



***Hamilton Park Co-Op Ltd
Keeping You Updated about Your
Community***

www.hamiltonpark.org.au

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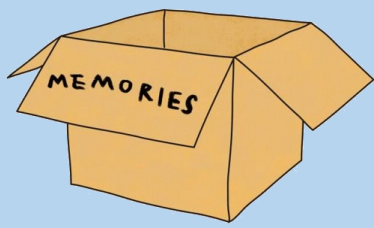
Hamilton Park Co-Operative

26 Kurrajong Lane

Glenrowan 3675.



Creating a sense of community: Pictured above some of our younger mothers, who were part of a group enjoying lunch at Bailey's winery recently. A great initiative, encouraging the group to build stronger connections, while getting together, sharing life skills and being part of our unique community.



Over the next two editions, I thought it appropriate to share some of the stories that have been featured in our community newsletter over the past 6 years.

Community Connection-

Covid: Our community displayed remarkable resilience, as we coped with the pandemic in various ways. Who could forget the haunting sound of the Last Post, as we all commemorated Anzac Day with lanterns and candles, whilst standing in our driveways. The McKenzie family also

paid tribute to our servicemen with a service at the top dam on this important day.

In true Australian spirit, residents came together to support each other in numerous ways. Getting groceries ,little extras being placed in mailboxes and generally caring for one another, were all part of community life during this time.

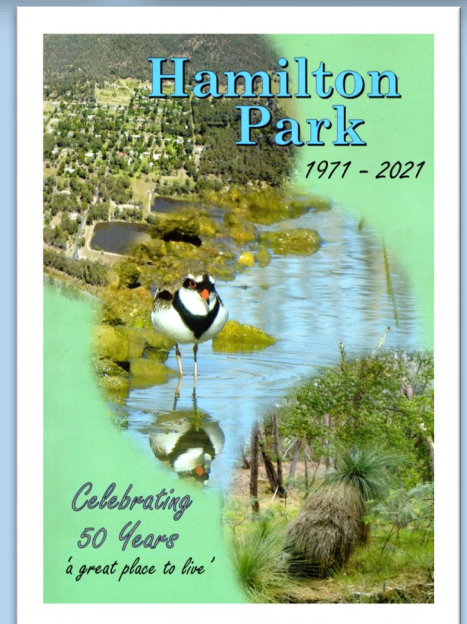
A Bear Hunt was initiated , which proved to be a playful mission occupying our young generation and adults as well.



Our celebration of 50 years 1971-2021

A large crowd of past and present residents attended this special event, enjoying reminiscing and renewing old friendships. Our History book compiled by Doreen Wheeler, Margaret Butt and Ros Janas was launched and we welcomed members of the Hamilton Family. The day was a wonderful acknowledgment to Barbara and Doug Hamilton, whose vision, left us a great legacy of this unique community

Those that drink the water from the well, recognise those that dug the well". (a Bob Shaw quote)





The strength of our unique community lies not in its balance sheet, its buildings, or its rules, but in the people who choose to guide it. This year Ian O' Brien, our Board Chair person is resigning. Ian's steady guidance, strategic insight and commitment to the Board and our community has positioned us for continued growth.

I have also made the decision to resign as Newsletter Editor and my last edition will be our Spring one. I have enjoyed producing the newsletter over the past six years and have learnt so much about our community and the important function of the Board, however I

think it is time for new ideas. As these two positions become vacant, we encourage volunteers to join the Board.

Serving on the board isn't about prestige. It's about asking good questions, listening deeply, and making decisions that benefit the community. And yes, it's about rolling up your sleeves, when the moment calls for it. Many people underestimate what they can contribute, and assume the board roles are reserved for experts, but the board is built on participation. What matters most is a willingness to learn and a commitment to the community.

If you've ever wondered how decisions are made, how priorities are set, or how the community can evolve, this is your moment.

Your perspective matters. Your experience matters. Your voice matters.

The future of Hamilton Park will be shaped by those who choose to take a seat at the table. We hope you'll be one of them .

Water Storages:

The availability of a reticulated water system and our dams make HP a great place to live not only for the residents but for the 20% of Australia's birds that live or visit us over the year.

With the prospect of another dry year, we started to pump from 15 Mile creek in late June and as we don't expect that we will be having a wet winter this year we will continue to do this for as long as possible. We are currently able to buy diesel at a good price so we will hope that this continues long enough to fill our storages.

On a personal note, I will be leaving this position at the end of this summer and we are seeking an enthusiastic person to take over this role, if you are able to assist contact a board member to find out how to become involved.

HP Board:

As our community requires a board to handle the day to day running of our co-operative we are always seeking new members. At present we have eight members but this will soon drop to only six as I and Dianne Peacock are standing down after many years of service. This will leave the roles of newsletter and chair vacant and at the end of summer period, the water portfolio will also become vacant.

If you would like to join this team of community minded members talk to one of the board members about joining and helping keep Hamilton Park a great place to live into the future.

Reflecting back over the last ten years we have been able to deliver some significant benefits to HP.

- *Building the sports hub transformed a single tennis court into a busy, all weather sports complex
- *Improvements at the 15 Mile creek pump site reduced the need to visit from once per day to once every 10 days while pumping is taking place
- *A project to thin our bushland to increase habitat for birds such as the regent honeyeater and the turquoise/swift parrots has seen an increase in many more sightings
- *A 50th Anniversary celebration for 130 past and present residents and commemorative book highlighting the history of how we started and celebrating the volunteers and the environment which make HP
- *The development of our playground for our growing number of young families and the great turnout from community when we needed help to complete it on time
- *Continued operation of the pruning pile thanks to our dedicated volunteer(s)
- *A revitalised newsletter has been an invaluable contribution to our community by enabling residents to be aware of all that makes HP. It celebrates our volunteers and all their achievements as well forming a social connection to the community's social events and activities. We thank you, Dianne for all the time and thought you put into the newsletter.

All this is rewarding, working in a team of likeminded people to achieve a lasting benefit for the HP community, it has been an honour to have been part of this with everyone.



OUR WORKING BEES :Due to the inclement weather the planned tasks were not able to be undertaken, except for the burning of the huge wood pile. We thank those people who attended on such a dismal day. Future planned working bees are :

Friday 16th October and Friday 27th of November. However there may be another one before October to complete the tasks that were set down for June. This will be advertised on our Facebook page.



Hamilton Park is a great place to live, and as we wander around the parkland we experience the many wonders of nature. This stunning Fungi captured by Heather Betts recently, is one example. We thank Peter Ockenden for the great photo of the Black-fronted Dotterel at the bottom dam. These birds like shallow bare freshwater wetlands, dams edges etc and Peter has seen them here a number of times.

The Winter Reflection on our front page is a beautiful photo looking towards the Warbys and was captured by Gill Althrop.



Winter gardening

Pruning is a great way to not only tidy up the garden but also stimulate growth, and winter is the ideal time to do it. So, get out your secateurs, snips, loppers and saw and get cutting, especially if you are growing fruit/ornamental deciduous trees, roses, hydrangeas, fuchsias and hibiscus. The sun may not be out but there are some plants that benefit from being planted at this time of the year including winter vegetables and colour such as primulas, calendulas, pansies and violas.



From the Editor

A Reflection: Winter is a season that asks you to slow down. At its core, it's a reminder that the world doesn't always move at full speed — and neither should you. The cold sharpens the senses, the quiet deepens your thoughts, and the early darkness nudges you inward, toward reflection, memory, and imagination.

I hope you have enjoyed our Winter Edition with the inclusion of a quiz to help you sharpen your senses and test your knowledge on these wintry days. Many thanks to Professor Ian Dickson for compiling the quiz and answers will be published on Facebook. I also extend my appreciation to staff at the office of Tim McCurdy for printing our newsletter. Dianne

POETRY CORNER



Dorothy McKellar
by Graeme Peacock



Dorothy McKellar was a great story teller
She appealed to the girls and the aussie fellas
She told of droughts and flooding rains
Knowing that in time these thing will come again
She wrote of towering mountains
And the blue seas
The beauty of Australia all for you and me
The wide brown lands and plains
Where we set our hearts to reign
On this dusty brown land, which we call our own domain
Dorothy described Australia better than I ever could
A place for happiness, gratefulness and good
So let us live in our peaceful land
As we all call this home - just grand.



Pea and Ham Soup: Serves 8

Ingredients: 1 large pork hock, 2½ cups of split green peas, 100ml olive oil, 3 large onions chopped, 4 carrots chopped, ½ bunch of celery sliced, sea salt and black pepper, 150g pearl barley, 2 large ripe tomatoes chopped, 3 bay leaves, 4 thyme sprigs, 6 cloves of garlic chopped, 2½ - 3 litres of water. **Note:** I use stock and delete the salt and pepper

Method: Put pork hock in large pot cover with water and bring to the boil to just blanch the meat. Drain and set aside, Put peas in sieve and wash thoroughly. Heat oil in pot and add onion, garlic, carrot and celery, cook until just tender. Season with salt and pepper. Add pork, split peas, barley, tomatoes and peas to the pot. Cover with water or stock, bring to boil, simmer for 2-2½ hours, stirring occasionally until the soup has thickened. Remove pork from the soup and shred the meat from the bone. Return the shredded meat to the soup, heat and serve with fresh crusty bread if desired.