



## Hamilton Park Co-Op Ltd

Keeping You Updated about Your Community

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Hamilton Park Co-Operative 26 Kurrajong Lane Glenrowan 3675



### Playground Update:

**Timeline:** The project is on schedule and we are on track for a functioning playground in the near future.

- **Funds Raised:** Over \$27,000 has been raised for the project, with over \$5,000 raised through community donations and the remainder is secured through successful grant applications.

- **Play equipment:** The play equipment has been purchased and is scheduled for delivery this month.

**Community Support:** the community's involvement has been instrumental in reaching our fundraising goal. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed, whether through donations, can collections, car boot sale organisation or volunteering their time. **Special thanks:**

- Julia Michael - our architect for her vision and expertise in designing the playground.
- Simon Wilson - our surveyor for the professional work ensuring that the site is ready for installation.
- Hamilton Park Board
- Working bee team for their dedication and hands-on efforts.

And of course to our grant partners for their financial support, without which this project wouldn't be possible.

### Funds raised in the community:

Gofund Page: \$2,775

Container Deposit Scheme: Close to \$2,000

Car boot Sale: \$844.50

### Grant partners :

Glenrowan Solar Farm:	\$6000
ARTC Inland Rail:	\$3,703
Bendigo Bank:	\$1,200
Rural City of Wangaratta:	\$5,488
Lions Club— Glenrowan Warby Ranges :	\$5,000

**Next step: Playground installation:** with the equipment on schedule for delivery, the next steps will be focused on installation and preparing the site for use.

We are grateful for the ongoing support and involvement from the community, our partners and volunteers. Thanks to everyone's hard work and dedication, we are well on our way to creating a wonderful new playground for the children and families in our area. Continued support is always welcome and if anyone would like to get involved or has any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.



Our team of volunteers are pictured above dismantling the equipment ready for it's new home at Hamilton Park.

**SAVE THE DATE: HAMILTON PARK CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
**SUNDAY 15TH DECEMBER COMMENCING AT 5PM**  
**SANTA ARRIVING AT 6PM.**





# HAMILTON PARK A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE

Our community was a hive of activity recently, when many of our younger generation enjoyed Halloween activities. Well done to all involved and thank you to the organisers and to the residents, who provided treats.



**Melbourne Cup**—the race that stops a nation and our residents enjoyed a fun filled afternoon at the community centre. We welcomed Hayley (Tina's granddaughter ) from the UK who was experiencing her first Melbourne Cup, celebrated in our bush surroundings. Successful sweep winners were: Di Jonkers, Karen Place and Damien Feehan. Gill Althorp and Graeme Peacock won the hat competition and our two young visitors received a prize for attending. A great social event and we extend our appreciation to the Social Club for organising it.



Darcie dressed for the occasion



## The Walking Group.

From little beginnings, our group has become epic, as we embrace physical fitness, while enjoying the company of others. This enthusiastic group meet every Thursday except for the third Thursday of the month. It is a very supportive and friendly group with some people walking part of the way and we have others, who love to just join us for coffee and a chat. All residents are welcome.



**To the lovely people of Hamilton Park:**

*It is timely to thank everyone for the support, care and affection, that you have given me this year. "What a great place to live" Gill Althorp and Opie.*



**VALE :** Julie —Ann Kosch

Our community was saddened to learn of Julie's passing on October 18th 2024, after a lengthy illness. Tony, Julie and their three children settled at Hamilton Park in 1997 and over the years have participated in various groups and activities , providing their home for social functions on many occasions. We will miss seeing Julie's smiling face and extend our deepest sympathy to Tony and family.



**AGM :** It was pleasing to have a large number of residents join us for our AGM and to stay for a cuppa and chat afterwards. We currently have two positions vacant : A secretary (board position) and we are looking for someone with experience to manage the Hamilton Park website (non-board position). Contact person: Ian O' Brien 0417346197

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**Parklands Report:** The role of the Parklands Board representative is to oversee the general maintenance of the 15 Ha Common Land owned by everybody in Hamilton Park. The main way we do this is through a series of working bees carried out during the year. The common land is approximately 50% bushland, and 50% grassland. This land includes important plant species and is also frequently host to rare and endangered bird species such as the Turquoise Parrot, Swift Parrot and the Regent Honeyeater.

As well as that, of course, we all want to enjoy the benefits of having such an attractive natural environment all around us. Over the last year the work undertaken by the working bees have included: Mowing /clearing bushland tracks to keep them open and safe for walkers, mowing around many different open areas, whipper snipping around various areas such as the tennis courts and the dam banks, cutting up and removal of fallen trees after storms – including the massive tree just below the community centre, cutting and poisoning small trees and other regrowth on the dam walls ,removal of invasive wattles and other plants from the drainage channels and replacing the broken bridge at the middle dam with a re-purposed steel bridge . As well as the working bees, other work that has been done by various volunteers include clearing the main drainage channel above the middle dam, mowing large areas of common grassland and recently two successful cool burns of grassland to remove weeds, reduce bushfire risk and encourage native grasses and other local species such as native lilies and orchids.

It is also important to recognise the work of the Native Vegetation Group, who have been working tirelessly and with dedication to support the quality of our bushland areas by weeding out invasive plants and promoting and protecting the growth of important indigenous plants. All the work in the parklands is done by volunteers from our community. I would like to thank all those who have participated in working bees and others who have contributed in various ways to maintaining the Hamilton Park parklands. We are very lucky to live amongst these unique and beautiful surrounds. As well as the natural values of the parklands, these areas support the quality of life in Hamilton Park and also add to the actual value of all the properties in the Estate. **Derek Pendavingh**

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**Water:** As we enter, what will most likely be a dry summer, we ask that everyone take care to minimise water use. It will be disappointing for the gardeners of Hamilton Park to see all their efforts wasted if we run out of water near the end of summer. We currently have water in our storages but as this year quickly becomes next year and without rain these resources will be placed under threat. It has been some years since we have had to think about our water supply because of high rainfall in past years. It is always a bit of a race to the bottom for our storages over the summer period but with careful use we will still have water in our dams when the rains come again.

If we believe that it is necessary to introduce **water restrictions** to maintain water for gardens and fire fighting, **signs** will be placed at the entrance to HP on Henley road corner, at the bus stop on the Wirrinya corner and at Warrawong road corner.

**Vandalism of our facilities:** Over the past month we have seen vandalism in the community area and to our pump shed on the top dam. This resulted in damage to the air vent and chimney at the BBQ shed and loss of water supply when the antenna was broken off the shed roof. In both cases the damage has been minimal, but the inconvenience of having to make unnecessary repairs is not welcome. We suspect that “kids being kids” are the most likely reason for this damage, so if you see any suspicious activity challenge whoever it is on the communities behalf.

**Exciting addition for 2025:** As outlined on the front page, much work has been going on in the background to get a quality playground for our community. It will add to the sports hub, that was built a few years ago and will be a real asset to our community. Our growing number younger members will benefit greatly from this work, its been some years since we retired the climbing tower made of pine posts and old tyres, not to mention the spiders.

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**Australia Day:** Our community will be celebrating this day on **Sunday 26th January 2025** with our breakfast under the gum trees, commencing at 8.30am followed by a quiz, bush poetry and music . This is a great opportunity to get together and meet other residents.  
A day when we can pay respect to the stories, histories and contributions of all Australians.



*Dear Neighbours, I hope you have enjoyed our newsletters during the year and extend my thanks to the residents, who have assisted with contributions. I extend my best wishes to you all for a Christmas full of joy ,and may 2025 be filled with all the blessings of life. **Dianne***

**From the Editor**



Our special thanks to the staff at the office of Tim McCurdy, who have assisted with the printing of our newsletters during the year.

### **Native Vegetation Group: *Is our bushland's biodiversity changing for better or worse? How can we know?***

It is gradually getting better. The tree thinning carried out by the Landcare Group 'Bush for Birds' several years ago (to allow existing trees to grow larger and enhance bird habitat) gave space and light for understorey plants to regenerate. Protection of understorey plants and regeneration plantings have to date been quite successful. The spread of indigenous species gives less opportunity for weeds to establish and provides habitat for invertebrates, birds, reptiles and small mammal species such as possums, bats, gliders, antechinus.

Now, courtesy of an ex-resident, Ian Davidson, we have a tool to make a more accurate assessment of biodiversity changes.

Ian Davidson (Regeneration Solutions) provides advice on a range of wildlife, conservation and rehabilitation projects throughout the NE and Riverina regions. He was a temporary resident of Hamilton Park over a decade ago and has helped us understand what an outstanding asset our Common Land is (both bushlands & grasslands).

Over the years he has provided free, professional advice to the Parklands and Native Vegetation Group, a great support to our community. With photographer Chris Tzaros (Bush, Birds & Beyond) he produces the 'North East Naturally' feature in the Chronicle, highlighting a different local bird, animal or reptile each week.



Ian has now developed a mobile phone App called **COVRAM** for assessing an area's ecological and biodiversity status. Its appeal is that it is quick & simple –you don't have to be an ecologist to use it. "Don't overthink it", he stressed during a recent training session with the Native Vegetation Group.

The App creates a check list of relevant criteria for an area. A numerical rating for each characteristic is entered giving an overall score. A photo is also taken. A later re-assessment using the same criteria will give an objective measure of change over time.

This will be a valuable tool for us non experts to assess and monitor the health of the bushland. The information can be very useful for grant applications too.



### **HISTORY - OUR ARBORETUM**

The Hamilton Park Arboretum is part of the bushland area, stretching from the entrance garden (adjacent to the Community Hub) to Wirrinya Avenue in the north, Mistletoe Lane to the east and the Dick Hamilton Dam on the western boundary. The idea for an arboretum was initiated by Ron Taylor in 2008. Ron was a Hamilton Park Board member responsible for Parklands from 2005 until 2010. Ron had been a professional gardener and had a great interest in native plants and worked tirelessly to keep the parklands in immaculate condition. Other residents with an interest in preserving the natural environment came on board with the idea, and a subcommittee was formed to advance the project. (**Hamilton Park 50th Anniversary Book**)



**WISE WORDS:** *"My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others. Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for Christmas to do that?"*— Bob Hope

*"Christmas will always be as long as we stand heart to heart and hand in hand."* — Dr. Seuss

*What is Christmas? It is the tenderness of the past, courage for the present, and hope for the future* - Agnes M. Pharo



### **JO's ALMOND ORANGE DRIZZEL CAKE** **(GF, LF & V SUITABLE FOR ALL)**

**Ingredients:** 2 unwaxed oranges, 4 large eggs, separated, 150 g ground almonds  
1 tsp baking powder, 1 small cinnamon stick  
(fresh mint leaves, sliced arrange and toasted almonds for decoration before serving if desired)

- 1 Preheat oven to 180 C (fan oven 160 c) Gas 4.
- 2 Grease and line a 20 cm spring clip cake tin.
- 3 Grate the rind from 1 orange.
- 4 In a large bowl whisk the egg whites until stiff.
- 5 In a second large bowl whisk the egg yolks and 125 g of the sugar until creamy and thick.
- 6 Add ground almonds, baking powder and grated orange rind to egg yolk mixture, gently, with one third of the egg whites.
- 7 Gently fold in the remaining stiff egg white mixture until well combined.
- 8 Pour mixture into the greased tin and bake for 45 mins. Until risen and firm and golden
- 9 Whilst the cake is cooking use a vegetable peeler to thinly take off the peel of the remaining orange, and cut into very thin strips.
- 10 Place in a small saucepan of water and bring to the boil, cook 5 mins. Or until soft.
- 11 Drain and cool.
- 12 Extract the juice from the oranges and bring up to 200mls with water.
- 13 Pour into a saucepan add the remaining sugar and the cinnamon stick, heat gently until the sugar has dissolved, slowly bring to the boil and boil 10 mins until reduced by at least half.
- 14 Leave to one side to cool.
- 15 Leave the cake in the tin when cooked and skewer the entire top.
- 16 Discard the cinnamon stick from the syrup and once both have cooled slightly pour gently over the cake. This cake will sink slightly. Leave to cool completely before removing from tin and decorating. Lemons can also be used instead of oranges.