



May 2009

IS THIS THE CYCLING MECCA OF THE MACEDON RANGES?



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Everyone will be familiar with the sight of cyclists gathering at the Hall on weekends, but with the recent staging of the Police and Emergency Services Games cycling events in Newham, the town has become established as a highly regarded location for the sport.

Central to three road race 'loops' - around Hanging Rock, Newham-Lancefield, and Newham-Carlsruhe - cycling groups are finding it an important staging point for weekend events in the Macedon Ranges. As one cyclist put it succinctly: 'It's pretty...and not too flat, not too hilly.' Which seems to make us 'just right'.

The P&ES Games featured more than one hundred cyclists, competing in age brackets from 18 to over seventy in two events: an 8km time trial between Newham and Cobaw, and a road race on the 30km Newham-Carlsruhe loop.

The events were supported by the MRSC and the Newham CFA and featured riders from the Victoria Police as well as a diverse range of emergency services, including the Royal Flying Doctors and Australian Customs.

GENERAL STORE LEASED

The Arrow understands that new store lessees, Julia, Michael and family, will be moving to Newham from the city in the next couple of weeks and are planning to be open for business by late June. At this stage, we understand that they plan to open the store three days a week, but we hope to provide further information next issue.

Hall Making Good Progress

As you will have noticed, framing is now up for the new additions to the Hall. The boards in the old 'ladies' room have been sandblasted to be kept for future maintenance.

The old concrete tank has been donated to the CFA to increase their water supply. Moving it to its new location was a sight to behold for anyone who witnessed it being dragged across the road at the end of a chain - with the aid of a vehicle, not by hand fortunately. Proceeds from the sale of the corrugated iron tank were donated back to the Hall by demolisher Karl Haas - a very generous gesture.

The committee is also in the process of making a 'Life Members' Honour Board and various photos etc are being archivally mounted to conserve them.

Please contact the committee if you have any questions. Numbers can be found at newham.vic.au



Out with the old..!



Wesley Park Planting

The enhancement of Wesley Park is an ongoing project supported by community groups, including the Newham Garden Club, Newham & District Landcare Group, and the Primary School (students grew some of the grasses that were planted last year). The result will be a labelled display of native plants indigenous to this area.

The planting under the old gum trees is essentially of indigenous understorey plants & ground-covers. There are several shrubs, but not trees. The majority of plants are wildflowers and native grasses such as Common Tussock Grass (doing extremely well), Kangaroo Grass, Weeping Grass (alternative to lawn grass and survives heat much better), Spiny-headed Mat-rush, and Flax Lilies. Some wildflowers, such as Bulbine and Chocolate Lilies, cope with our hot, dry summers by dying back after flowering.

In future years these will give a wonderful Spring display - along with the Magenta Cranesbill, native violets and



convolvulus, Running Postman (red pea), Grass Trigger-plant and others. There are climbers on the fence line - clematis & hardenbergia - and understorey plants such as Hop Goodenia, Austral Indigo, Kangaroo apple (native tomato) and Banksia Marginata.

Because of the extremely dry year, we have done some supplementary watering. Some of the hardenbergias have died along the Jim Road fenceline - but most of the plants are still alive, a tribute to their hardiness!

The planting will be completed and labels installed (giving botanical and common names) in 2009. Ongoing maintenance and 'finessing' the display will be undertaken as needed by the community groups supporting this project.



Newham & District Landcare is running a very active programme for members in 2009,

including film nights, visits to properties in the Lancefield and Romsey area and our regular autumn planting this month.

Planting of local native plant species is a core activity of Landcare, which is dedicated to rehabilitating denuded landscapes in order to increase biodiversity and

Helping Families

Long time local, Alice Aird, is mounting a campaign to re-instate the 'Strengthening Families Project' whose funding has not been renewed after it ended last month. Project co-ordinators Henni Wade and Julie Cairns provided much-needed assistance for isolated families in our community and the loss of funds means the service has simply come to an abrupt halt.

Alice volunteered as part of the program. 'My experience of it was magic. I know the family I visited for only a couple of hours a week over a few months felt it was invaluable. It worked so

promote responsible land management. Participating in these plantings on members' properties enables the gaining of knowledge of planting methods, methods of ground preparation, use of guard types, and advice of best plants for appropriate locations. Non-members are invited to attend these plantings, as they are a great way to meet like-minded people and consider whether membership is for you. Details are available on our website (Google Newham Landcare).

well because the coordination was so well done. Through Julie and Henni, I connected with the family and children networks in the Macedon Ranges. This in turn helped Alice to establish her own non-profit organisation 'The Empathy Foundation' and host an upcoming parenting workshop with Robin Grille, noted psychologist and author of two groundbreaking books on child-rearing. This was to be run in conjunction with the project.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Empathy Foundation and the campaign to bring back 'Strengthening Families', contact Alice 5427 0156 or airda@bigpond.com



Tidy Time

There's more than a hint of winter in the air but many plants flourish in this weather, and the cool sunny days are perfect for cleaning up and preparing garden beds, cutting back perennials, and protecting some of the more delicate inhabitants. Work done now can save you a lot of effort when spring comes around.

Given time, fallen leaves will rot down into a really good soil conditioner, so heap them up and cover them with chicken wire to stop them blowing about, put them in the compost, or stuff them into a black plastic bag with holes pierced in the sides - but remember they need to be damp to rot down.

Tidying beds by clearing away dead foliage and lightly forking over the ground will transform the appearance of the garden, making it neat for winter. Around this time of year, you see plenty of burning off and a lot of woody material can serve the undeniably pleasurable task of standing around a bonfire. However, hiring or borrowing a shredder for a weekend can supply a lot of recycled material for the garden - either for use as mulch, or to be mixed with other organic matter and composted.

This is a good time to plant new trees, shrubs, vines and, of course, bulbs. Lilies need a rich organic soil, a leafy mulch and shade from the sun. Tulips on the other hand flower better in a sunny position and are best planted not too near the surface. Sow broad beans, broccoli, cabbage, herbs, lettuce, onions, silverbeet, peas, spinach and radishes. It's also your last chance to put in garlic.

If that all sounds like hard work, there are some rewards. While many plants are slowing their growth or becoming dormant, some begin to flower around now and carry their blooms throughout the winter months. *Viburnum x bodnantense* will produce powerfully sweet-scented pink flowers right through the season, and of course camellias offer a range of rich pinks, reds, pastel and white from autumn into spring.

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

Newham is the grateful recipient of a generous donation raised by John and Loraine Luckcock's son, Ben, from his work in UK. Together with a number of business contacts, Ben's company Trafigura Ltd, raised a large sum of money, which has been donated to the brigade and Newham community.



With these funds, the brigade will purchase a Single cab Nissan Patrol Ute and equip it with a slip-on unit, as recommended by the brigade management team. The ute will have to be brought up to CFA specifications but will then be available as a quick response unit and to provide transport for members attending meetings, or training, at more distant locations from time to time. The generous donation will allow the purchase of the vehicle and a lot fitting out. However, if local residents would like to add to funds in order to finish off equipping the unit with extra radios, lights etc, please contact treasurer Barrie Sutton on 5427 0387 or drop in at the fire station any Sunday morning.

Remember, to report a fire, always ring 000.

Brigade Member Profile

2nd Lieut. Gilbert Buchanan

Occupation - Run own cleaning business from home and work part time at the National Gallery of Victoria. Family - Wife Joan, and three young adult children, two living at home, most of the time.

How long have you been a CFA firefighter? 16 years, at Newham.

Why did you become a firefighter? I live near the fire station and I used to hear the siren go off day or night. I decided that as I lived so close by I could help.

Hobbies? I have been a potter for 30 years and have had a number of exhibits. I have an exhibition coming up at the Woodend Winter Arts festival.

Comments - Gilbert is the Brigade Training officer. He is a trained driver and Breathing Apparatus operator. He has attended various training courses over the years and has been away on strike teams helping in other parts of the state.

NCPG will be holding its next meeting on Wednesday 17th June, 7 to 8.30pm at the primary school.

Anyone interested is invited to attend.

PRIORITY UPDATE

1. Install an access path between Newham and Woodend via Hanging Rock.

Bit by bit we are making genuine progress here. We have developed a partnership with Woodend Rotary, who are managing a \$50,000 Trust from the Curry family. They are keen for the path to be extended from where it currently ends at the David Curry Bridge over the creek.

We also have in-principle support for pedestrian access to Hanging Rock via the north gate - with provisos. And we are ticking off a whole load of feasibility issues with the path itself. This is a highly complicated process but we are moving through it. DSE is scheduled to investigate the proposed routes in the next month and we expect to get a final report from the feasibility consultant in July. All this can be frustrating, but with patience and persistence, we're getting somewhere.

2. Redevelop Newham Mechanics Hall. (See front page story)

3. Protect and enhance our local environment. (See story on Wesley Park on p2)

QUIVER QUIZ

1. In what year was Hanging Rock Winery established?
2. Who is Captain of the Newham Fire Brigade??
3. What was the name of Newham's first blacksmith?
4. Newham Post Office opened in what year?

Answers next issue

Answers to last issue's quiz: 1. 1602 - 905 men & 697 women 2. 'Little Highlands' & 'Little Skye' 3. Black Thursday 4. A telephone

4. Develop a partnership between the community and Newham Primary School.

Council Officers have confirmed that \$20000 is available in 2009/10 to go towards a Multi-purpose Court on school grounds for the use of the entire community. We are obtaining preliminary quotes now.

5. Maintain small village environs.

A path from the CFA Shed to the school entry point has been costed and approved. Surface to be compounded granitic sand. There is more money available in the next financial year for further streetscape works. We encourage all Newham residents to offer suggestions for improvements that can be made using these funds.

NCPG welcomes anyone who would like to be involved.

Contact us at:

ncpg@newham.vic.au, or phone Hilary 5427 0795

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Newham Primary School

We would like to hear from any quilters in the local community that would be able to advise and/or assist us in the making of a quilt. We would really love advice on the best materials to use and the most practical method of sewing it together. The children are going to paint individual sections of material which will then be sewn together to make the quilt.

Please contact Marnie on 5427 4668

Newham Phone Tree

It is proposed to initiate additional phone tree groups to ensure that all residents within the Newham CFA area can participate in this emergency communication method. A phone tree is the fastest way to notify our neighbours within our phone tree group of emergency situations that may impact upon them. It is envisaged that small phone tree groups will be set up to cover individual streets or small areas within Newham. These groups will be linked together, through their group leader so that a consistent message can be passed throughout our community quickly.

If you wish to be included in the development of a phone tree group in your area can you please respond by email to **robyncohen@newham.vic.au**.

Would also like to hear from volunteers to be phone tree group leaders.

If you do not have email you can call Robyn on 03 5427 0038 and leave a message supplying your information. Once the expressions of interest have been processed and possible phone tree groups have been identified, we will contact everyone again on the next steps.

Now is the best time to organise this. Don't wait until summer is here.

To contact the Newham Arrow, email **narrow@exemail.com.au**