

Acheron Community Hall

DECEMBER 2014

Newsletter

www.acheronhall.com
email: acheronhall@gmail.com



Contacts:

President:

John Thorp
0417 036 142

Secretary:

Jan Fallon
0419 871 483

Hall Hire:

Barb & David
Gamble
5772 3305

Treasurer:

Sue Moran
0421 082 854

Newsletter:

Beth Thorp
0439 756 703

President's Message - December 2014



The Annual General Meeting of the Acheron Mechanics' Institute Community Hall was held on the 12th of October. I am pleased to report that an energetic committee with an excellent blend of experience, enthusiasm and local knowledge has been elected to manage the Acheron Hall as it commences the next hundred years as the central meeting point for the community of Acheron.

Your Committee President and Vice President – Barbara Gamble were re-elected to their incumbent roles. Re-standing Committee members are Gwen Dick, Bronwyn Dobson, Jan Fallon, Mary Finch, David Gamble, Lorraine Redshaw, Anita Rennie, and Beth Thorp. Two incoming residents were elected to the Committee. Sue Moran, to the executive role of Treasurer, and John Turner. We welcome Sue and John.

Andrea Turner and Louise Edward are taking a well earned break from their roles on Committee and did not stand for re-election. Our thanks go to Andrea and Louise for their valuable contributions over an extended period. Andrea remains available to help when needed and will continue to be an energetic contributor within our community. Louise, our retiring Treasurer of the last five years, has moved out of the immediate area. The Acheron community will miss her and husband Grant, but they are not going too far and we know that we will keep in touch.

We need to thank our retiring Secretary – Lorraine Redshaw – who is stepping down after six years in this role. Her knowledge of the Associations Incorporation Act regulations and organisational skills have been without peer.

Lorraine has been largely responsible for the smooth running of our committee.

An important part of the recent Centenary celebrations was the writing of the book, Acheron – A History of the district. The first printing has completely sold out and another print run is being organised. Details of availability and price will be announced shortly.

This year has been a very busy one, with a number of non-recurring special events. The Centenary Celebrations; the publishing of our book "Acheron - a History of the District"; the new CFA building - being in keeping with the Hall's aesthetic character; the establishing of a car park on the Council land opposite and the development of this area to facilitate and encourage recreational use.

The development of the Council reserve opposite the hall is planned which will involve the re-establishment of the Acheron Tennis Club - a stand alone group, independent of the Acheron Mechanics' Institute, but using the Hall's facilities. After all the excitement of 2014 we expect that 2015 will be more or less normal.

The next community event will be the Annual Christmas Party, as always, on the second Saturday of December. Please see the details announced in this news letter.

The ongoing aim of the Committee is to maintain the Hall and to continually improve its facilities. It should be used and enjoyed by all of Acheron's residents. For over one hundred years it's been our community meeting place for a wide range of activities and we are tasked that it remains so for the next one hundred years.

John Thorp
President – Acheron Mechanics' Institute
Committee

Christmas Party at the Acheron Hall

Saturday the 13th of December at 6.00pm sharp.

Bring your own picnic - meat, salad and drinks, tables and chairs. This year, weather permitting, we'll have our party on the tennis court. If it's hot, bring an umbrella or a free standing gazebo. Ice creams and a lolly bag for each child will be provided.

And don't forget that Father Christmas always makes an appearance in the fire truck, he'll arrive at 7.00pm.

(Parents of young children please bring a small, named, wrapped present for Santa to give to each of your children, and place with committee member on your arrival.)

This will be followed by carol singing. So come along and bring the whole family - children and or grandchildren - we always have a great time!



Centenary glasses will be available for sale on the day,
\$10.00 each or 6 for \$50.00.



Email us if you have any news for the next newsletter on
acheronhall@gmail.com

Acheron Hall 2014/2015 Committee Members

President John Thorp

Vice-President Barbara Gamble

Treasurer Sue Moran

Secretary Jan Fallon

Committee Members

Gwen Dick
Bronwyn Dobson
Mary Finch
David Gamble

Lorraine Redshaw
Anita Rennie
Beth Thorp
John Turner

CFA News - seasonal fire restrictions

To many people, fire restrictions may seem to be confusing and unnecessarily restrictive however they are only imposed after careful evaluation of conditions by experts with input from all the local brigades.

In recent years we have had a number of serious fires in our area caused by burn offs lit in what seemed to be reasonable conditions. But weather conditions can change rapidly and fires be out of control in no time.

There are two levels of fire restrictions

1. Municipal Restrictions. This year they came into force on 15 October. Small fires are allowed in rural areas (but not urban). Occasionally the Shire may declare an amnesty that permits small rubbish fires in urban areas. No windrows, stumps or material over 75mm can be lit. anywhere without a permit during the Municipal Restriction period.

http://www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/Your_Property/Environmental_Management/Bushfire_Prevention_and_Planning

2. CFA Fire Danger Period (now in Force)

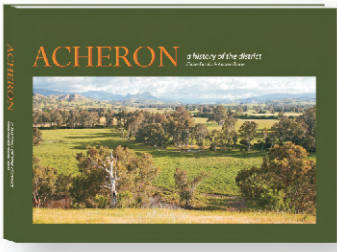
http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/fm_files/attachments/Publications/cfa_can_i_cant_i_brochure.pdf or ask the local brigade for a copy of "Can I or Can't I?"

Fires can only be lit in the open with a permit issued by the Municipal Fire Prevention Officer or by the CFA District Office. "Fires" include Kerosene flares on bamboo poles, paper lanterns, candles etc. Note that severe penalties apply. Slashing dry paddocks is permitted but tractors etc. must be in good mechanical condition and carry fire suppression equipment. Note that this means all machinery including ride on mowers.

Be very careful with angle grinders and welders.

Remember always notify Vicfire (1800 668 511) of your planned burn to avoid unnecessary callouts.

Best wishes for a safe and happy season!



Acheron History book reprint

The Acheron hall committee is investigating reprinting of both hard and soft cover versions of 'Acheron: a history of the district'.

The first print run has been sold out and we are still receiving requests from those wishing to purchase a copy.

When details are available an announcement will be made.

If you received this newsletter by mail or hand and if you have access to the internet, please consider sharing your email address with the committee and it will save the environment as well as a lot of time, effort and cost.

acheronhall@gmail.com

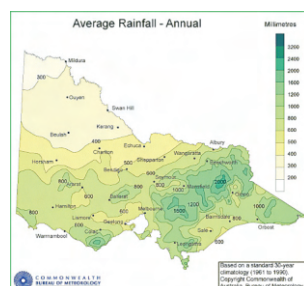
Rainfall at Acheron

Over the last three months welcome spring rain has been filling our dams and promoting new growth.

Acheron's average yearly rainfall over the last twenty three years has been 725mm. In 2014 we are unlikely to receive this much rain.

So far this year we have received 627.5 mm. This is quite a lot more than in 2013 but we will need to get 98mm of rain in December to reach the average.

Not impossible but unlikely. It did happen in 1992 and in 2010.



It's interesting to note that on the official rainfall map as published by the Commonwealth Bureau of Meteorology, Acheron is placed in the area which receives 1000mm of rainfall each year, based on average rainfalls as recorded over the period 1961 to 1990.

Do you think that it's time that this chart was updated?

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