



August 2009

Slow, steady progress for Hall



Mechanics Institute Committee member Frances Spain inspects the progress of refurbishments

It's not the first renovation to take a bit longer than originally intended, but the Hall is making good progress. The builder is confident all work will be finished by mid-September, providing plenty of time to prepare for the official opening on December 4. The new space will be very flexible and allow room for all groups, large and small.

The Hall committee has recently purchased a 'whizz-bang' new fridge, kitchen equipment, including plenty of ovens for hot food and a short-cycle commercial dishwasher (is that cheering we hear?).

The Hall is a Heritage building. The original interior is having substantial conservation work carried out as part of the building program. New ceiling roses have been sourced to replace those lost. A Life Members board is being installed (the Hall was run by Trustees for 80-odd years so Life Members are a new thing) and the walls have been repaired with original timbers salvaged from the renovated sections.

The committee has applied for Solar Grants and so far achieved \$6,000 from the

State Govt. The intention is to install 2KW solar panels to pay for winter heating costs and feed the grid. A bioseptic system will replace the old septic.

The committee has raised \$450,000 to do all this work and it will a long time before we see the likes of it again so the Hall needs to kept in good order from the word go. Membership forms will be sent to all households in the near future. The committee urges us all to please consider this membership as part of living in Newham.

The official opening will be a grand affair with Ministers of various government departments attending for speeches and a light lunch. Everyone is invited to come along. There is also planned a community party as well - which promises to be more casual and more fun!

Multipurpose court going for goals

Plans for a high-quality lighted facility available to the entire community have been submitted to Council, seeking support for a grant from Sport & Recreation Victoria. A successful application will ensure the court goes ahead in the near future. The partnership between the school and planning group has received great support from across the community, with \$10,000 worth of 'in kind' commitments made to the project.



Looking from the kitchen through to the meeting room and new foyer beyond.



Council to review planning scheme



Newham residents met with a Shire Planning Dept official at the new school

Macedon Ranges Council has requested ministerial permission to amend the shire's planning scheme, Newham residents learned at a recent meeting with Planning Dept official, Duane Burtt.

Amendments to the scheme will include reference to the 2006 Small Towns Study, which includes provision for small scale residential development in Newham.

Currently, half of Newham village (west of Dons and Rochford Rds) is zoned 'Township' – a common application to very small towns that has the flexibility to allow most activities, including businesses, subject to a planning permit.



N&DLC has special interest groups that concentrate on particular concerns and environmental

improvements. One such group is the Roadside Management Group, or 'weedies'.

This group, in partnership with the Shire, concentrates on the management of our significant roadsides. Roadside vegetation is an important reserve that connects, like a ribbon, areas of biodiversity value within the shire. It promotes the migration of species and is an excellent habitat for ground animals and birds. In spring, all can see the wonderful native wild flowers that appear.

However an enemy of the native fauna and flora is introduced weeds – such as broom, gorse and blackberry. The 'weedies' identify the areas of infestation, using mapping protocols established by the shire and add these to the Council's database. This forms the basis for the Council's weed management program

Greening the school



16/8/9 – Members of the Newham Walking Group assist in planting up an area of the school with plants donated by Bunnings.

East of the intersection (including the school and general store) and much of the land surrounding Newham village is zoned 'Rural Conservation'. This is a much stricter category geared towards environmental protection, with minimum lot sizes of 40 hectares (100 acres). Macedon Ranges has the largest Rural Conservation zone in Victoria.

There are a number of overlays that apply in and around Newham which provide extra protection for wildlife, vegetation, waterways and significant landscapes such as the Jim Jim and Hanging Rock.



The 'Weedies' – In the interest of clearing understory weeds from local roadsides, the Walking Group has joined in association with Newham Landcare, to begin clearing and spraying broom along Jim Road near where it crosses Boundary Rd.

that seeks to treat priority areas.

In addition, the group targets specific areas on its own behalf, with working sessions each year. It recently undertaken a work session in collaboration with the Newham Walking Group to treat Broom in Jim Road.

Long-term residents will have seen the results of the 'weedies' liaison with the Council, who arranged poisoning of large infestations of gorse along Egan's Lane and Jim Road on two occasions. This confirms the positive impact of this important group within Landcare.



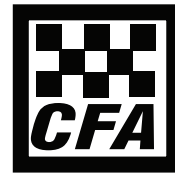
Ready roses

August is rose month. This is the ideal time to plant bare-rooted roses and prune established ones.

Some so-called experts would have us believe that pruning roses is something of an art form. But don't worry about the angle of the cut or what might be the correct amount to cut back. All roses will benefit from pruning, even if it looks like amateur hacking. Roses are hardy and forgiving and pruning now will result in a healthy plant with better blooms later.

Elsewhere in the flower garden, spring bulbs have their heads above the surface and will soon put on a dazzling display. While things remain a little bare, hellebores, which

Are YOU prepared for next summer?



Now is the time to get ready if you wish to prepare your property.

Remember the safest place is a well-prepared home. Even if you plan to leave early you may be caught on the hop and find you don't have time. It is better to be prepared, (whether you plan to stay or not) rather than get caught.

If you are doing any fuel reduction burning at (or near) your property, you must stay with the fire until it is out. Recently we have been called to reported fires only to find that somebody has lit a small pile then gone in and left it unsupervised. Doing this can lead to the embarrassment of fire trucks coming to your property and to a fine of over \$100.

Each truck has at least four members on – plus others who have responded but may not be required – so a false call can take 10 or 12 fire-fighters away from what they were doing to attend, and they usually lose an hour of their time even on a false alarm.

If you have any questions regarding making your property accessible to firefighters, feel free to call the Newham

are at their best right now, bring welcome colour and interest to the garden.

In the veggie plot, leaf crops are still going well with sprouts, cabbage, broccoli and silver beet all still returning good harvests and carrots and parsnip are also doing well.

Later this month the first seed potatoes can go in but once they have started to sprout, the tender growth could need protection from late frosts. Other beds can be prepared for sowing and planting later by adding composts and lime where needed.

Towards the end of the month, the first of the 'new season' seeds can be sown. These include carrot, parsnip, onion, spring onion and beetroot.

If you're considering planting berries, it is still not too late but one shouldn't delay. They need to get well established while still dormant before the first burst of spring growth arrives.

Brigade 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

4th Lieut. Graeme Blaxland (Blacky)

Occupation: Semi-retired farmer & production manager. Family: Wife Robyn and four children, including Adam who is also a Newham firefighter when he is home from the army (two others in Qld), and 3 grandchildren.

How long have you been a CFA firefighter? 29 years, at Newham.

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

Hobbies? Fishing and racing cars.

Graeme is a qualified Crew-leader and Driver. He is also one of the Brigade Breathing Apparatus operators. He has attended a number of large fires, including Ash Wednesday 1983, Anakie, and the Victorian High Country fires 2006.

The planning group is investigating a number of community suggestions that have been submitted for streetscaping projects. It is envisaged that some of these projects will commence (subject to Council approval) before Christmas. All projects must go ahead in the current financial year in order to take advantage of the available funding.

This is a one-off chance to make substantial improvements to the village. It is a financial windfall unlikely to be repeated any time soon. If you have suggestions for something you'd like to see happen in Newham, speak up now. If you wish to express support for any of the ideas currently put forward, or you are opposed to any of these ideas, please contact the planning group.

Streetscape Suggestions

1. Roadside signage (school signs in particular)
2. Landscaping of intersection (including traffic island) with featured stonework
3. Revegetating traffic island
4. Surfacing new path from CFA to School
5. Information/notice board in Wesley Park
6. Barbecue in Wesley Park
7. Street trees in village centre

QUIVER QUIZ

1. Newham's first tennis court was built when?
2. How much money did the Newham community raise for the Hall renovation?
3. Who were the Rechabites?
4. Henry Roberts was a schoolteacher in the 1860s. He was also Newham's first...?

Answers next issue

Answers to last issue's quiz: 1. Woi Wurrung 2. Wesley Park 3. Tuesdays 4. Tossing the caber

9. Revegetating CFA corner
10. Improve/replace Wesley Park fence

Consultant Mandy Nolan has prepared a draft report on the feasibility of a shared path from Woodend to Newham via Hanging Rock. The report contains estimated costs and various requirements for proceeding. It is available to all on request. All feedback must be received by 24/8/9. The final report will be amended according to feedback and presented to Council, who will decide whether to proceed any further.

Contact Hilary 54279795 or email ncpg@newham.vic.au

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

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Newham Primary School

Time is running out to add your name to 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.

The school will again be holding their 3rd annual Art Exhibition & Sale in October and would like to extend an invitation to all interested artists (in any medium) to submit entries. This year's exhibition will feature student's photography and other mixed media. Entry forms are available from the school office

Enquiries to Marnie 5427 4668

newham.vic.au

Newham's community website is looking to expand its resources available to local

residents. So here's two new things we'd like to get started:

Newham Business Directory

If you run a business or offer a service in Newham, why not list it on the website for free? You might find a lot of customers just around the corner. Listings will have room for the business name, a description of services and contact details.

Babysitters List

Looking for casual income somewhere close to home? A listing with your preferred contact method can be the first step in establishing a relationship with a family near you. (For minors, parental approval required.)

Families can also post their own details for babysitters to contact them.

For more information:
info@newham.vic.au or
Stephen 5427 0639