

MAY 2019

Acheron Community Hall Newsletter

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



President's Report - May 2019



Security.

Sadly, there has been a recent attack by vandals on our Hall. I suppose that we have to acknowledge that our community includes those who do not share our values

and who do not wish to use our Hall as a venue for recreation, meetings and entertainment. The Committee is considering what to do.

The Annual Acheron Hall Dinner will be held on Saturday night the 10th of August. Planning is underway. This year there will be a South American theme: Rio, Carnival. This is sure to be a great night so put the date in your diary now.



Hall being well used by the Acheron Community.

Cheers

John Thorp

This photo shows the damage made by vandals to the children's "Cubby" that lives in the back garden of the hall.

Full details will be available in the near future.

Also for your diary is the date for the Acheron Hall Christmas Party, held on the 14th of December.

Hiring out of the Hall has been popular. Weddings, engagements and other celebrations plus regular meetings for a Book Club and a Fly Fishing school. Together with the Acheron Tennis Club and the Acheron CFA we are glad to see the

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Acheron Hall Potato Stall at the Alex Easter Fair



Easter Sunday saw the return of the Alexandra Easter Fair. The Acheron Hall Committee turned out to sell "Dobson's Gourmet Potatoes", with



the funds raised going towards the Hall's operating expenses. Pictures show setting up the stall at 7.00 am.

Acheron Hall Wine

Recently a bottle of the Acheron Hall 2009 Coonawarra Shiraz was discovered, opened and consumed by Acheron residents. Drunk at ten years of age it was wonderful. Well balanced, soft and with great depth of flavour. Sadly there is no more of this vintage available, but our current Acheron Hall wines were made by Sedona Estate, just the other side of the Black Range, and hopefully will prove to be just as good.

2016 Shiraz and 2017 Sauvignon Blanc. \$12.00 per bottle.

Contact a Committee member to place an order.



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



Protecting Our Landmark Trees



Acheron has a number of old Red Gums, which have some significance to our local history. One tree is on McColl Lane, where it has existed for hundreds of years. It is hollow at the base and this hollow provided a bus shelter for numerous Acheron School children who attended the now closed, Acheron State School.

Local resident, Bev Dick, has been very busy organising a working party to ensure the continuing good health of this tree. The images below show Bev's army of volunteers on Friday 3 May, planting shrubs to provide a habitat corridor for birds which will eat the insects that attack the foliage of Red Gums. On the right, former Acheron resident, Dot Jackson (nee McColl) shows where, as a school girl she used to shelter from the rain, in the hollow of the tree.



Rainfall

We all know it's been dry. January to April rainfall was only 49mm. Compared to last year 80.5mm. But it is when we look at rainfall from September 2018 to April 2019 that we have a better understanding of how little moisture is in the soil. For the last 8 months only 244mm rainfall. Same period a year earlier was 374mm. For the last 12 months we have had 485mm. The

average rainfall for 12 months since 1992 is 700mm. All rainfall is measured East of the Acheron River.

Already it's the last month of Autumn. Winter is not far away. From now on, we can expect frosts. Time to be putting protective covers over our frost sensitive plants and trees. Lemons, limes and passionfruit are on my list.

Acheron Hall available for hire



Don't forget, the Acheron Hall is available for hire for your next function - party, wedding, dinner, meeting, etc. It has a well equipped kitchen; tables and chairs for 80 people as well as extra seating in the form of pews; a shaded outdoor area and wheelchair access.

COST

Short meetings and very small gatherings:
\$2.00 gold coin donation from each participant.

Half day: \$50

Less than half day: \$15 per hour

Parties and major events: Locals \$100

Non-residents: \$200

BOOKINGS: Barbara Gamble on 0417 013 701 or barbaramgamble@bigpond.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 Brigade is looking for new members!

Acheron Rural Fire Brigade is a small but enthusiastic brigade based at the CFA Fire Station beside the Acheron Hall in McColls Lane Acheron. We have a recently constructed new fire station and a modern medium sized tanker.



Whilst we have nearly 40 members from the local community, our active fire-fighting numbers have declined to around 15 members. We are keen to boost our numbers. Full training is provided, so if you are interested please get in touch with another brigade member, or come on down to our monthly training sessions which are held on the first Sunday of the month at 9am at the Station. Or come along to hear more at our next General Meeting detailed below.

General Meeting on Sunday 19th May 2019 at 10.30am at the Acheron Hall.

Acheron Brigade invites all its members and the community to our General Meeting on Sunday 19th May 2019 at 10.30am at the Acheron Hall, to be followed by refreshments.

In addition to the usual brigade update, we will

- Hear about plans for hazard reduction burns in our local area to be conducted by our Brigade in association with local authorities.
- Be seeking to recruit new members with the aim to have them firefighting ready for the fire season next summer.
- Seeking member approval to create the new award of brigade life membership, and to nominate David Gamble as our first life member. David has recently retired from active firefighting duties after nearly three decades of service to our Brigade. He was Brigade Captain from 2006 to 2010, and since the time when CFA began keeping call out records, he has attended more than 100 callouts.





Fire Danger Period ends on 1 May

1 May marks the end of the fire danger period and the lifting of fire restrictions. From this time, residents in farming areas can burn-off vegetation material without requiring a permit.

Please note that conditions remain very dry and we encourage you to wait until we have had good rain before undertaking any burning off.

A reminder – when burning off please

- a) Wait for the right weather conditions
- b) Register your burnoff on the Planned Burns hotline on 1800 668 511
- c) Notify your neighbours
- d) Establish a fire break of at least 3 metres from all combustible material
- e) Have at hand a good water supply and the equipment to deliver it effectively
- f) Make sure the fire is fully extinguished before leaving it unattended

If you are in doubt please give us a call - we prefer to help with a planned burn that respond to a callout!

For residents in township zones and built up areas, a fire amnesty period allowing the burning of vegetation material, without a permit will be held from Saturday 4 May through until Monday 20 May 2019. During the amnesty period, fires in residential areas must be no larger than one meter wide or high. Residents need to ensure that smoke does not cause a nuisance to neighbouring properties. Vegetation material must be dry and not include treated or manufactured timber such as cupboards or fence posts or offensive material such as couches and mattresses.

Brigade Contact Details – Captain Alan Harding on 0419 596 449; 1st Lieutenant Tim Buckley on 0427 522 808; Secretary Andy Lloyd on 0439 883 599 or any other member of our Brigade Management Team.

Donations to the Acheron Brigade

We always welcome donations which are tax deductible and used to improve our service delivery. Our Bank details are

Acheron Fire Brigade
BSB 063-628
A/c # 10046260

Please add your name to the transfer details and also send us an email to confirm your donation to AcheronRFB@gmail.com so we can send you a receipt and our thanks.