



November 2009

## Phone tower for Colwells Rd?

A planning permit for an Optus telecommunications tower to be sited at 179 Colwells Rd is currently being reviewed by the shire. A recent mediation session saw local residents raise a number of concerns, requiring the company to provide additional information for its submission.

The submission states that the company has 'chosen a site which is well removed from the Hanging Rock Reserve, and which can take advantage of established vegetation so it is well screened from surrounding aspects.' The purpose of the proposed works is to introduce Optus '3G' service, as well as address complaints of coverage shortfall in the area and at Hanging Rock in particular. The tower consists of a 33.35m 'monopole' and equipment shelter.

The planning department's report and recommendation are due to be finalised soon but will not be considered by Councillors until February.

The shire advises that, while the opportunity for public submissions has passed, similar proposals have been rejected by councillors at the Planning Committee stage. It was suggested that local residents can still take the opportunity to raise any concerns directly with councillors.



*Bob Adams (photo by Chris Fleming)*

Newham Rural Fire Brigade celebrated its 40th Anniversary on Saturday 31st October with a wonderful dinner at the Newham Mechanics Hall – a big thank you to the hall committee for preparing the hall for the night!

The night was well attended with over 80 people. There were many awards to Brigade and Ladies Auxillary members. Three brigade members received CFA Honorary Life Membership: Neil Pomroy (30yrs), Bruce Dewar (35yrs), and Arthur Clarke (40yrs).

Local legend, Bobby Adams received his 70yr service medal, which no other CFA member has ever received. CFA Headquarters had to design and order the medal especially! Bobby's wife, Gladys received her 40yr Ladies Auxillary service badge.

If anyone in town heard a siren that evening, perhaps not quite like the well known trucks, it was an unexpected visit from our new firefighting slip-on appliance.

Many thanks to Bruce Hedge for the photos on the night, Colin Cook and his band for a fantastic night of music and dancing, and all the businesses who donated to the raffle. Congratulations to Bobby, and thank you to both he and Gladys for their long commitment to our community.



Brigade Captain Peter Hobbs has been appointed as 5th Deputy Group Officer of Mount



Macedon Group of Fire brigades. This is the first time that Newham has had a DGO in its ranks.

## High honours for local scouts

areas including Leadership, Unit Management, Outdoor Expeditions, Initiative, Service, Environment, First Aid, and Citizenship.

The Cub, Scout, and Venturer Units in Woodend are very active and meet on a weekly basis.



David Bachelor Andrew Buchanan

Congratulations to Newham residents David Bachelor and Andrew Buchanan, who have been presented prestigious Scouts Australia awards by the Governor of Victoria, David de Kretser AC.

The Governor General Ms Quentin Bryce AC approved the awarding of the highly esteemed Silver Koala to David Bachelor JP in recognition of 'Distinguished Service' to the Scout movement. David was presented with his medal at Gembrook Scout Camp on Sunday 20th September. The Silver Koala is rarely awarded and few scout leaders ever receive it.

David is an Assistant Venturer Scout Leader at Woodend and has overseen over 40 young people attain their Queen Scout Award over the past 21 years.

Andrew was presented with the Queens Scout Award on Saturday 3rd October at Government House. The award is the highest level of achievement within Venturers and is the result of many hours of dedication to learning new skills across a wide range of

## Family program gets reprieve

Cobaw Community Health Services has announced the receipt of a grant from the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services & Indigenous Affairs to fund Parent Buddies Volunteer Home Visiting Program (formerly Strengthening Families). The grant has enabled this valuable project to run until the end of next year (Dec 2010).

'The Parent Buddies Program offers a unique opportunity for families to get extra support in their own homes and successfully move through some of the challenging times involved in parenting young children,' explains Sue Wilson, Parent Buddies Project Worker.

Cobaw is interested in hearing from anyone wanting to help with this important community service, as well as from any families who would like to take part. Parents of young children and older members of the community have much to offer in this role and are encouraged to apply.

For more information, please contact Sue Wilson on 54211666/0448545974 or email susan.wilson@cobaw.vic.gov.au

## Good rain brings added growth

One of the many wonders of gardening is to witness plain and sometimes downright ugly pieces of vegetation, materialise into plants of extraordinary beauty.

A case in point is the dahlia. Starting life as an innocuous potato-like tuber, this native of Mexico & Central America is a welcome addition to any garden. Dahlias are one of the easiest plants to grow and these days come in a wide range of colours and form. Plant tubers now for stunning flowers from mid summer right through autumn.

Recent rains have made a huge difference to the spring garden this year and in particular, the bulbs have benefited most. A great display of daffodils has been followed by the best show of tulips for many years. But as these beauties start to fade they are being replaced by the elegant iris, the showy poppies and the many other perennials that are starting to stir.

Roses are also starting to put on good new growth and soon the first of the new blooms will appear. If you haven't done so already, give established roses a feed without delay.

In the veggie patch seeds sown earlier are now poking through the soil. For continual harvests, keep sowing root crops such as carrot, beetroot and parsnip as well as extra lettuce and other greens.

Start sowing sweet corn, beans and cucumber. Seedlings of tomato, capsicum and zucchini can also go in now but ensure these are well protected in the event of late frosts.

As many plants start to put on lush new growth, they become a magnet for a range of pests. Snails, slugs and aphids are particularly prevalent at this time of year. Be vigilant and eradicate as soon as a build up becomes obvious. Protecting plants from harm now will ensure a more productive, healthier specimen later.

Four new members have just completed their operational skills training and are now able to respond to fires. A Mount Macedon Group training exercise saw seven brigade members take part (including three of the new firefighters) and a great learning experience was had.

Do you have a fireplan? Is your property 'Fire Safe'? Will you 'Stay or Go'?

To help local residents and property owners learn more about what to do in the threat of wildfire, our regional CFA Community Safety Department is holding Fire Ready Victoria Preparedness Community Meetings at the Newham Hall on Thursday 26th November and Tuesday 15th December at 7.30 pm. Come along and find out what you should do to protect your property and your family.

Great news! The brigade slip-on unit is currently being built up and is expected to be operational by 1st December. Come along to one of the Community meetings at the hall and see the new unit.

**Remember, to report a fire, always ring 000.**

### New Fire Danger Rating

Victoria has adopted the new nationally agreed Fire Danger Rating scale to help communities understand daily fire danger. This scale recognises the significant increase in severe bushfire conditions over the past decade, such as experienced on Saturday 7 Feb 2009.

The new ratings are:  
**CODE RED** (catastrophic)  
**EXTREME**  
**SEVERE**  
**VERY HIGH**  
**HIGH**  
**LOW-MODERATE**

[www.cfa.vic.gov.au/residents/summer/firedangerrating.htm](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/residents/summer/firedangerrating.htm)



Members of the N&DLG participated recently in a social network study undertaken by

Melbourne University. This study which will be reported on in the N&DLG Newsletter aims to study the social interaction of members internally and externally in natural resource management. It is hoped that the outcome of the study will enable Newham Landcare to provide an improved service to members.

Newham Landcare is providing assistance to the Primary School to train parents and pupils in growing plants that may be a possible fundraiser activity for the school to action independently.

Following identification of rabbit habitat in Jim road some may have noticed that a contractor has recently been scraping and gassing the borrows.

We expect to issue our events calendar for 2010 shortly and request everyone look out for that.



Plans for streetscape improvements to the town centre are well underway. Shire officers are confident that work to the traffic island will commence before Christmas, digging it up and mulching, ready for planting after the summer heat.

Plans have been submitted for the barbecue and information board in the park. Electrical conduit was laid as part of the hall works in preparation for any power requirements.

Plans for stone walls around the CFA, Wesley Park and on the shop corner, as well as some strategically located street trees and plantings, will be finalised after a meeting with Vic Roads on 26th Nov.

Contact Hilary 54279795 or email [ncpg@newham.vic.au](mailto:ncpg@newham.vic.au)

### **Sustainability Expo**

NCPG, in association with Landcare, the hall committee and primary school, is planning



1. Rochford Rd was originally known as...?
2. Newham once housed which three churches?
3. Where is the nearest telecommunications tower located?
4. Robert Haslett was the first Newham postman to do what?

*Answers to last issue's quiz: 1. Nicholas Massie 2. Where the current general store stands 3. Wesley Pk is named after the Wesleyan Methodist church built there in 1860 4. Carolyn Robb*

an exciting all-day event to be staged around the town on Sat Mar 13 next year. Presenting a range of stalls, demonstrations, displays and seminars, the **Newham Sustainability Expo** will introduce practical opportunities for saving water, cutting power bills, reducing waste and lots more.

For more info contact Jim Sansom 5427 0408 or email [jwsansom@fastmail.fm](mailto:jwsansom@fastmail.fm)

## **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Newham Mechanics Hall Grand Reopening!**

Friday December 4, 11.30 am  
The official opening of the new hall and it's going to be BIG. All local residents are invited to come along and help celebrate.

Please RSVP by 23rd Nov

5427 0661/5437 0387

### **Fire restrictions to start on Monday 30 November**

CFA is urging residents to be fire ready as the November heatwave serves as an early season reminder of what awaits all Victorians this summer.

The unprecedented November hot spell, along with forecast hot weather, has prompted CFA Outer Metro Norwest Area to advise residents that the Fire Danger Period ('fire restrictions') for Newham will commence at 1am on Monday 30 November 2009 and remain in force until 1 May 2010.

During fire restrictions:

A permit is required to burn

off grass, undergrowth or weeds. This permit is issued by the Municipal Fire Prevention Officer.

BBQs and fires for cooking and warmth do not require a permit, but must be lit in properly constructed fireplaces, within limits of wind speed and clearance perimeter, and are to be supervised at all times.

All burn-offs should be registered with the VicFire Burn-off notification line on 1800 668 511.

Lighting a fire in the open without a permit is an offence and can bring a penalty of up to \$5,500 or 12 months imprisonment.

To view the guidelines, go to [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au). Residents can also call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667 for bushfire planning advice, or attend the Newham brigade's information sessions on 26th November and 15th December at 7.30 pm.

The Newham Arrow is supported by the Macedon Ranges Shire Council.

To contact the Newham Arrow, email [narrow@exemail.com.au](mailto:narrow@exemail.com.au)