharum Hall – Cost \$90

Details from Gill Venn 0408 837530

gill_venn@yahoo.com.au

SAVE THE DATE

'Nature's Inspiration'

Easter **Friday April 18 - Sunday April 20**

Opening on **Thursday April 17**

Exhibition of current work by Gariwerd Artists including a giant emu sculpture

Gill Venn

Laharum Hall Committee



We would like to thank the district local residents for attending functions at Laharum Hall throughout the year

including all other groups who have used our local asset.

Thank you also to the group of volunteers on the Hall Committee for all the assistance received over the past 12 months.

A lot of catering has been done as well as numerous jobs around the Hall to assist with hall funds.

Sara Storer Concert was a huge success with all tickets sold out. Apex 13 did a great job of catering before the event. Sara & Greg Storer and Frances gave us much praise on our facility. Photo page 12.

Recently I attended the annual Small Halls meeting at Horsham Rural City Council. It was very pleasing to be able to report on all activities at our Hall. Our thanks go to HRCC for their ongoing support of Laharum Hall.

A new Stage Curtain Track has recently been installed to assist hall users.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy festive season.

Judy Berendsen & Maurice Dumesny

Wonwondah Community



Wonwondah Hall Christmas Tree will be held on **Saturday December 14**, 6.30 pm. Barbecue meat and dessert will be supplied by the committee.

Everyone please BYO drinks and a salad to share and also have some gold coins to buy a raffle ticket. Santa will arrive at 8pm.

Contact me on 0438 304948.

Sue Ahern

wonwondahhall@gmail.com



132 500

Call anywhere in Victoria for flood, storm, landslide, tsunami & earthquake emergency

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**

Available by donation to Laharum Hall

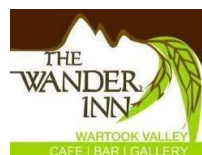
Trestle Tables – sturdy in very good condition
Contact Maurice Dumesny on 0419 332448

Save the date

Saturday October 25, 2025

Catherine Britt performing at Laharum Hall

Tickets available July 2025



Due to staffing considerations we are only managing weddings and events.

We will keep the community posted when we have changes.

Dianna

Brimpaen Craft Group



We enjoyed our Christmas lunch and breakup on December 3 at Up Tempo. Our Annual General Meeting will be held 10am on **Tuesday February 4**, 2025 at

Brimpaen Hall.

Loretta Emerson



Happy Wanderer Holiday Resort

Accommodation, Fuel, General store and Bottle Shop. Open 7 days 9am-5pm.

Phone 5383 6210.

Email: admin@hwresort.com.au and website:

www.happywandererresort.com.au

Jillian & Phill Goullet

Laharum Cricket Club



A ripper start to the Horsham Cricket Association season for both senior grades.

Player numbers and availability has been quite good to start the year.

C Grade is being led this year by Matt Whelan, balancing youth and experience, they are sitting second on the ladder after a competition wide washout in Round 8 on November 30.

They have had four convincing wins so far this season, plus a forfeit win, losing games only to West Wimmera and to Homers.

Highlights for C Grade for the season to date include -

- Angus Norton retiring on 51 runs and Lewis Hofmaier being not out 70 in Round 2, guiding us past the target of 145 for a comfortable win.
- Lewis Hofmaier taking 4 for 20 in Round 4, almost bowling us the victory single handedly.
- Jack Bardell taking 3 for 4 off 9 balls in Round 6, bowling Natimuk out for 94 leading to a strong victory.

A Grade are being led this year by Josh Mahoney. A positive vibe exists amongst the group and this has led us to win key moments of several very close games to date this season.

We managed to win Round 1 by 6 runs; Round 4 by 19 runs and Round 6 by 2 runs, building a lot of confidence amongst the group.

We were in a strong position in our first Two Day game of the season, before rain interrupted and cancelled Day 2 on November 30. We had to split points and settle for a draw.

A Grade are sitting 3rd on the ladder, having 4 wins for the season to date. All these wins have come in the one day format of the competition, losing only one game to Lubeck Murtoa.

Highlights for A Grade this season include:-

- Jim McInnes taking 5 for 19 in Round 1, leading us to victory.
- Jackson Hoffman taking 5 for 7 in Round 2, against the reigning 1 day premier side.
- Max Bunworth making 50 runs and taking 4 wickets for 7 runs in Round 4, almost single handedly guiding us to a 19 run win.
- Jackson Hoffman making 38 not out in Round 6. Perhaps 38 isn't exactly noteworthy on its own, but only one other batter made over 10 runs in our total of 87. This was definitely the difference as we then bowled the opposition out for 85 for a 2 run win.
- Joel Pymer and Ben Peucker partnership of 106 runs against Tigers in the Round 7. This helped us out of our 5 for 72 slump through to a competitive total of 236. This total included a rare century to the President and put us in a strong position before rain interrupted our fun on Day 2.

The community Christmas party will be held at Laharum Oval on **Saturday December 14**, starting at 6pm and hosted by the Cricket and Tennis Clubs. All community members are welcome and we look forward to another fun evening together.

Again, a massive thank you to Scott Smith and his team for their hard work smoothing the area around the centre of the oval; it is a significant improvement. A massive thank you to Barry Roberts for his tireless work looking after the outfield - it is really looking a treat.

As always, if you are interested in a game of cricket, please reach out. New players are always welcome. Yours in cricket.

Ben Peucker, President

0408 011319 ben.peucker@outlook.com

North West Grampians Branch of Horsham Lions Club



We wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for 2025, happy holidays and safe travelling.

Our last meeting was held on Thursday November 21 at the Green Lake Barbecue Gazebo with 10 people in attendance.

The Bushwackers Band Concert is locked in for 2025 and will be held in Horsham Town Hall 'Heritage Room' on **Sunday June 22**.

Driver Reviver will be operating from 10am to 2pm on **Tuesday December 24** and on holiday weekends.

Lions Christmas cakes are available in many outlets in Horsham. They make an ideal gift as well as supporting the Lions fundraising efforts.

New and interested people are welcome to join us. We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at Laharum Hall.

Libby Peucker 5382 5221

Keith Fischer 0417 691000

CFA District 17



District 17 CFA would like to thank the community and volunteers for their ongoing support, tireless effort, hard work and dedication over the last 12 months. Looking forward to working with you all in 2025.

District 17 Head Office will be closed the public holidays only.

Closed – Christmas Day **Wednesday December 25**

Closed – Boxing Day **Thursday December 26**

Closed – New Year's Day **Wednesday January 1**

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

Lily French, Brigade Administrative Support Officer
0437 303620 Lily.French@cfa.vic.gov.au

Laharum Football Netball Club



We're thrilled to announce the official launch of our Women's & Girls' Football Teams, marking an historic moment for



our club. Laharum Football Netball Club is the only club in the Horsham & District Football Netball League fielding Women & Girls football teams.

The first training session was held recently with a turnout of enthusiastic players eager to kick-start this new journey.

Leading the Women's Football Team is none other than Rodney 'Rocket' Hogan! With extensive experience as both a player and coach in the region, Rodney brings invaluable knowledge, passion and leadership to this new role. We are incredibly privileged to have him guiding our team throughout this exciting chapter.

The sponsorship and social teams are working to finalise preparations for the 2025 season. The Cattleman's Club, a fantastic initiative, successfully ran their first 'Lamb Drive'. Thank you and well done to all involved from organisers to the lamb donators.

Reflecting on this year's finals campaign, eight of our teams made it to the finals, with four competing in the Grand Finals at Stawell. The 13 & Under netball side and the Under 17s combined 'Roo Dees' football team battled valiantly but fell just short of victory.

Our A Grade netballers however, reclaimed the Premiership Cup in spectacular style, finishing the season undefeated. The thrilling contest showcased the very best of the league competition.

Meanwhile, our Reserves Football team displayed incredible grit in challenging conditions, including bouts of hail. Despite the Stawell Swifts' home-ground advantage and halftime lead, our boys rallied to secure a hard-fought 17-point win.

We were delighted to receive funds from the TAC Club Rewards Program for our *"Be a Speed Demon on the Field, Not on the Road"* campaign. Thank you to everyone who supported this important initiative, which remains especially significant during the upcoming festive season.

As we close the chapter on 2024, we reflect with pride on our achievements and extend heartfelt thanks to our players, supporters and sponsors. Your dedication and teamwork have been vital in getting our proud club back to track.

Here's to a bright and exciting future for the Laharum Football Netball Club! It's an exciting time for our club as we welcome two new teams to the fold, as well as new players and the new challenges that 2025 will bring. We can't wait to see our community back at Cameron Oval cheering on all our teams.

Wishing you all a very happy and healthy festive season, a successful harvest and a prosperous 2025!

Rowena Doyle, Secretary

Wonwondah Landcare Group



Wonwondah Landcare Group is now appointing a new Treasurer with Lance Warren moving to Tasmania. This will be finalised at our next meeting.

Crop Opti Services representative Warwick Stone at our last meeting, explained all their company's options which are available to broad acre croppers, especially with fertiliser blends and availability.

While most rabbit warrens have shown little activity, a couple of sites in the McKenzie Creek area have become quite sizeable and will be dealt with.

The group has completed all the applications for operating a 'not for profit' charity group and welcomes the funding made available from the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority to assist with the operational costs during the coming year.

Our next meeting is proposed for the end of January 2025 and a firm date will be announced later.

Chris Guest

Laharum Tennis Club



The tennis season has just reached the halfway mark with the completion of Round 8. There has been 8 men and 7 ladies representing the club so far with Marlie Roberts and Tyge & Lenix Nelson being new additions.

The team has been successful with only one loss. This leaves us atop of the ladder. A game clear and a healthy percentage ahead of Drung South.

Training nights on Wednesdays from 6pm are continuing for anyone who would like a hit - all levels are more than welcome.

The tennis jacket designs have been finalised which includes the 100 year logo. All premiership teams consisting 8 juniors and 14 senior teams are listed. Orders are now being accepted by Vanessa Lenehan who has done a great job with the jackets. Vanessa can be contacted on 0419 033112 and needs to receive orders by **Monday December 16**. For past players, this would make a great memento and for those fashion conscious, the opportunity to sparkle! See photos page 11.

I would also like to welcome sponsors who have come on board this season. Your support of the club is greatly appreciated and ensures the future of the Laharum Tennis Club is bright. Thank you to Australian Wildflowers, Meringa Springs, Wimmera Mallee Ag, Nuseed, Yarrabera Suffolk Poll Dorset Stud & CHS Broadbent.

Tony Sykes

Laharum Rural CFA



Great news!!! Laharum Fire Brigade was successful in our Victorian Emergency Services Equipment Program (VESEP) grant application for an Ultra-Light Tanker.

Once received, this appliance will be a great asset for the wider community in fire suppression, preparedness and patrolling. This vehicle will have a 550 litre tank on a 4x4 Cab-chassis, Class A foam, chainsaw and much more equipment for fire brigade members to use. This appliance will be stationed in the Laharum Fire Station alongside our Tanker 1.

This vehicle will also be helpful as a more mobile quick-fill or it can tow out the quick-fill trailer. If required, brigade members could also use the vehicle to assist with private burn offs. This also means Grampians National Park and Black Range State Park have a full 360 degree Ultra-Light Tanker capacity response from a CFA point of view when we support Brimpaen etc. Getting the grant was the first step.

Laharum Fire Brigade will be asking for financial donations from the community to help fund the brigade's contribution of \$24k. In a nutshell, the brigade needs to raise \$10k. Like a few years ago when we raised funds for the Tanker 2, we'll provide donation information in the New Year via the post and social media. Funds provided will go directly into the brigade's account, not like the Fire Service Levy (FSL), landowners pay with their rates which goes into a State kitty. Further information will be provided down the track.

Preparedness - I'd be hopeful by now, everyone has their properties prepared for the bushfire season. If not, please think quickly and do so!

Laharum Brigade has carried out a couple of Fuel Reduction Burn Off's around the council dam and out the front of the school and hall. Big thanks to the members who helped. Weather and member availability, we are hopeful to burn opposite the Laharum Recreation Reserve sometime.

For those who are wondering, the Fire brigade have permits and approved burn plans which allow us to burn off any time of the year. Very strict conditions apply though. When Total Fire Bans are declared, we call for known crews for our tankers. We know the messages go to all brigade members - so please put your hand up to help out. Don't leave it to the same people. Many hands make light work!!

Fire Fighting Aircraft - Just a reminder about firefighting aircraft at fires this summer. We now have Bombers based in Horsham as well as Stawell, so we expect them at a fire a lot quicker. They can't drop their loads unless it's safe to do so.

We are asking all private units which attend fires, to please switch to UHF Ch 10 to talk to CFA officers or tankers at the fires so we can tell you to move out of a drop zone. Fire Bombers can be at a

fire before CFA tankers or officers can get there, so please keep a visual out.

Hay and Harvest - Most hay production has wound up in our area. But we are asking farmers to please keep an eye on your hay stacks for elevated temperatures or strong odours coming from the stacks. Last summer the Grampians Group had a couple of hay stack fires which started well after a few weeks of being baled.

Harvest is starting to ramp up across the Grampians Group area when the weather conditions suit. Touch wood, we have been reasonably good with only a couple of harvest related fires over the past couple of years. Doesn't mean we can relax. We are asking that there's a private firefighting unit in the paddocks where you are harvesting at all times. We've already had a couple of fire ban days and have asked for a cease of harvest operations. Just a reminder that a '*cease of harvest operations*' is a cease of anything harvest related, including cartage of grain, use of auger or driving trucks in paddocks, etc.

This is also a reminder that there is a harvest agreement between the CFA and the VFF that if the Fire Danger Index gets to 35 and over, harvesting is to cease. Also, it's a timely reminder that once CFA ask for a harvest ban, you are no longer covered by insurance or public liability.

Phone reception has been 'hit and miss' since the phase out of 3G, so we are asking neighbours to help each other out, if you get the message to stop. Spread the word via UHF or go see them etc.

Fortunately despite the dryer spring, we've only had the one call-out locally to support Brimpaen but were stood down before arriving. A few weeks ago there was a large fire at Kadnook (south of Edenhope) which the Grampians Group supplied crews for strike teams for a few days which included Brimpaen Tanker 1 and the Grampians Group Forward Command Vehicle (FCV). A big thanks to everyone who put their hand up to help out.

There has been a release of the updated Bushfire Risk for Australia. See photo page 11. This covers our whole area and SW Victoria. So please be prepared, activate your bushfire plan early and stay safe.

Finally, wishing everyone a safe and fire-free Christmas and New Year period.

Luke Dumesny, Captain

**POLICE ASSISTANCE LINE &
ONLINE REPORTING
CALL 131 444**



Report non-urgent crimes and events to Victoria Police

Horsham Rural City Council Landcare



My name is Jen Gao and I'd like to introduce myself as the new Landcare Facilitator with Horsham Rural City Council, taking on the position from Annie Hobby. I'm very excited to be in the role and to support Landcare and other environmental groups.

I have previously worked for Parks Victoria and DEECA in various roles which included invasive species removal, volunteer coordination, firefighter and seasonal ranger. I also have experience in outdoor education and bushwalk guiding, facilitating nature-based experiences for young people and adults; and many years ago I studied a Degree in Environmental Science.

I've spent a fair chunk of my time volunteering for environmental organisations including Halls Gap Landcare where we regularly have weeding working bees. In my spare time I enjoy bushwalking, birdwatching and other outdoor adventures. I look forward to meeting some of you in the future.

An update on what Horsham District Landcare Network (HDLN) has been up to lately: Our Brolga 'Walk & Talk' on **Sunday December 1** at Taylors Lake went well, attended by people of all ages. Highlights for many were seeing four Brolgas, a pair of White-Bellied Sea Eagles and their fledgling. Also we learnt about these beautiful and fascinating birds from Dr Inka Veltheim, who studied a PhD on the Brolga population of south-west Victoria, and Keith Fischer a local farmer who has been observing the Taylors Lake Brolgas since 2011. See photo page 12.

HDLN hosted the Pollinator Forum in Natimuk on Sunday November 17 and attendees learnt about the threat of Varroa mite on the bee industry amongst other interesting topics. Local naturalist Mirinda Thorpe spoke about endangered invertebrates in the region.

The network also hosted a screening of Rachel's Farm on Friday October 11. From accounts it was an entertaining film about a woman's journey to learn about sustainable agriculture.

HDLN has a new website and social media pages! Visit <https://www.hdln.org.au/> for more information and follow us at <https://www.instagram.com/horshamdistrictlandcare/> and <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61561150481872>.

Wishing the community a safe and enjoyable festive season,

Jen Gao, Horsham District Landcare Network
0407 914498

Laharum Landcare Group



Laharum Landcare Group (LLG) held their end-of-year dinner and AGM on November 22 with a barbecue at Laharum Hall.

We looked back on a productive year planting over 1,600 native plants, managing over 200 hectares of weeds, constructing and installing over 30 nest boxes for birds and mammals, with another 18 built and donated to Landcare groups in Pomonal and Beaufort (impacted by the fires earlier in 2024), and working with student groups from Melbourne and Adelaide.

We hosted 3 guest speakers and 10 talks/events covering a wide range of topics from making apple cider, to learning about River Blackfish and other native species, to plantouts and weed control, to small-scale regenerative forestry and monitoring nest boxes. A big thank you to all the Landcare members and volunteers who participated throughout the year.

A new Executive Committee was selected during the AGM and includes: President: Glenn Fitzgerald; Vice President: Johnno Johnson; Treasurer: Gill Venn; Secretary: Julie Groce and Ordinary Committee Members Bruce McInnes and Ray Colvin.

This coming year we'll continue to focus on weed control and devote more time to rabbit control. Please contact us if you know of rabbit warrens that can be ripped. We'll also trial some exclusion plots – area that can't be accessed by grazing animals – to see how native vegetation responds. And we'll get a monitoring program underway for all our nest boxes using our new wildlife camera. We're looking forward to putting the camera to use! See photo page 12.

Please contact me if you'd like to join Laharum Landcare Group or renew your membership – \$10 for individuals or \$20 for families – or find out more about what our Landcare Group does.

Our first Landcare meeting for 2025 will be on **Tuesday February 11**. Hope to see you there.

Thanks everyone and have a great holiday season.

Julie Groce, Secretary 0431 882164
laharumlandcare@gmail.com

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Isabelle Martin

0457 661335

Grampians Mallee Ag News

Watch for Heating Hay

Every hay season several haystacks spontaneously combust across Victoria in single moist bales or in a stack of any size. Once the hay has been stacked, it's important to regularly monitor it for heating and act quickly.

Unfortunately even with technological advances in machinery for harvesting conserved fodder, there is still nothing cost effective to help monitor the internal temperatures of haystacks.

So, it's back to some very simple techniques to keep an eye on your haystacks.

Watch for signs of heating – keep an eye out for signs that haystack is heating. Steam condensation on the shed roof, mould growth, acrid fumes and hot, humid air at the top of the stack are all good indicators.

When building stacks with suspect wet hay, stack the bales loosely to allow air movement and spread the stack over a wider area, for example over several bays, thereby reducing heat build-up.

Most heating will occur over the first 1 or 2 weeks but has been known to reach 'flash point' up to 8 weeks after baling. Monitor the stack temperature regularly.

Determine the stack temperature – Stack temperature can be measured using a crowbar inserted as deep as possible into the stack and left for 2 hours. After 2 hours, the crowbar can be removed and felt by hand to give you a rough guide of the internal stack temperatures.

The temperature of the bale is up to about 50°C if you can hold the crowbar without discomfort. It is up to 60°C if the bar can be held for a short time only and up to 70°C if the bar can only be touched briefly. If you can't hold the bar, temperature is above 70°C and fire is a real possibility. Treat the stack with caution.

In the past, it has been suggested to push a small pipe into the stack and lower a small thermometer to the end of the pipe to measure the temperature of warming hay. However, this technique should not be used for severely heating hay as it may oxygenate the inner section of the stack and cause a fire to start.

What can be done if the stack heats to danger levels? If a stack starts to get 'dangerously hot', pull it apart as quickly as possible. Be aware that as the bales are pulled out of the stack, especially in a tightly built stack, oxygen will now get access to the hot spot and potentially cause ignition. Make sure that water is readily available and suitably qualified people able to assist in fire suppression if required.

Safety Warning – Avoid walking on the stack as the extremely high temperatures may have charred the centre of the stack. Any extra weight on the stack

may cause the stack to collapse into the dangerously hot centre and cause serious injury.

If there is the slightest risk of a fire starting due to wet hay, never keep machinery in the hayshed and don't allow children to play in or near heating stacks.

The Country Fire Authority website has good information about hay fire risk, Search 'hay fires' at www.cfa.vic.gov.au

For more information about dry seasonal conditions and drought support, visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons or call 136 186. **Michele Jolliffe**, Agriculture Victoria Dairy Extension Officer, Hamilton

Forest Fire Management Victoria



Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) has been busy since the last update

was provided in October.

There have been three Total Fire Bans declared so far this fire season for the Wimmera fire weather district. The first of which was declared for Saturday November 16 when the Kadnook Casterton-Edenhope Road Fire started.

Management of this fire was transferred to the Horsham Incident Control Centre on the day it started and then transferred back to Country Fire Authority District 17 on Tuesday November 19. Staff from across the FFMVic Wimmera and Far South West districts continue to support the response to this fire.

The start to the fire season provides a good reminder to prepare early for bushfires. The National Council for Fire and Emergency Services, AFAC, has just released the summer seasonal bushfire outlook. The outlook indicates increased risk of fire for most of Victoria's west. You can prepare for bushfires by learning about Fire Danger Ratings and creating a personal fire plan. Go to vic.gov.au/plan-and-prepare to learn more and access an online fire planner.

FFMVic also conducts fuel management including planned burning to reduce bushfire risk to communities and the environment. There are several planned burns which may go ahead in the Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park in autumn 2025 if conditions allow.

The Grampians National Park–Wallaby Rocks planned burn for instance, is located just south of Wartook in the National Park and will likely be conducted in April.

To learn more about planned burning and the Joint Fuel Management Program (JFMP) go to ffm.vic.gov.au/bushfire-fuel-and-risk-management/joint-fuel-management-program.

To register for planned burn notifications, visit plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au.

Emily Kirton, Senior Community Partnership Support Officer | Wimmera

Horsham Rural City Council



Cr Ian Ross elected new Mayor -

Ian Ross has pledged to lead a councillor group focussed on delivering for the community as he guides Horsham Rural City Council (HRCC) for the next 12 months.

The Telangatuk East farm manager has had long-held associations with community groups including sporting clubs, Apex, the Victorian Farmers Federation, CFA, Kanagulk Landcare and local churches. He spent 13 years as director of the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority.

The 2024-2028 term will be the first in HRCC's history to incorporate wards, following a 2023 State Government review.

HRCC congratulates councillors-elect - Six new Councillors have been elected for the upcoming four-year Council term along with Ian Ross who served from 2020-2024.

Green Park - Dean O'Loughlin; Horsham North - Todd Wilson; Kalimna - Rebecca Sluggett; May Park - Cam McDonald; Oatlands - Angela Munn; Pine Lake - Ian Ross; Wyn Wyn - Brian Klowss.

The 2024-2028 term will be the first in HRCC's history to incorporate wards, following a 2023 Victorian Government review.

HRCC welcomes Renewable Energy Park - HRCC has welcomed the Victorian Government's establishment in Horsham of the State's first fully government-owned energy generation project. Premier Jacinta Allan was at the project's Riverside construction site and detailed plans for the \$370 million SEC Renewable Energy Park.

Previously HRCC worked with private developer OX2 on planning approvals when the project was known as the Horsham Solar Farm. The original scope was granted planning approval in 2018, with no objections from the local community.

The project has now increased in capability and will now generate around 242,000 megawatt hours (MWh) of renewable energy a year. That's enough to power a city three times the size of Horsham! Importantly, there is no significant increase in the site's footprint.

Susan Surridge, Coordinator Community Relations & Advocacy

**ALWAYS DIAL TRIPLE ZERO
TO REPORT FIRE**



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.

Brimpaen Tennis Club



It's hard to believe tennis is almost at the halfway mark. We have secured a few wins early which always makes tennis more enjoyable. It's nice to see some younger players stepping up and playing some good tennis.

Looking forward to the second half of the season and hopefully finals action!!

Merry Christmas and happy New Year to all.

Courtney Dunn



Grampians Olive Co

Closed from **Monday December 23**
Reopening **Monday January 6**
Monday to Friday 11am-4pm

Closed weekends and public holidays
Serving platters and freshly roasted coffee,
Organic olive oils, olives, honey, vinegars,
skincare, gift packs.

www.grampiansoliveco.com.au

Greg Mathews 5383 8299

Library Collection Lockers & Returns Bin at Laharum Hall

For those wanting Wimmera Library items delivered to Laharum Lockers located at Laharum Hall or wanting to return items via the Laharum Returns Bin, Wimmera Libraries will be picking up returned items and dropping off held items fortnightly on Thursdays.

How to get items delivered to Laharum Lockers? When placing a 'hold', choose Laharum as your pick up location. Once items are placed in a locker, you will be emailed access details or you can ring Wimmera Libraries on 5382 5707 to organise/change your 'holds' to be delivered to Laharum on your behalf.

Wimmera Library Headquarters

DOB IN A LITTERER

1300 372 842 (1300 EPA VIC)

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

WANTED

Under cover storage area for single horse float
in the general Laharum to Horsham area

Open sided shed ok

Will pay \$40 per month, negotiable
Dianne Noy 0428 311449



FIRE BRIGADE TRUCK ROSTERS

December 2024 – February 2025 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

	Tanker 1		Tanker 2	
Week	Name	Name	Name	Name
09/12/2024	Damien Knight	David Pratt	Rob Jess	Daniel Doherty
16/12/2024	Jo Gardner	Jenny McInnes	Brendan Dunn	Peter Dunn
23/12/2024	Allan Parfett	Mark Minter	Paul van der Plank	Stuart Combe
30/12/2024	Brad Geue	Caroline Geue	Will Pyke	Htoo Kaw Jah
06/01/2025	Gary Staehr	Rob Staehr	Francoise van der Plank	Vicky Stevens
13/01/2025	Steve Suter	Nigel Hallam	Mal Griffiths	Ray Zippel
20/01/2025	Gil Hopkins	Eh Doh Jah	Nathan Metcalf	Leigh Mibus
27/01/2025	Jim Carter	Nathan Metcalf	Mark Uebergang	Jenny Uebergang
03/02/2025	Bruce McInnes	David Wegman	Maurice Dumesny	Glenn Steadman
10/02/2025	Francoise van der Plank	Jenny Gaulke	Luke Dumesny	Beth McGennicken

BRIMPAEN

	Tanker 1 Driver	Tanker 1 Support	Tanker 3 Driver	Tanker 3 Support	Tanker 2 Glenisla Driver
Week	Name	Name	Name	Name	Name
09/12/2024	Jamie Parfett	Caroline Price	Brenton Roberts	Amanda Britten	Rod Miller
16/12/2024	Luke Dunn & Josh Dunn	Rod Miller	Des Roberts	Christine Roberts	Luke Barber
23/12/2024	Steve Jager	Ben Starick	Courtney Dunn	Matt Barber	Jo Barber
30/12/2024	Peter McGennicken	Rachel McGennicken	Andrew Bell	Ken French	Theresa & Hettie French
06/01/2025	Cameron McDonald	David Schmidt	Gerard Matthews	Rod Miller	Sue, Alana, Will & Harry Miller
13/01/2025	Andrew Chincarini	Kerryanne, Tristan, Hugo Chincarini	Jamie Parfett	Luke Barber	Stephen Barber
20/01/2025	Courtney Dunn	Shannon Arnott	Luke Dunn & Josh Dunn	Matt Barber	Jo Barber
27/01/2025	Brenton Roberts	Amanda Britten	Steve Jager	Ken French	Theresa & Hettie French
03/02/2025	Des Roberts	Christine Roberts	Peter McGennicken	Rod Miller	Sue, Alana, Will & Harry Miller
10/02/2025	Andrew Bell	Hamish Bell	Andrew Chincarini	Luke Barber	Stephen Barber

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



afac Seasonal Bushfire Outlook

Summer | 2024



KEY: ■ Increased risk of fire

Figure 1 Seasonal Bushfire Outlook Summer 2024. Areas are based on the interim biogeographic regionalisation for Australia and other geographical features.



Increased risk of fire is the likelihood of an increased number of significant bushfires occurring in the outlook period compared to average.



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Attendees watching Brolgas at Taylors Lake



Wildlife Camera



Sara Storer performing at Laharum Hall on October 25



Laharum Wartook Veggie Swap at Susan & Andrew Mathews