

Acheron Community Hall

MARCH 2015

Newsletter

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President's Report - March 2015



Autumn is here and we are grateful that Acheron has survived the worst of the hot weather. An unusual summer without the extremes of high temperature going into the mid 40s that we had the previous summer. Marginally more rain, but distributed more evenly between December and February.

Our CFA was involved in two local fires on successive days in mid December and Acheron witnessed the water bombers in action.

The Hall Committee is investigating the purchase of a defibrillator. It would be located in the Hall and available if an emergency occurred whilst the Hall was in use. This defibrillator is in addition to the Acheron CFA's project.

An issue that all Acheron residents should be aware of is the scheduled release of water from Lake Eildon as part of the Murray Darling Basin Plan for proposed environmental water flows. The amount of water to be released could see

the Goulburn River flow raised to as much as 20,000 mega litres per day. The impact on resident's homes, businesses and pasture lands in the Upper Goulburn catchments could be devastating. The backing up of the Acheron River caused by this amount of water flowing down the Goulburn River could flood the Acheron Valley, creating a 'Lake Acheron'. Our Hall could be inundated.

This issue is a Federal & State Government project with Victoria being a party to returning water to the Murray River for environmental use. This water can be supplied from Lake Eildon and collateral damage to landowners needs to be managed. Although this water release is some years away the mitigation policies are being decided now. To protect our local interests we all need to make our voices heard on this issue!

John Thorp

President – Acheron Mechanics' Institute
Committee

Grass fire at Acheron

On Monday 15th of December, the first of two local fires occurred due to lightning strike. Three local tankers, including Acheron, plus two slippers and a fixed wing aircraft water bomber attended, putting out the blaze. The fire was on what's known locally as Two Tree Hill, actually Womersleys Hill, the largest hill in the area, above Squires Road. The tankers drove to the very top of the hill. The large photo shows the Acheron tanker descending the hill to extend the reach of the fire hoses, so the Acheron CFA members can reach the fire with the water.



Can you help? The Hall Committee will hold a fund raising stall at Alexandra Easter Fair - Easter Sunday 5th April. Dobson's gourmet potatoes will be the major item on sale. Do you have homemade jams, relishes or pickles, plants or other, which can be added to the stall's offers for sale? If so please contact a committee member.

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

Early Connelly homestead painting

Earlier this year the ACH Committee received an email from Ian Leader-Elliott of South Australia, who wrote. *'I have a connection with the district. Thomas Connelly was my great grandfather. I have a copy of a painting, done sometime in the 1940s, of the Connelly house, long since demolished.*

Thomas Brown Connelly (1835-1914) settled at Acheron around 1864/5 and his sons farmed in the district. My great grandfather, Thomas Connelly, left Acheron and settled at 'Inverell', Gobur. The painting is supposed to have been done by a local school teacher - Leon Parfrey in 1943. The gum tree shown in the painting is still standing, though the homestead is long gone.'

The tree is in McColl Lane, and is readily identified from the painting.

Below is an extract from -

Acheron: a history of the district.

The name Connelly is best known in Acheron for the creek and the road named after it. The name Connelly comes from Thomas Connelly, one of Acheron's earliest selectors who selected the land around the mouth of the creek where it flows into the Acheron River. Thomas Connelly is also known for his gift to the community in 1913 of a quarter of an acre of land on which to build the Acheron Mechanics' Institute and Free Library.



Artists needed to honour von Guérard's paintings/sketches of Acheron area

Have you started your painting yet or asked friends and family to do a painting? Local resident Bev Dick has established a project for artists amateur and professional, adults and children, residents and visitors to produce art works in all media of the Acheron area. The challenge is that each entry is to be accompanied by an outdoor sketch or preparatory work, as von Guérard did, plus a written explanation of how the work is von Guérard inspired. Selected works will be chosen to be exhibited. The art works should be ready by the end of April.

The Exhibition will be held at Rustic Simplicity @ The Shear 'N' Sheds in Alexandra in May and June this year, by curator/proprietor Cindy Ferguson.

Information on how to enter can be accessed by calling Cindy Ferguson **0419 517 045** or emailing rusticsimplicity@hotmail.com with the exhibition title in the heading.

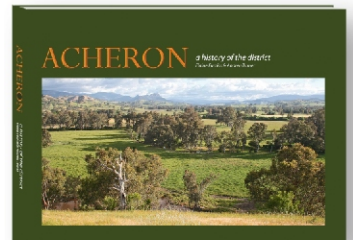
von Guérard Inspired Art - Acheron Valley and Surrounds or Bev Dick on **5772 1051** or bevdick3903@gmail.com.

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

Acheron History book reprint

The reprinting of both hard and soft cover versions of 'Acheron: a history of the district' is in progress. Price and availability details to be announced.



Summer Rainfall at Acheron

This past summer we had marginally more rain than the previous, but less than we would have liked. (Statistics collected in the east of Acheron.)

	2014/15	2013/14	2012/13	2011/12
December	24 mm	71 mm	66 mm	32 mm
January	53 mm	21 mm	1.5 mm	41 mm
February	41.5 mm	20.5 mm	64 mm	177 mm
TOTAL	118.5 mm	112.5 mm	131.5 mm	250.0mm

ACHERON HALL COMMITTEE

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