



WINTER 2023

Hamilton Park Co-Op Ltd



Keeping You Updated about Your Community

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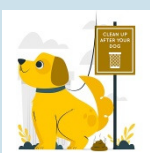
26 Kurrajong Lane Glenrowan 3675.

## WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT HAMILTON PARK?

Situated at the foot of the Warby Ranges, the Hamilton Park Common Land (bushlands and native grasslands) provides a valuable extension of the nearby National Park for birds and small native animals. In addition, 3 permanent fresh-water dams and over 100 residents' gardens provide extra feeding opportunities, especially for nectar feeding birds. It is also an ideal stop-over for migrating birds. Recently 30 residents attended a Walk & Talk in the bushland area near the Community Hub, led by Glen Johnson a renowned Biodiversity and Threatened Species Recovery Officer for North East Victoria.

The first plant Glen pointed out was a Late-flower Flax-lily. This is one of 4 listed Rare or Threatened Species (ROTS) occurring (but not uncommon) in Hamilton Park. Glen was also impressed by the diversity of native grasses, the orchid patch, the naturally occurring Sticky Everlastings, the Grey Guinea-flower patch, many Grey Grass-trees (and new generations) and the rare Spiny Bitter-Pea which has happily established itself and is spreading – right near the tennis courts. Glen commented favourably on the diversity of small native shrubs and ground covers, which are increasing since the recent eco-thinning project (and helped by 2 wet years). He endorsed the revised Common Land Management Plan (2020) and suggested mowing or burning native grasslands once a year was a good basic rule for maintenance as too much mowing in native grasslands weakens them and encourages weeds. We learnt that the biggest threat to the bushland is garden escapees e.g., Privets. Weedy grasses such as Paspalum, Phalaris and Kikuyu are the main threats to the native grasslands and Chocolate Lily meadows. They are a real fire hazard if they invade the bushland especially compared to summer growing native grasses such as Kangaroo Grass and Weeping Grass which only need a bit of water over summer to remain green and thus fire retardant. If not mowed Weeping Grass can form a useful mulch carpet as an alternative to bark chips, particularly in more shady locations.

And the final tip? If we want more visits from the critically endangered Regent Honeyeater (two visits last year) residents can plant more **winter flowering** trees (e.g., Mugga/Red Iron bark, Spotted gum, Silver Princess) and shrubs - several types of Grevillea and Banksia.

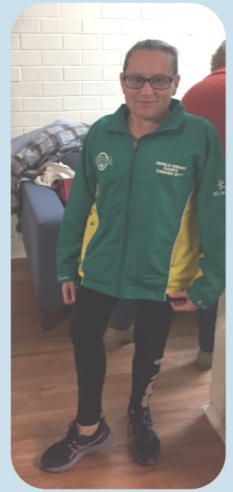


*Please Keep our tracks and roads free of doggy poop.*





We are all proud of our own Renee Kosch, who will be representing Australia in The World Dwarf Games in July in Germany. Renee will be competing in Badminton and Bocce, singles and doubles in both events. Our congratulations are extended to Renee on her achievements and the best wishes of the community go with her.



**TRIVIA NIGHT** The evening organised by the Hamilton Park Social Committee as a fund raiser for Renee raised over \$900 . Tony and Julie provided a lovely venue and the atmosphere was one of fun and enjoyment, as guests attempted to answer the questions provided by the dynamic compere Damien Feehan. Our knowledge of music was certainly tested, and Doug McKimmie’s questionnaire added to the evening’s entertainment. Congratulations to the winning team—The Underdogs who certainly proved that they were Top Dogs, in the world of knowledge, particularly music with the younger generation on their team.



**MONTHLY LUNCHEONS:** Our luncheons continue to be popular with some great venues being selected over the last few months Gracebrook, Mokoan Hub and the Vine Hotel have provided different and enjoyable atmospheres.



**COMMUNITY SPIRIT:** Our community spirit was very evident recently, when a large number of residents gathered to assist long time residents Joan and Geoff. Trimming, pruning, loading and unloading produced a garden transformation. Well done to all involved. **Hamilton Park is certainly a great place to live.**



**Vale Our Joan** The community has been saddened with the recent passing of long time resident Joan Rolands. Joan passed away on the 31st of May at the age of 98.

Joan and her husband Geoff, have been active members of the community since retiring here in 1991.

Joan was a passionate gardener, and has been an enthusiastic member of the Garden Club since it’s inception. Joan and Geoff enjoyed the Monthly Luncheons over many years, and were among the first residents to participate in this social gathering. Up until last year Joan, would happily volunteer to organise a venue. We will miss her smiling face at community functions and our love and sympathy go to Geoff and family at this sad time.





**WORKING BEES:** These continue to be important for maintaining our common areas and a number of enthusiastic community members have contributed their time to assist.

Mowing, removal of fallen trees, clearing drains and re-gravelling of paths have been some of the jobs completed. Well done and thank you to all involved.

One of the many tasks the board carries out is negotiating with the Rural City of Wangaratta on maintenance to roads in the Park. Following last years rains in October we were faced with the task of reducing the water level in the bottom dam to prevent it from breaching the bank and possibly failing completely. We were a bit trapped however as the drain along Warby Range Road was unable to carry the water away. After discussions with DELWP it was agreed that we would dump as much water as we could into the drain and hope that it would disappear. We have been asking for this to be addressed for many years but now the problem has been solved and we have a new drain along the road, under the road and across the land toward the railway line. We will need to ensure that we have some free space for extra water if we get another rain event, but as in 50 years this has only happened once, we should feel a bit safer.



Part of this work involved repairing the work that we had done a few years ago along Henley road, the photo shows how the drain had deteriorated with vehicles driving over it.

To get more life out of this work can we ask that you don't drive over it or park on it when picking up/ dropping off the kids at the bus stop. Maybe consider parking across the road while waiting.

We expect that the road shoulders along Warby Range Road will be graded in the coming months and that next year we may see the drains cleaned out some more, particularly between Henley Road and Wirrinya Ave.



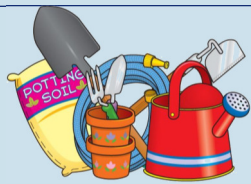
*I hope you have enjoyed reading our Winter 2023 Edition and I extend my appreciation to the people who have supplied items, photos etc. All contributions enhance our newsletter and provide interesting reading. We would particularly like to invite our younger members to send in drawings, photos, stories and poems. Dianne. Email : newsletter@hamiltonpark.org.au A special thank you to Tim McCurdy MP office for assisting us with printing this publication.*

**From the Editor**



## WARBY RANGE ROAD DAM BANK—UPDATE (Native Vegetation Group)

Opportunistic establishment of shrubs is proceeding well. The Native Vegetation Group is making the most of the recent wetter seasons to plant on a difficult site (no shade, poor soils). Trees may damage the dam-bank. Grasses are hazardous to mow on the steep slopes. Several native ground layer plants e.g., lilies, raspworts, peas have already established themselves. To add to this, some small hardy shrubs (grevillea, peas, wattle) have now been planted to favour nectar feeding birds and have a colourful visual appeal near the entrance to HP. It was part of Doug Hamilton's original vision that the bottom dam bank along Warby Range would have shrub plantings to enhance its appearance.



### GARDEN CORNER

### Winter time in your garden ( Wise words from Jo)

My rule of thumb is to keep moving so gardening is a great way to keep your blood circulating and to keep warm. There are lots to do during the winter months.

**ROSES:** I am told that the long weekend in June, or when there are no more buds forming, is time to prune your roses. Clean out the center of your bushes and prune back to an outward up pointing shoot, cut at an angle just above the shoot with the upward angle towards the bud. Don't forget a spray and fertilize after for a great Spring show.

**TREES:** Ornamental – remove damaged branches and cut to desired shape. Fruit – Remove weak and damaged wood and thin out the centre by cutting back. Also cut the softer shoots to a fruiting node. Don't forget to spray and fertilize to assist a bumper crop next season.

It is also time to trim back your strawberries and Heritage raspberries and give a good fertilize.

Also plant out those deciduous bare rooted trees and roses. Note you can plant trees in large pots to keep them smaller and give you smaller and a larger range of trees to enjoy. There is always something to do in the garden, and don't forget the Garden Club which meets the 4TH Monday of each month—a great way to pick the brains of other gardeners and view one another's gardens for ideas, as well as enjoy a "cuppa" with friends. For all the details watch the Hamilton Park Facebook page.

**GARDEN CLUB** We have had a busy year with two working bees at the arboretum to tidy up and then to plant some donated native plants.

Marian and Tony Rak showed us around their beautiful garden in March and we enjoyed a lovely morning at Tina Norton's in May. The group is pictured in front of Tina's garden art and two members are pictured planting at the arboretum in April.

The group enjoy sharing ideas over a cuppa and new members are very welcome. Contact person: Tina Norton 0419880761



**OUR COMMUNITY LIBRARY** Winter provides us with a great atmosphere for reading and our Community Library has a wide selection to read from. The library, an initiative of Jillian and Paul is appreciated and enjoyed by many.

**Some recommended fiction writers to enjoy over the winter months:** Karen Rose, Joy Dettman, Lucinda Riley, Natasha Lester, James Lee Burke, David Baldacci, Robert Harris and Harlan Coben.

**For Our Younger Readers** Alison Lester, Mem Fox, Lynley Dodd, Eric Carle, Terry Denton, Andy Griffiths, Sally Rippon and Jeff Kinney. **We would love some suggestions for books from our young people—or an illustration of your favourite book for the next newsletter.**

**A favourite reading quote:**

***So please, oh please, we beg, we pray, go throw your TV set away, and in its place you can install a lovely bookshelf on the wall.*** (Roald Dahl)



### LET'S GET COOKING



**Chocolate Ripple Tarts** - a super-simple party dessert (contributed by Ruth)

**Ingredients:** Chocolate ripple biscuits, whipped cream, berries.

**Method:** In a moderate oven, put chocolate ripple biscuits upside down on small patty cake trays and heat for 4 or 5 minutes, until softened. While still hot, gently push the biscuits to shape into shallow tart cases (ripple side out). Set aside and they will go firm again. A few hours before serving, fill the tarts with whipped cream, smoothing the top. Pile on a few favourite berries (fresh or thawed). Or try mango, cherries or smashed peppermint crisp!

Just use your imagination to achieve a delicious dessert.

