

HAMILTON PARK CO-OP LTD.—AUTUMN 2025

KEEPING YOU UPDATED ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY

www.hamiltonpark.org.au

hpboard@hamiltonpark.org.au

Hamilton Park CO-Operative 26 Kurrajong Lane Glenrowan 3675



MEET THE BOARD:



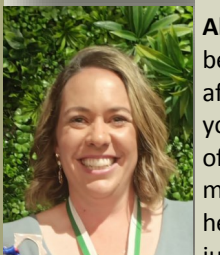
Board Chairperson and Water Storage: Ian O'Brian— We moved from Melbourne to Hamilton Park in 2015. I am an Electronics Engineer and have a wide range of experience from product design , programming of systems and project management.



Derek Pendavingh -Parklands: Ruth and myself moved to Hamilton Park in 2021 to be closer to our son, and daughter-in law and their two small children , who were already living in Hamilton Park. Prior to moving here, we lived in Templestone. I have an engineering background, but have been a guitar maker for many years. I am semi-retired, but have continued my guitar making , working from my workshop at the rear of our house in Mistletoe Lane.



Marion Rak -Bookkeeper: Tony and myself moved to Hamilton Park, after selling our Cherry Farm and Mt Bruno Vineyard in January 2020. I worked for 34 years on the farm as manager and financial advisor. I also worked off the farm as Accountant Bookkeeper and office management contractor, working for the education system as workplace advisor for industry and training their office staff in office and OH&S risk management . I am a Life Member Australian Women in Agriculture and a member of the CFA .



Alyse Hedin: I grew up in Hamilton park with my parents, 3 brothers and nan- lived here for 19 years before moving away to attend university. My family and I moved back to Hamilton park 2 years ago after living in Wangaratta for several years. I absolutely love living here and so does my family. I have 2 young children and I am a teacher at a local school, and play netball on weekends. We now spend a lot of time at the new playground and tennis courts. It's been a fantastic way to meet new families and make new friends. I have decided to join the board because from a young age I would help my nan and her friends maintain the gardens around the park and it made me realise this wonderful place doesn't just exist, people work hard behind the scenes



Els Heijenga—I am originally from the Netherlands, now happily living the North East Victorian dream, with my Aussie husband, two little ones and our fur baby. I have called HP home for the past eight years. With a background in administration, policy and finance . I have worked in local government and currently contribute my skills at Galen College. Life's a busy blend of work, family and community—and I wouldn't have it any other way. I look forward to being a member of the HP board and supporting our community



Dianne Peacock—Newsletter Editor. We relocated from Gippsland to Hamilton Park in 2018. I have extensive experience in retail and hospitality and spent 16 years in my dream job, as a library officer in Gippsland, followed by 12 months as a library officer at Benalla Library. I love being part of this unique community.



Ian Dickson: Jo and myself moved to Hamilton Park in 2020. I have spent most of my life on the NSW Southern Highlands and have a background in accounting and farming, dairying, sheep and beef cattle, and also producing blueberries.



Keith Arnott We moved to Hamilton Park in 2017 . Prior to that we had conducted a retail sports outlet in Mildura for thirty two years. I have a vast knowledge of the business sector, and am presently employed with Ovens Valley Equine, but would like to retire in the near future.



OUR HAMILTON PARK BOARD

Hamilton Park is one of only two communities that are self-managed as a co-operative in Victoria. All residents are shareholders in the co-operative, these shares are transferred when purchasing properties in Hamilton Park. The management of the Park is via a board of directors, "the board" who act to represent all the shareholders, and as such we take care of the parklands and the water supply for the community. We are always seeking input into the management of Hamilton Park and what better way to have an impact on our community than becoming a board member. Our board is organised as the normal Chairperson/Secretary/Treasurer structure like a school or club with other areas organised into portfolios such as water and parklands, we also have members who have no specific responsibilities but contribute to the boards decisions. We meet regularly for around two hours where we take care of the day to day management of Hamilton Park, as well as managing special projects which are currently in progress. We also have a meeting once a year with the RCOW to ensure we are getting the best results for our community from our rates. ***Being a board member is a great way to contribute and it requires no special skills, just a desire to continue making Hamilton Park a great place to live.*** if you are new to the community it's an easy way to meet other residents and contribute your ideas. The residents as shareholders are also entitled to attend board meetings, but notice is required. If you would like to contribute to our community by being a board member, you can join by applying and filling out the form which is on our website. New members are welcome to join at anytime. The Annual General Meeting of the Co-Op is held in October.

By agreements with our Board, the Rural City of Wangaratta (RCOW) collects refuse and contributes to road maintenance. Each lot holder pays rates to RCOW as assessed in Councils valuation of the property. Our Co-Operative owns water pumps, fire fighting equipment, tractors, mowers, and more. All costs associated in running the Estate are managed by the Directors of The Board. General maintenance is organised by the Board and often carried out by "Working Bees" at which residents are encouraged to attend to help out. The Board may ask people with special interests or expertise for help from time to time. This helps foster a feeling of community and results in our running costs being kept to a minimum while there are well maintained facilities for all to enjoy.

PLAYGROUND



Our Playground was officially opened recently by Mayor Irene Grant and Cr. Dave Fuller, who were both pleased to be able to open this exciting new space for our community. The Rural City of Wangaratta had contributed \$5000 to help the community in their fund raising efforts for this great space for our local families. (Pictured community members with Mayor Grant and Cr. Dave Fuller)



HAMILTON PARK WORKING BEE On March 21, a dozen or so stout-hearted, strong-limbed folks turned out with chainsaws, wheelbarrows and barbecue tongs for another Hamilton Park working bee. They cleared fallen trees from paths around the dams, and cut and poisoned many small wattles growing in the top dam wall, and cuttings were piled onto trailers and taken to the pruning pile. The workers finished with sausages and beers (including ginger beers!) A couple of hours of work made a big difference to the amenity of our shared parklands, so thanks to all our great volunteers.

Well done to all involved—once again our great community spirit was demonstrated, as residents worked together to improve our beautiful parklands and facilities.



It is great to see residents and their fur babies walking in our lovely parklands and roads, but we do request that you come prepared to collect your dog's droppings. This ensures that other residents can enjoy a pleasant walk as well.



We extend a very warm welcome to new residents: Alexis and Nicolas, and to Sarah and Graeme. We hope you enjoy life in our beautiful community.

Thanks to all the residents who have used our HP water number to report problems with the water system over the summer period.

HOW DO I REPORT A WATER LEAK OR PROBLEM? The volunteer team that maintain the water system for HP Residents would like everyone to put the HP Water number, **0409 809 341**, into your phones for future use. This number is not always answered but if there is a problem that needs attention leave a message so we can address it quickly, usually within 24 hours. You can also send a text message to this number alerting us to the problem.

The use of Facebook is not a way to report a problem, it is a transient service and other than providing a bit of chat, which our hard working team don't have time for, will never resolve your problem so please **help us to help you** by using the HP Water Number.

Recent summer problems:

Over summer we sometimes have problems with a weed like substance that grows in the water mains, this year was one of those years. We removed and cleaned 17 meters that had become partially or completely blocked, some of them multiple times. We appreciate that this is inconvenient for the resident and not ideal but we deal with these problems as quickly as possible, thanks to our meter man Peter Janas.

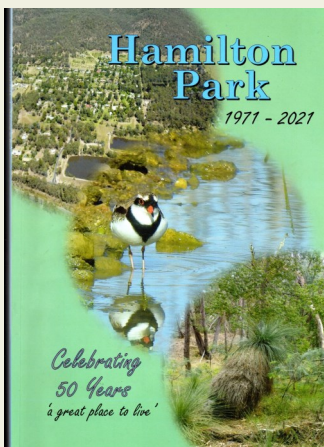
WHO WAS BOB BRACKEN?

There were few residents at HP in the early days when Bob and his wife Louise built their home in Kurrajong Lane. Bob soon became an enthusiastic and tireless worker around HP. Bob had earlier retired as a full time policeman but was still a reserve police member, but he retired this time for good on a Friday at the end of 1993.

Hamilton Park at this time had no shed, but a tractor had been purchased so one was now needed. The Glenrowan Fire station building became available for relocation, so a team of volunteers disassembled it and brought it to HP to become our shed that we know today. On the Saturday following Bob's retirement a working bee was held to re-assemble the shed, Bob was of course part of the team on the day and we had a shed. Tragically on the Sunday following the sheds construction, Bob was mowing his grass and was bitten by a bee, he had an extreme reaction to the bee sting and was rushed to hospital by his wife. Despite the best attempts, Bob died on the way to the hospital.

As a sign of our small community's appreciation for all his work, it was decided to name the shed in Bob's honour, so we now have the Bob Bracken Memorial Shed.

Info supplied by Gordon Slater (Past board member) Colin Atkin and Frank Wellman (Past board member).



HAMILTON PARK CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

Back in early 2022 we celebrated the first 50 years of our community with a get together of residents past and present. To coincide with the celebration, a book was also launched and sold to anyone interested in our history. We used the profit from the book sales to fund the event and also start the playground fund raising effort. It has been a few years now, but we still have a few copies left for purchase at \$34.50. The book itself is 92 pages of colourful history, yes it's in colour, lots of interesting facts about our history, water system, social history, wildlife and parklands. Sales will help us continue to add to our playground fund.

If you are interested email us at hpboard@hamiltonpark.org.au so we can arrange your purchase.



Dear Friends, I hope you enjoy reading our Autumn edition of the newsletter. It is a beautiful time of the year, as we experience the splendour of nature with the glorious autumn colours, in abundance in our bushland and gardens. In this issue we have a special focus on two of our younger generation and if you have a story to share about a young person, it would be great to include it in our winter edition. Dianne -newsletter@hamiltonpark.org.au



Once again we extend our appreciation to the staff at the office of Tim McCurdy MP, for assisting us with the printing of our newsletter.



ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUR YOUNGER SET: DYLAN AND TAYAH DICKSON.

Dylan competed in his first triathlon in Melbourne this year and came 1st in the under 12's , qualifying him for the National Finals in Perth, where he had to compete in the under 14's, as there was no younger section. He was accompanied by supportive parents Andrew and Kylie. After a nervous start, Dylan picked up and came in with the pack. Andrew, without any training, participated in the adult section and finished in the latter part of the pack, feeling very worn out. Dylan beat his Dad's time by more than two and a half minutes, so training is now on.

Tayah has had good results in the quad rowing team for MLC in the last five months, a switch from swimming. Her school results have been excellent as well and she is now off to a camp, where there will be no modern devices—a step back in time for grandmother Jo . (*Well done Dylan and Tayah—we wish you both well in your future endeavours.*)

MONTHLY LUNCHEONS.

Residents continue to enjoy the social interaction at the various selected venues in the area. Our last luncheon was held at the Northern Hotel in Benalla with thirty people attending.



WILDLIFE AND OUR LONG HOT SUMMER:

The long spell of hot dry weather proved stressful for our many resident and visiting birds. A birdbath in our garden has attracted lots of birds trying to cool off or have a drink. Looking out our kitchen window early evening we have seen White-Plumed Honeyeaters (with a Yellow-Tufted Honeyeater in the flock), New Holland Honeyeaters, Blue-Faced Honeyeaters, Yellow Rosellas, Eastern Rosellas, King Parrots, Red Rumped Parrots, Rainbow Lorikeets, Satin Bowerbirds, Willie Wagtails, Superb Blue Wrens, a Grey Shrike-Thrush, Pied Currawongs, Magpies, Little Friarbirds and Red Wattlebirds (both blossom nomads) and Blackbirds. Just some of the many species of birds to be seen in the Hamilton Park Common Land in February. It was a constantly changing parade of hot thirsty birds, with some vigorous confrontations over the limited water supply. (Margaret Butt)



Willie Wagtail not having a great deal of success shooing off Rainbow Lorikeets.



Little Friarbird exiting birdbath like a rocket as a young Satin Bowerbird arrives.

A GREAT READ:

Long before she became the best selling author of the Seven Sisters series, Lucinda Reilly wrote Hidden Beauty as Lucinda Edmonds. Since Lucinda's passing the novel has been reworked and given new life as The Hidden Girl, by Harry Whittaker , Lucinda's son and co-author of Atlas: The Story of Pa Salt.

The main character is Leah, who grows up in a small village in Yorkshire and the story follows her journey, as she becomes a successful model, but her past follows her like a dark shadow, mysteriously intertwined with the tragic tale of two young siblings in Poland. Just as with the Seven Sisters Series, The Hidden Girl touches on themes of family secrets spanning generations and a long forgotten prophecy from the past.

(I have this book in my collection and am happy to lend it)



JO'S FRITTERS:

2-3 cups of left over mashed potato or potato and pumpkin combined, (leave in fridge overnight) , Next day add half of a onion chopped finely and a small amount of herbs cut finely (parsley or basil), 1 small egg, ½ a cup of SR flour (a little more if using GF flour), ½ a teaspoon of mustard and curry powder, ½ a cup of grated mature cheese, a dessertspoon of dried parmesan cheese and salt and pepper to taste. Mix all together. Roll into either dried breadcrumbs or plain flour (dessertspoon size balls), place on a plate in fridge to firm up, until ready to fry. Flatten out and fry in a moderately hot fry pan. Turn when light golden. When cooked serve with your favourite sauce or relish. (You can also add leftover cooked meats to these or tuna or salmon to make a quick meal. The fritters may be eaten hot or cold.

This has been a standard quick fix meal in my family, since I was a little girl, Jo