



Hamilton Park Co-Op Ltd

Keeping You Updated about Your Community

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OUR STREET LIBRARY



Paul and I are very much into sustainability and repurpose and reuse is our motto, so when it was time to replace our dishwasher, we decided to find another use for the old one. I had seen Street Libraries made from old fridges, so we decided to modify the dishwasher into a library by adding pull out shelves and a clear panel in the front door. Once it was ready we concreted it in so that it was very stable and added 'work boots'. I started the collection with a few books from my own bookshelf and it has grown from there. Six years later it has grown so much that a new double glass door fridge has been added and the dishwasher library is now dedicated to children's books. Thank you to all the readers of Hamilton Park for supporting this initiative, It is wonderful to see the community using the libraries which are currently so full you can barely squeeze in new books.

The community extends it's appreciation to Gillian and Paul for this great facility that enhances our community area. A big thank you to Ian Dickson for who obtained the new glass door fridge and to James Thompson who fitted it in.



The original library that now houses the children's collection.



SAVE THE DATE:

Working Bee : SATURDAY JUNE 16TH—8.30AM

Followed by Sausage Sizzle and refreshments .

Your attendance would be appreciated, as we endeavour to maintain our beautiful parkland.

Remember many hands make light work.

Contact Derek Pendavingh 0400 867 087

PLAYGROUND UPDATE: We are actually going really well and the balance is approaching \$24,000. Our community effort (\$4,648.40) has almost matched the budgeted amount (5,000) we were hoping receive! Thanks to everyone who have donated through GoFundMe, Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) and car boot sale. The CDS donations is still coming in strong and we are averaging \$205 per month! We are still awaiting an outcome on the Tiny Town Fund and expect to receive an outcome somewhere in May. We will be applying for the Rural City of Wangaratta Community Grants in May/June depending on the outcome of our application to the Tiny Town Fund. (Els Heijenga)

CARBOOT SALE: This was a a very successful day with \$880 being raised. Thanks is extended to the organisers and to all who participated



A great big thank you to everyone who have been donating their cans and bottles to raise money for the proposed Hamilton Park Playground. A total of over \$1000 has been collected over the last few months. Well done to all involved! Cans and bottles can be dropped off at the HP Community Centre.

Please note, only items that are marked as “10c refund” on the label are accepted at the recycling centre



OUR COMMUNITY – A GREAT PLACE

On Saturday 4th May a small group of hopeful Stall Holders setup their car boot and tables to sell ‘stuff’! What actually eventuated was a rather pleasant morning meeting new, and not so new neighbours and having a good old yarn!! Along with a sausage and onion sizzle and a hot or cold drink. I thought I would list the different social groups we hold in Hamilton Park and hopefully get some new faces involved.

Firstly, there is the **Playground Committee** working hard to get their dream off the ground: Contact: Els Heijenga

Thursday Walking Group: Meet at the corner of Orchard Drive and Henley Rd at 8am and walk to Glenrowan to meet up with the non walkers (they drive) for coffee and then enthusiastically walk back home!

Contact: Dianne Peacock 0421348711

Lunch Group: Dine out on the third Thursday of the Month at a different location in our Region. If you would like your name added to the list please contact: Tina Norton email: caranorton@bigpond.com

Garden Group: Fourth Monday of each Month: We meet at a different home to get ideas on what grows well in our area, swap cuttings, gardening ideas and of course a cuppa and chat: The hosting home is advertised on the HP Facebook each month.

There is also a Street Library (once again created by volunteers) and the Food Swap donated by successful gardeners – my life saver!!

Social Committee: At present there are only four of us active BUT we welcome new comers and new ideas!! Each year we organise the Family Christmas BBQ with our star “Santa” always on hand. We help with the Australia Day Breakfast along with our Resident Quiz Master testing our knowledge of “Australia” a spot of Bush Poetry and a song or two. We have held successful Trivia Nights in the past, Progressive Dinners, a Winery Tour, hiring a bus so we didn’t have to drive!, Melbourne Cup lunches, Grand Final Day BBQ, all we need are IDEAS! For the children in our community, we have successfully held a tennis Competition, the trophy is currently residing in a garage in Avoca Lane waiting to be dusted off! I am sure there are numerous ideas that could be involve Families and even pets!!

Please get involved in our unique Community and keep it alive! Also a special mention to the volunteers required to keep our bush and grass land under control at the Working Bees. Then of course volunteers are required to administer the organisation and payment of our water maintenance, an essential part of life in Hamilton Park.

Tina Norton – a very proud and happy Hamilton Park resident!



Our playground:

A lot of effort has been put into writing grant applications and fund raising, thanks to Els, Julia and the team and now we are close to achieving our goal. We expect to undertake the initial part of this project over the next few months, depending on weather and availability of labour.

As always we will be seeking volunteers to come along and help with building and landscaping the area, we will use Facebook to advertise working bees so stay in touch. It will be a great opportunity for young families to meet and help build our playground for the enjoyment of all in our community.

If you would like to make a donation, as many have, you can make a deposit directly into our account.

BSB 633 000 Account # 191 726 249 mark the payment as "Playground".

Pruning Pile:

The pruning pile has been well used again this year but as always we have a problem with people who are not residents using it. If you see someone who you don't recognise have chat with them, you may meet a resident from our community or you may meet someone from outside our community, if you do respectfully remind them that this is a privately owned estate.



On a disappointing note, we had a fire wood pile that we were keeping with a view to selling or raffling this wood as a fund raiser for the playground. Someone, maybe not from HP thought it was free to take and took it. We don't want to have to put up signs for everything but in this case we did.

Please respect our community property.

Water:

We all know that there has been no rain and lots of residents are still watering. The top dam has been allowed to empty significantly so we could remove the structure that went out into the water at the top dam pump shed. This work has been completed now and we will start refilling this week using off peak electricity so it will only happen 9pm – 9am.

Working Bee:

The next one will be Saturday 16th June, weather depending. But despite everyone thinking some rain would be nice it most likely won't rain. We are hoping to remove all the trees that are growing along our dam banks, clean up around our tanks on the hill and install a bridge over the middle dam overflow. Bring your enthusiasm and suitable tools, including whipper snippers, wheel barrows and a few trailers. We will be providing a BBQ and a drink at the end of the morning's work.



We extend a warm welcome to our new residents Wade and Heath, Holly and their son.
We hope you enjoy life at Hamilton Park.



Hello People, I hope that you have enjoyed reading our Autumn Edition and my thanks to our contributors. We certainly are fortunate to live in such a great community and I fully endorse Tina's love of community. Graeme and myself relocated here from Gippsland nearly six years ago and we feel privileged to be part of this unique community. Dianne



We extend our appreciation to the staff at the office of Tim McCurdy MP, Member for Ovens Valley, who have assisted in the printing of our Autumn 2024 Edition



This Eastern Bearded Dragon visited us last February. We first caught sight of him munching on our cut-leaf daisies and later basking in sunny spots or perched in a tree surveying his domain. Did not seem destined for a long life though. His reaction on several close encounters with a ride-on lawnmower was to freeze on the spot, hoping his camouflage would save him. These dragons are commonly found in wooded areas throughout Eastern Australia. From snout to tail tip (they have very long tails) males can measure up-to 60 cm, females slightly smaller (50 cm). The adults mostly eat plants, the juveniles mainly insects. While usually placid they can make themselves look more ferocious, when threatened, by inflating air sacs in their throat, extending their spiny beards. They semi-hibernate in underground burrows in the colder months, not eating, but occasionally emerging to drink. (Margaret Butt)

Report from Native Vegetation Group (NVG)

Even though it's been dry lately, there is plenty going on with native plants and animals in the Common Land of Hamilton Park.

Front Dam Bank Update: Our aim: To vegetate with small, low growing native species so mowing is not necessary (too difficult and dangerous) and the roots do not threaten the dam bank.

- *The majority native Wallaby Grass (white seed heads visible now) is doing very well. This is essential habitat for the rare Golden Sun Moth (looks like a brown butterfly, hoping to see in November) and other native pollinators.
- *At least 3 other native grasses including Kangaroo Grass are doing well there too.
- *There are 2-3 patches of invasive Slender Pigeon Grass – very difficult threat to control.
- *Native Rock fern, Common Raspwort and Dianella lily are continuing to spread.
- *The spindly Spreading Wattles are growing out of their guards and flowering now.
- *The Warby's grevilleas and several pea species are growing well.



*One self-sown Common Fringe-myrtle is bushy and knee high already but seedlings, transplanted from the fire-truck turn around area (Zone 5), are alive but haven't grown much so far.

Andrew Snowdon from RCOW, Natural Resources Management ran a training session for NVG volunteers to inspect the 6 nest boxes installed last August. Inspection and maintenance will now be done by our group annually. Evidence of leaves inside show **3 are being used by gliders!!** Whether they were the rare Squirrel Gliders or Sugar Gliders could not be established. Camera monitoring would be helpful to determine this.

Squirrel Gliders use multiple nesting sites to avoid owl predation, supplementary nest boxes need to be in woodland areas with tree hollows. They mate July to August; the young remain in the pouch for 70 days emerging in November. They stay as a family group until March. Late summer is the best time for future annual inspections to identify occupants.

New seedlings in Common Land : A great number of these seedlings are garden escapees mainly spread by birds eating the berries or fruits of plants and excreting the undigested seed when they roost in the bushland. Some of the most common are: Broad-Leaf Privet, Garden Asparagus, English Ivy, Fig and Wonga Vine (wind dispersed seed) plus many more. Volunteers pull out literally 100s of these each year. They can overrun our native ecosystem if left unchecked. It is not all bad news as we often get volunteer native seedlings and guard these from threats e.g. rabbits, if necessary. In May last year we found a tiny native Kangaroo Apple. It is now head high and has produced fruit.



Rabbits target the precious understory in our bushland especially the native peas. Any efforts by Hamilton Park residents to reduce rabbit numbers would help greatly to promote a healthy native ecosystem plus productive vegie and flower



CHERRY RIPE MUD CAKE: Ingredients: 250grams unsalted butter, 1 tablespoon instant coffee granules, 400mls coconut milk, 200grams dark eating chocolate chopped coarsely, 110grams self raising flour, 150grams plain flour, ¼ cup cocoa powder, 2 eggs, 3x 85g cherry ripe bars chopped coarsely, 2 cups caster sugar, 1 teaspoon vanilla.

Method: Preheat oven to 150 degrees C/130 C fan forced. Grease and line a 22cm round cake pan. Melt butter in large saucepan, add coffee, coconut milk, chocolate and sugar. Stir over heat until sugar dissolves, cool. Whisk in dry ingredients, then egg and extract, stir in half the cherry ripe. Pour mixture into pan and top with remaining cherry ripe. Bake about 1¾ hours. This is a nice special occasion cake but I add less sugar as the cherry ripe add sweetness.

Icing: 375g dark chocolate, 1 cup of cream, 60g of butter, chopped. Method: Combine all ingredients in heatproof bowl,