

OCTOBER 2020
Acheron Community Hall
Newsletter

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



Message from the President



COVID 19 still remains the determining factor for what we are able to do as a Committee.

A submission for a grant to paint the Hall was not successful and the

Committee is looking for other opportunities to raise funds for this project. Suggestions from the community are welcome.

We have re-ordered our popular **Acheron Wine from Sedona Winery** and it is available to purchase. Each bottle we sell makes a welcome if small financial contribution to meeting the Hall's ongoing expenses. Purchase costs and details are provided in this Newsletter.

A re-print of the soft cover version of our book - '**Acheron – A History of the District**' is available to purchase.

See details later in this Newsletter.

Unfortunately it was not possible to hold our **Annual Dinner** in August or any other group activity including the '**Post Isolation Survival Dinner**', which was to have been on the 10th of October. If there is any change to restrictions on indoor meetings we'll review the situation.

This also includes how we will hold our **AGM** in Oct/Nov.

We are hopeful that our Christmas Party on the second Saturday in December will take place. This is mostly an outdoor event and barring any reoccurrence of the lock-down, we should be able to proceed. Please keep the 12th of December free to attend.

John Thorp
Acheron Hall Committee President

Contacts:

President:

John Thorp
0417 036 142

**Vice President
/Hall Hire:**

Barb Gamble
0417 013 701

Secretary:

Jan Fallon
0419 871 483

Treasurer:

Sue Moran
0421 082 854

**Hall
Maintenance:**

David Gamble
0409 228 873

Newsletter/Web:

Beth Thorp
0439 756 703

Acheron Hall Wine

Sedona Estate Vintage 2017, is now available for purchase.

Call John Thorp on 0417 036 142 to order and arrange collection.

Shiraz & Sauvignon Blanc

\$13.00 per each bottle in quantities of 1 to 11 bottles

Shiraz & Sauvignon Blanc

\$12.00 per bottle in case quantities of 12 bottles

Total for 12 bottles \$144.00

Payment can be made on line:

Acheron Hall banking details:
NAB Alexandra.

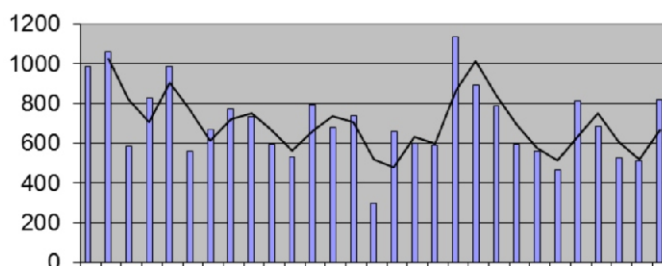
BSB 083 503 Account Number: 515634643



Rainfall at Acheron

We are having a wet year with more rain falling in the nine months to the end of September than any time in the last 10 years. 740ml this year -- 431mls last year.

The chart shows rainfall for twelve months since 1992.



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



McCull Lane

The beautification of McCull is a project undertaken by our local Landcare Group, being driven by Acheron resident Beverly Dick, with significant help from local residents and friends.

Initially the major objective was to provide ground cover foliage to shelter native birds. The birds would, in turn, protect the very old and iconic River Red Gum that stands at the corner of McCull Lane and Maroondah Highway. The birds would do this by eating the lerps that are de-foliating the Red Gum.



This project has now expanded to include protecting another icon tree - 'The Wedding Tree' that stands on Crown land past the Acheron Hall.

As the scope of this project has expanded Bev would appreciate any help from residents or friends who might be able to lend a hand at future working bees.

If you would like to help, please contact Bev at bevdick3903@gmail.com

Bev's update on the recent working bee and future plans follows:

On 5 Oct 2020,

Hi everyone,

Here's an update re McCull's Lane/Hall Precinct Tree/Veg works.

Over the past couple of months a skeleton of locals have continued to mow, weed, spray, snip and admire the little trees around our magnificent red gum. A couple of the wattles have wrist sized trunks!! And it's exciting to see this spring's flowers.

1. 'Broom' infestation below the Hall removed. and poisoned.

2. Blackberry plan - Below Hall. To engage a contractor to spray the big patch of blackberry growing below the Hall. Once dead the CFA plans to mulch dead canes.

These brambles do provide habitat for birdlife. So there's the balance of reducing weed burden/fire fuel while maintaining food & shelter habitat.

3. Blackberry plan - west of Hall. At a future date the blackberry patch to west of the CFA shed near Connellys Creek will be sprayed - ideally in yearly stages - to ensure some bird habitat is preserved and not contaminating the creek water.

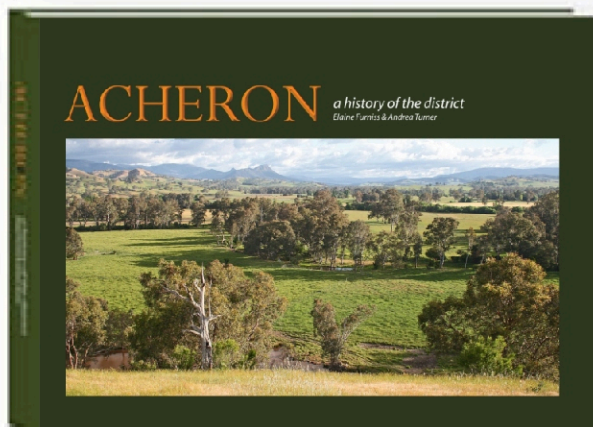
4. Around the icon Red Gum near Highway. Keeping the grass short by cutting and spraying. Mulching to broaden the mulch circle around the red gum and baby trees.

I think that's all. Thanks as always to Joanna & Andy for mowing, Liz for weeding, Sue McNair for coordinating the covid work crew and liaising with me and our CFA (Mitch) so promptly, Cath Olive our wise adviser.

Cheers all. Bev



Acheron: a History of the District - soft cover version now available again



Acheron: A History of the District shown on the left was first released on 15th of June 2014 at the Acheron Community Hall's Centenary celebrations.

Books available from:
John Thorp 0417 036 142.
\$69.00 each. Plus \$15.00 packaging and postage within Australia.

The book is 280 x 205mm, 250 pages, full colour, with over 500 images.

Acheron Hall banking details:
NAB Alexandra.
BSB 083 503 Account Number: 515634643

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

McCull Lane

Acheron resident, Ron Muller has offered to share his recent poem which celebrates the iconic Red Gum which stands at the corner of McCull Lane and The Maroondah Highway.

Thank you Ron. We gratefully accept.

A black and white photograph of a large, ancient Red Gum tree. The tree has a thick, gnarled trunk and a dense canopy of leaves. It stands in a field with other trees in the background.

McCULL LANE

Walking beneath the bough
This ancient Eucalyptus tree
Gnarled and refuge to many
A family
Of people long vanished now me.

Nine hundred years they say
Sentinel of the bush today
A silent witness to all that's passed
Its way
Cavalcades of war and play.

Once beside the river now diverted
Roadside guardian it so remained
Bypassed in McCull Lane
And then
A quiet corner still sustained.

Still it grows in isolated splendour
Silent witness to life no longer remembered
Music in a forgotten wilderness
And always
Serenely beautiful alone with no contenders.

If it could testify to all that's passed it by
And with an apathy that mocks at our distress
Quietly standing there, ages passing
And reflects
The worth of our success.

Ron Muller. 1 July 2020

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Acheron Brigade is ready for summer!

The winter period has provided a welcome break to the brigade. Our tanker was extensively rebuilt after its extended period of service at the Corryong fire last summer, and is now in as new condition. Despite Covid 19 restrictions which place some additional PPE requirements on our firefighters, the Acheron Fire Brigade is operationally ready for summer.

A less severe summer is forecast for this year compared to last, however the higher rainfall will lead to higher fuel loads which mean that your fire preparations this year remain as important as ever. **NOW is the time to update your fire plan, test your firefighting equipment and extinguishers, clean your gutters, clear the yard of debris, especially around your house and buildings, and generally prepare.** The fire danger period is normally declared by the CFA some time in November so now is the time to finish off any burning you need to do to bring your property into top shape for summer.

To minimise false callouts, please remember to register your Burnoff on [1800 668 511](tel:1800668511).

Burnoff requirements and details can be found at: <https://www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/Your-Council/Emergency-Management/Bushfire-Prevention-and-Planning>

Prior to the summer fire danger period, Municipal Fire Prevention Officers conduct inspections of properties throughout the Shire. Owners of properties, where Fire Prevention works are required, will be contacted by letter seeking their co-operation in ensuring that their property does not present a fire hazard to adjoining properties. Remember that for the duration of the CFA Declared Fire Danger Period, grass must be managed in Non-residential areas by cutting A SIX METRE FIRE BREAK around the property boundaries by slashing or otherwise, to a height of 75mm or less above the natural surface of the ground.

Acheron Fire Brigade also offer Property Advice Visits (PAVS) to your property. This is a service where brigade members visit properties and discuss ways to improve bushfire safety.

During the visit, CFA will ask you to consider or review how well your property is prepared through a series of questions, including:

- Are there any branches touching or overhanging the house,
- Are there any painted surfaces on the house that are flaky,
- Are all gaps around doors, windows and the roof sealed so embers cannot enter.
- The brigade member will then assist you with suggested improvement actions you can take.
- They can also provide you with other resources and tools to further improve your preparedness for bushfires, or answer any specific concerns you may have.

If you need assistance, we would welcome a call if you would like us to come out to visit you.

Or the CFA bushfire survival planning template can be found here: <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/your-bushfire-plan> & scroll down to [Bushfire survival planning template - Leaving early \(PDF 1000k\)](#)

The Brigade also maintains a database of properties in our area which provides invaluable detail of the assets on your property which are priority for protection in event of a fire, and access and water point information, etc. We update this information through occasional visits.





If you are new to your property, or not current on our database, please give Alan Harding on 0419 596 449, or Andy Lloyd a call on 0439 883 599, or so we may arrange a visit or just to update our records.

Finally, the Brigade has been unable to hold General Meetings and elections for the time being due to Covid 19, but hope to do so before the end of the year. Tim Buckley has stood down as 1st Lieutenant, Peter Moran as Equipment officer, and Cathie Harper as Community Safety officer. Each are remaining active as firefighters in the brigade. Our thanks to each of them for their service on the Brigade Management Team.

Until such time as elections can be held, we are grateful to Adam Kamenek who is acting 1st Lieutenant. Tony Corkhill is acting as Safety officer and Assistant Training officer, Michael Harper and Dan Irvine acting equipment officers, and Bev Dick has returned as acting Community Safety officer. Thanks to each of them for taking on these important roles.

ACHERON BRIGADE IS RECRUITING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS NOW!

Do you have courage, a willingness to learn new skills, attend emergencies and give back to YOUR community? If so, the Acheron Brigade is always seeking women and men who are over the age of 16 and are up for the challenge to join our "CFA family"! The CFA is one of the largest volunteer emergency service and community safety organisations in the world – Join today!

For more information regarding volunteering, please contact Andy Lloyd on 0439 883 599

