



What: MEETING WITH NEW WARD COUNCILLORS & COMMUNITY PICNIC

When: 12.45pm, Sunday January 24th, 2021

Where: Clydesdale Hall, Locarno Rd

MEETING WITH NEW COUNCILLORS & COMMUNITY PICNIC

At the local government elections in October 2020, four new councillors were elected to the three wards representing Yandoit, Franklinford, Clydesdale and Yandoit Hills.

Our new councilors are: Jen Bray and Lesley Hewitt for Hepburn's Birch ward- Lesley is also Hepburn shire mayor; Juliet Simpson for Holcolme ward; and Matthew Driscoll for Loddon River ward, Mt Alexander shire.

Come and meet your new councillors on Sunday January 24th, 12.45pm, at Clydesdale Hall. Let them know what's important for us and what we value about the places we live in. Come, also, and share a picnic lunch with neighbours, a chance to reconnect after almost a year of covid lockdown.

We plan to gather outside to ensure, as much as possible, a covid-safe environment.

There will be a chance to talk informally over picnic lunch with councilors followed by a meeting.

ARTISAN AGRICULTURE SURVEY

Hepburn Shire Council is inviting artisan agriculture producers and growers from the Hepburn Shire, and broader region, to complete the annual Artisan Agriculture Survey. The survey aims to help Council's Artisan Agriculture Project Advisory Group better understand the needs of artisan agriculture businesses and how the project can help support the sector.

The Artisan Agriculture Survey is particularly relevant to **small scale regenerative farming enterprises**, and hopes to capture what is currently happening, what farmers need money spent on, and ways food can become accessible for



more people.

The **closing deadline for surveys** is advertised as January 15th but we have requested an additional week's extension. Below is a link to the survey on the shire's website.

<https://www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/artisan-agriculture-survey/>

FIRE SEASON AND LONG GRASS

Local fire chief, Noel Richards, advises that the biggest risk for fire at this time of the year is people cutting long grass when it's hot. The best time for cutting grass is early morning, when the sun is not up, or later in the evening. Make sure there is no wind about. Ensure you have reviewed and updated your fire emergency plan and download the Vic Emergency App. onto your mobile phone.

A special thanks to all those who have slashed road side grass including Eric, Jeanette, JJ and Ross.

RISE AND SHINE NATURE WALK

The brown sign on the corner of Ramsay's Road in Clydesdale points to a pleasant nature walk in a section of



the Rise and Shine Bushland Reserve. The walk was laid out by the Newstead Landcare Group some years ago, who also built a weather shelter at the start of the walk. Follow any of the tracks

between Ramsay's Road and Zumpe's Road for more walks. Maybe next Clean Up Australia day we should collect the household rubbish that occasionally gets shamefully dumped there. Phone Grant MacDonald (Newstead Police) if you notice anyone illegally cutting firewood there.

(Photo- Sacred Kingfisher at Rise and Shine, courtesy Geoff Park)

REPAIRS TO OUR COMMUNITY HALLS

Repairs are underway to Yandoit hall, with thanks to Hepburn Shire for their support. The front steps and rail have been repaired and, on the inside, plastering has been completed and the walls are being freshened up with paint this week. Franklinford Hall is awaiting DELWP to manage the trees.

LANDCARE

For Shepherds Flat Landcare Group, 2020 activities were hamstrung by Covid. However the group managed to complete several working bees, highlighted by the two community planting days. We had the invaluable help of volunteers and 6 new members. Together we planted a mix



of ~180 grasses and trees. The weather over the year has given the plants a strong start. Ongoing weed management is

challenging.

Next edition of the Chronicle will include an article on the newly formed Yandoit Creek Landcare group.

A LOCAL STRATEGY FOR SHARING & REPAIRING TOOLS & REDUCING WASTE

The idea for a local community tool library has been suggested and this will be further discussed at our meeting with the councillors. Like most older people in the world, Bill has all this useful stuff that he doesn't want to throw out and wants to share with other people who will use the equipment. Things like boxes of screws and nails and bolts and washers, ropes and plumbing bits. Even timber and galvanized tin. This is not a new idea. There have been other places where a shed has been used to leave and collect lendable stuff.

Both Daylesford and Castlemaine operate monthly **Repair Café's** which are recommencing in February. Volunteer fixers have a range of skills including: repairing kitchen, household and garden appliances; sharpening knives and tools; testing electrical equipment; mending clothes; as well as bicycle repair & maintenance.

Daylesford Repair Cafe: Sunday February 21st, 1-4pm at Victoria Park Pavillion.

Castlemaine Repair Cafe: Sunday February 28th. For more info call Chris Hooper on Ph 5470 5508

CLYDESDALE & YANDOIT FEATURE AT NEWSTEAD ARTS HUB

In December, some locals enjoyed seeing John Stewart Turner's paintings and prints which included stone houses of Yandoit.



This month, Clydesdale artist Lee Shelden, along with Sally Roadknight, offer us the beauty in everyday objects and the inspiration of place through their drawings and baskets. *Quiet Spaces: A Retrospective* reveals Lee Shelden's desire for quiet, solitary spaces in a world

where we are bombarded by noise and busyness. Her work focuses on small, simple, everyday things, presented through finely detailed pencil drawings. **Sat 9 Jan to Sun 31 Jan 2021, Weekends 10am-4pm at 8a Tivey St, Newstead.**

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR SHIRES

The Local Government Act 2020 requires all shires throughout the state to develop community engagement policies and strategies by March 2021. Councils are inviting our feedback. What are the best ways for us to contribute to council decisions and policies that affect our communities as well as the wider shire? How can we ensure that our views, concerns and priorities are listened to? What are effective ways for a two-way exchange of information between Council and ourselves? These questions and more will be discussed when we meet with our councillors on January 24th.

NEXT EDITION OF THE CHRONICLE

Our next edition is scheduled for March/April 2021. Let us know what's going on so we can include it in *the Chronicle*. We welcome local stories and your ideas.

NON SERIOUS SECTION

As usual since 1986, Father Christmas arrived at the school concert on the firetruck, two weeks before Christmas, thanks to the CFA Captain Noel. Sack was full of presents with one each for all the kids. Father Christmas was his own usual jolly self and Ho-ho-Ho-ed off the fire truck to a table in the playground, all outside because of the virus. Father Christmas told me (I'm his Yandoit contact) that he felt a bit like Trump: telling everybody it was all fine and that there were no worries in the world while ho-ho-ing all the time. Body shape was similar to the ex-president. There were no carols at the Uniting Church this year because of covid. .

DO YOU HAVE ANY STORIES OR INFORMATION?

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