



July 2008

\$2 MILLION FOR OUR SCHOOL

Newham Primary School has announced that it has received a funding allocation of \$2million in the recent State Budget. This funding will be directed to the construction of a new permanent school at Newham, to be completed by 2009.



Only nine schools in country Victoria secured funding for an upgrade.

schoolers all the way through to adult education.'

Architect Geoff Stanistreet has been working with School Council members Matthew Nickson, Michael Portelli and principal Carolyn Robb to consider a range of plans that would best suit the needs of Newham. A keen parent forum was addressed by Mr. Stanistreet and Manager of the Facilities Unit in Melbourne Doug Harnetty following the announcement.

A draft has been prepared for further discussion with staff, students and the parent community.

Carolyn Robb says: 'The new plans will incorporate spaces that can be shared with the community: classrooms, large community spaces, and small indoor/outdoor learning areas. These will allow for the continuation of community-based programs such as Art, Music and Landcare. Through the Newham Community Planning Group, we are looking to provide educational spaces suitable for pre-

ENROL FOR 2009

Newham Primary is currently establishing long-term enrolment figures. The school needs to know approximate numbers for 2009 in order to ascertain classroom entitlements. The aim is for the school to accommodate 51-75 students. Currently, there are 43 students but trending back to the 55-70 range, after a dip in recent years.

If you are a new family to Newham or have children approaching school age, the school invites you to pay it a visit. Take a tour, meet the teachers, chat with the kids. You can also take a look at the new school plans.

Contact Carolyn on 5427 0235

YOUR LOCAL NEWS & EVENTS

Welcome to the first Newham Arrow! An initiative of the Newham Community Planning Group (see back page), the Arrow will be published monthly and delivered free to your mailbox.

The content on these pages is provided by local contributors. Our aim is to be truly local, to provide you with a regular and reliable source of information about our community - our news, our events, our people.

As you can see, we are starting small but there is plenty of scope to increase. If you would like to see something covered in these pages, we'd like to hear from you. If you would like to contribute, give us some feedback, or write a letter to the editor, please contact us at: narrow@exemail.com.au

The Newham Arrow is edited by Stephen Mitchell and supported by the Macedon Ranges Shire Council.



FACELIFT FOR MECHANICS HALL

The Newham Mechanics Hall is about to receive a facelift. The Hall Committee is very pleased to inform the community of recent success in fund raising - \$22,000 raised by the Newham Community!

Further funds are being sought to carry out upgrade and improvement works. These include replacement of the existing meeting room with a more functional space, the construction of a new kitchen, demolition and replacement of the toilets and improvements to the car parking area.

MRSC has confirmed funding for toilet replacement of \$136,000 and the committee expects to hear soon on a \$250,000 application from Rural Development Victoria.

An architect has been engaged to prepare plans for the Town Planning application and the

WESLEY PARK PLANTING



'Pricking out' seedlings at a recent family day

You may have noticed the fresh mulch and proliferation of new plants at Wesley Park. It's all part of a low maintenance, 'waterwise' display garden conceived and created by the Newham Garden Club and local Landcare group.

Garden Club and Landcare member Fran Spain tells us that the project has been supported by the MRSC and adds, 'Apart from improving the park's environment, the garden will provide an important educational resource, particularly in regard to indigenous plants.'

'The project will develop a beautiful display of native plants indigenous to this area and be a permanent reference for those interested in using indigenous native plants in their own gardens.'



Artist's impression

proposal will soon be on display at the Hall.

The funding success shows the very great support the Hall has in the community as a vital asset for holding of functions and community events.


This support was shown by the great attendance at the 'swot' analysis meeting that gave the Committee a direction in formulating the role the Hall should fulfil in the future. This led to the drafting of a business plan and preparation of preliminary concept plans.

Future issues of the Newham Arrow will advise of progress.

'We hope that it will spread the pleasures of gardening and strengthen the sense of community in Newham.'

As with many projects of this nature, volunteers have provided the labour - preparing the ground, propagating and purchasing plants, as well as planting and mulching. A spring planting will complete the program but ongoing maintenance will be necessary. The development of plant labels and an explanatory Notice Board is integral to the plan.

Thanks to all who attended the preparatory day and then the initial planting.



QUIVER QUIZ

1. Newham was named in what year?
2. Hanging Rock was originally known as..?
3. How high is the Jim Jim?
4. Until the beginning of the twentieth century, the Newham Church held regular services in what foreign language?

Answers next issue



July: Bare, but far from barren

The enchanting Hellebores have been blooming for some time. They enjoy our crisp winter days. The spring bulbs, led by the extrovert daffodils, have already poked their heads through the soil. Their promise of renewal is sure to make even the most pessimistic gardener feel brighter.

Winter is the best time to get a variety of bare-rooted plants into the ground. This normally includes roses, but given our climate, I think it's better to wait until next month. However, other bare-rooted plants can certainly go in now.

The vegie patch is possibly the most desolate looking part of the garden at this time of year. Nevertheless, brassicas are still going strong with good crops of broccoli, cauliflower and brussel sprouts. Broad beans and silver beet are also cropping well and leeks, assuming early planting, can now be harvested.

In the flower garden, perennials such as phlox and lupins can go in now. In addition, it's a good time to take hardwood cuttings of plants such as chrysanthemum.

Any gardening month is born of optimism and July fits the bill more than most, promising much colour and beauty to come.

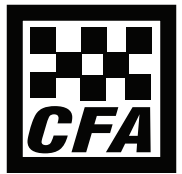


The Newham & District Landcare group, has a membership of over 90 local households.

Goals of the group include development of a network of native vegetation corridors between Mt. Macedon and the Cobaw Range, active management of weeds and roadside vegetation, increasing local knowledge of environmental issues through educational events and support of Newham Primary school.

As usual there are a number of upcoming events which are available to current and new members and the community in general.

The Newham Fire Brigade recently had its biennial election of office bearers. The Brigade Management Team for the next two years took up office on 1st July.



The brigade officers are:

- CAPTAIN**
Peter Hobbs 0427 529 296
- 1st LIEUT (Community Safety)**
David Bachelor 5427 0568
0407 127 371
- 2nd LIEUT (Training)**
Gilbert Buchanan 0407 270 645
- 3rd LIEUT (Equipment & Communications)**
Andy Avent 0418 565 401
- 4th LIEUT (OH&S)**
Graeme Blaxland 0417 563 073
- President**
Barrie Sutton 5427 0387
- Secretary (Acting)**
Kate Lee 5427 0939

The brigade business phone number is 5427 0543.

The Newham Fire Brigade has 75 members of which 42 are qualified firefighters. Other members assist with catering, fund-raising or other assistance to the brigade.

There is always a shortage of able-bodied firefighters in the Newham area during daytime so if you are around during the day, would like to assist your community and be a part of a great organisation, please contact one of the officers, or come to the fire station on Sunday mornings.

Remember, to report a fire, always ring 000.

On Friday 25 July, Professor Ian Rutherford will be talking about rivers and streams and their role in promoting biodiversity. We have heard Ian speak before and look forward to a thoroughly entertaining evening from a well-recognised authority on the subject. RSVP 5427 0408

On Friday 8 August, we are fortunate to have Ian Hunter, a Wurundjeri Elder speak about the history and culture of his tribe which is relevant to our area. This will be preceded by our AGM which is notoriously short so we welcome everyone to attend both important events.

Newham Community Planning Group

It's your town

In November 2007, a public meeting in the Mechanics Hall drew an enthusiastic crowd of 56 local residents

to discuss the welfare, future, and concerns of our town and surrounding district. Organised by the Macedon Ranges Shire Council, the meeting was the culmination of several months of consultation with numerous groups in our community. An invitation was posted to every household.

Five issues were voted as priorities for the community. A committee was formed to develop these priorities into a Community Action Plan – basically, a document that sets out our goals for the next 12 months and introduces some strategies to achieve them. We also added a sixth priority – to establish a working process that will 'make it happen'.

In March this year, a draft summary of the plan was distributed to every postal address in Newham and responses invited. In April, the plan was presented to Council, who endorsed it unanimously.

Members of the Community Planning Group are: Hilary Roberts, Nicholas Massie, Stephen Mitchell, Andrew Nicolas, Carolyn Robb, John Luckock, Lorraine Luckock, Christine Sullivan, Teresa Buchanan, Roy Martin & Frances Spain

The role of NCPG is to represent the community's wishes, consult and communicate, and support the aspirations of existing interest groups.

The Plan

1. Install an access path between Newham and Woodend via Hanging Rock. A consultant is currently examining the feasibility of various routes, such as along Five Mile Creek or Boundary/Andersons Rd.

2. Redevelop Newham Mechanics Hall. See the story on page 2. NCPG supports the efforts of the Hall Committee.

3. Protect and enhance our local environment. Newham & District Landcare is pursuing these issues as part of its ongoing action plan. However, if any community member felt that a particular issue needs further work or emphasis, ideas and involvement would be welcomed.

4. Develop a partnership between the community and Newham Primary School. With a new school to be built, now is the time to put forward your ideas.

5. Maintain small village environs. NCPG intends working with the council to establish appropriate planning controls/zoning for the village and adjacent land. It also plans to have input into the treatment of the road intersection.

6. Manage the Community Action Plan. NCPG meets monthly. It is a high priority to communicate and consult with the community. The Newham Arrow and a proposed website are two recent initiatives.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Book club/s

There are several. Members read CAE books and meet once a month.

Card Group

Running for over 100 years - every Monday Night. Mechanics Hall at 7.30 Ph: Bob Adams 5427 0484

CFA

Meets 3rd Thursday of Month Ph: 5427 0543

CFA Ladies Auxiliary

Ph: Vicki Spurrier/Pat Mansfield 5427 0512

Craft Group

Meets on informal basis after Tuesday walk. Currently making goods for garden sale in November. Ph: 5427 0661

Friends of Hanging Rock (FOHR)

Organises seed collection, tree & understorey planting, night spotlight walks, maintenance, weeding, wildflower & bird walks, and koala count at Hanging Rock. Meet for social activities monthly. Free entry/exit for activities. Ph: Paul & Marie Marmara 5427 0258

Tai Chi

Ph: Coral 5427 0266

Garden Club

First Sunday of the month – 9.30am various venues. Main project 2008 will be revegetation of Wesley Park with indigenous species. Famous Plant Fair Nov. 2008. Ph: 5427 0408

Model Group – CHAMPS

1st Friday in Month. Newham Hall. Ph: Ian Miller 54270478

Newham & District Landcare Group

Many events. Tree Planting etc Xmas function Dec 8th Hall & Park Ph: 5427 0795

Newham Mechanics Institute Association

Meets second Wednesday of month at 8pm. Group dedicated to the running of Community owned Mechanics Hall. Main project in 2008 - redevelopment of Hall. Ph: 5427 0387

Newham Primary School

Principal Ph: 5427 0235

Walking Group

Meets every Tuesday 9.00am Hall. Various venues for walking. All welcome. Have a coffee/tea afterwards. Ph: 5427 0661