



July 2009

OPEN FOR BUSINESS



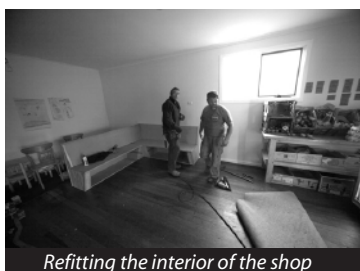
Julia and daughter Maeve outside the newly re-opened general store

After more than a year lying vacant, the general store has re-opened with a brand new look. Lessees Julia and Michael McNamara both grew up in Kilmore and bring a wealth of food and retail experience.

Michael is a partner in the highly regarded Prince Wine Store and Julia is a veteran of the milk bar/grocer/cafe business, having operated with her sister the Cowderoy Dairy in West St Kilda for five years.

In fact, the Newham General Store promises to be something of a family affair also, with sister-in-law Jane already working there weekdays. Children Maeve and Vinnie are keen to help but at 6 months and 3 years may have to wait a while. But food seems to be in the blood, with an organic butcher, a pheasant & partridge farmer, and an ice-cream maker all in the family! (You'll find Jock's Ice Cream in the freezer, a temptation to which the Arrow has already succumbed.)

Local residents have reason to



Refitting the interior of the shop

be excited. Julia and Michael's plans for the store include a wood-fired pizza oven and a market garden. A packaged liquor (bottle shop) licence is currently in application.

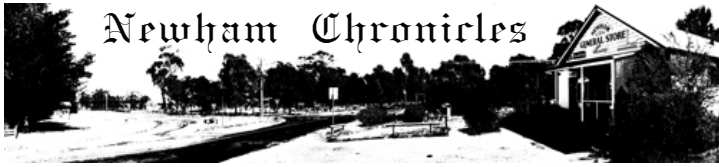
The shop was open in June for three weekends and is presently operating from Thursday through to Sunday, opening at 7.30 am on the weekdays. Julia hopes eventually to be open 7 days but, for the time being, is taking a step by step approach.

If the bustling weekend trade is any indication, locals seem pleased to have the store back on its feet and delighted by the revamped offering. To Julia, Michael, Vinnie and Maeve - welcome.

The Hall Needs You

It is important for the Hall to have a sound community support base, both financially and for occasional practical help. A large percentage of Newham households are members of Landcare. Why not take out a Hall membership too? The committee is working on a business plan to ensure the Hall is viable long into the future. With your support, the newly refurbished building can be a great asset to the community.

Contact Fran Spain 5427 0661



Marimba maestros with local musician Andy Kirby

Education Week

Education Week is a state-wide celebration of state schools. With so much happening, Newham PS celebrated for two weeks with lots of activities, including: painting a mural, an Open Day for prospective families, a Learning Showcase day, Marimba Day, and a photographic exhibition of students photos resulting from some excellent workshops conducted by photographer Marnie Tole with all students over the past two terms.

Musician and instrument maker, Andy Rigby spent a day with at the school workshoping with the children on the marimbas (which he built himself). The children then performed the pieces they learnt for parent and friends in the afternoon and Andy played his beautiful Paraguayan harp. Andy Rigby is from Malmsbury, originally Maldon, and a wonderful musician and instrument maker. Not only does he build marimbas, but a variety of woodwind, drums, other percussion instruments - and Paraguayan harps.

A fantastic Learning Showcase Day on Thursday 28 May saw the students share their

learning with parents, each other and visitors. A concert to showcase the music program included performances on the new marimbas and other instruments, songs from the whole school singing program, and performances by our instrumental tutor groups. The spectacular drummers, under the guidance of energetic drum tutor and parent Sandy Hood, started the show with a bang!

New School Buildings

Nearly finished. We have been told the handover date is June 24 but rain has held us up a few days. It is very exciting nevertheless. When we move in, the covered area will be relocated to connect the outdoor learning area to a new music room. Landscaping (including a new hard court) will also be installed.

The school also received \$75,000 from the National School Pride funding from the Federal govt. as part of the Building Education Revolution for our new soccer field, shade sails and artificial turf under the coverway. We are waiting to hear if we are successful in the third round to procure \$30,000 for our music room.



The new north west corner of the school

Locally Newham Landcare is assisting the primary school with education programmes and carrying out planting and improvements to Wesley Park.

Recently Newham Landcare has assisted with weed removal at 56 Coach Road. We have planted over 300 trees at 130 Dons Road on the creek banks and 600 trees 45 Anderson Road. These projects are activities that new members have access to, together with our educational and social activities. We invite new members to join and remind existing members that membership renewals will be arriving in the mail soon as will advice on the winter dinner and Annual General Meeting.



Exotica

The recent damp, wintry weather was welcome, but it accentuated the bare and bedraggled look of most gardens right now.

At this time of the year, gardeners need to remind ourselves of what is to come. Recently, we were fortunate to visit a number of stunning gardens in Britain and France, as well as London's Chelsea Flower Show. As always, Chelsea was alive with colour and new ways of planting and landscaping. And properties like Monet's garden, just outside Paris, inspire and remind us of what is possible, albeit on a more modest scale.

Of course, when we think of spectacles such as these, we are most often thinking of the quintessential English or cottage gardens. There has been much debate about whether we ought to be thinking of these at all.

There are some who believe that Australian gardens should be the exclusive domain of Australian plants. To some, the thought of exotics in gardens borders on the irresponsible. But surely, the reason gardening is the world's most popular pastime is that it can't be prescriptive. By its very nature, gardening has to be personal.

And anyway, what's wrong with using exotics? For gardeners in Newham, it actually makes sense, given that a lot of plants considered intrinsic to the 'English garden' are at home in our climate, particularly with our cooler winters. The sensible approach is to combine exotic and native plants, rather than getting too wound up in what is supposedly 'right' or 'wrong'.

Seeing Monet's garden in full bloom, one realises why the great painter was so obsessed with colour and light. He understood what beauty was and how profoundly it affects the soul. So why should Australian gardeners rob themselves of such beauty when there is no good reason to do so?

Even though it appears bare and uninteresting in the garden right now, there are still jobs to be done. Winter is the best time to plant all bare-rooted shrubs and trees, including those fruiting varieties. The exception to this is the rose. In our climate it is better to wait until August before planting.

Winter is the time for house fires. Have you cleaned your chimney? Do you keep clothes away from heaters? Do you have a secure fireplace? These are the main causes of fire during winter.



Is your Rural number clearly displayed at your front gate and in a reflective style – as required by the Council's local laws? If you need an emergency vehicle, fire or ambulance and your number can't be seen easily, you may risk the driver not finding you in time.

If you have any questions about making your property accessible to firefighters, feel free to call the Community Safety Officer, Lieutenant Dave Bachelor on 5427 0568 (AH) or the Council Fire Management Officer, Stan Wilson 5422 0333 (W).

Remember, to report a fire, always ring 000.

Brigade Member Profile

3rd Lieutenant Andy Avent

Occupation – Licensed Aircraft Maintenance Engineer.
Family – Wife Susan, and son Lachlan, who can't wait to be old enough to be a firefighter.

How long have you been a CFA firefighter? 7 years, at Newham.

Why did you become a firefighter? To help and serve the community.

Hobbies? Racing Cars

Andy is the Brigade Equipment and Communications Officer, a qualified Crewleader, Air Observer, Driver, and Firefighter Trainer. He is also one of the Brigade Breathing Apparatus operators. He has attended a number of large campaign fires including Anakie, the Victorian High Country fires and the Grampians fires in 2006. Andy has assisted NSW fire brigades at Mudgee and South Australian brigades on Kangaroo Island.

The same goes for pruning. Prune your fruiting trees and bushes now but wait until August to prune roses.

In the flower garden there is very little colour now but you can still take hardwood cuttings, and divide and replant a range of perennials.

Things may appear a little bleak but, within weeks, all will be replaced with masses of colour. The promise of what is to come keeps we gardeners going.



Newham Landcare is the forum for those who have an interest in our environment and who wish

to interact with and enjoy without compromising our indigenous flora and fauna.

We are the conduit for those landowners who wish to access grants to assist in land management improvement. This ranges from pest eradication (rabbits etc) to weed control and land management. Newham Landcare facilitates the propagation of native trees and plants and collects seeds from the local area to use in this propagation.

Newham Community Planning Group

It's your town

meeting on Thursday 13th
August at 7.30 pm.

Organised by the Community Planning Group, the meeting will feature speakers Robert Szymanski and Duane Burt from the MRSC Planning Department.

This is a rare opportunity to get a clear understanding of the current planning controls that apply to you and your property. What processes are there to review controls? How can overlays control types of use? What possibilities for subdivision are there in Newham and the surrounding area?

These questions and more will be answered, and your feedback sought.

The Planning Group will also provide an update on its activities, providing the latest news about Newham's ongoing projects. Members of the group will be inviting questions and opinions to be shared.

Everyone is welcome to stay for tea and coffee and continue the discussions.

Next meeting on Tuesday 14 July

Local residents are invited to a sneak preview of the newly refurbished hall when it plays host to a public

QUIVER QUIZ

1. What Aboriginal tribe was resident in the area prior to white settlement?
2. The Methodist Church built in 1860 is no longer standing. Where was it sited?
3. What day does the Newham Walking Group meet?
4. Sports meetings at Hanging Rock in the 1850's featured which peculiarly Scottish activity?

Answers next issue

*Answers to last issue's quiz: 1. 1982
2. Peter Hobbs 3. John Brydon 4. 1861*

at Newham Primary School at 7.00pm will be attended by our East Ward Councillors to be briefed on progress to date.

All are welcome to attend. Contact Hilary 54279795 or email info@newham.vic.au

Anniversary

The Newham Arrow is one year old this month. Over that time, a number of volunteers have worked hard to provide a regular source of information specific to our local area.

Special thanks to David Bachelor, Frances Spain, Neil McMaster, Nicholas Massie and everyone who has contributed.

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

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Newham Primary School

Last chance to etch your name in the history of Newham. The Primary School is currently holding an urgent fundraiser to sell bricks for the new Music Room. Name bricks are being sold at \$40 each or at \$30 for each additional brick. Leaflets are available from the school. Construction of the music room is commencing NOW.

Please contact Marnie on 5427 4668

Public Meeting

What are the current planning controls that apply to you and your property (zoning etc)? How can we review and control types of use? What possibilities for subdivision are there in Newham and the surrounding area?

All your questions answered!

Get advice from MRSC planning experts. And hear the latest on major projects currently underway in the town and surrounding area.

WHERE Newham Mechanics Institute
WHEN Thursday 13th August
TIME 7.30 pm

Tea and coffee provided

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