

SEPTEMBER 2017  
Acheron Community Hall  
**Newsletter**

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



## President's Report - September 2017



**G**reetings. As we move into spring the Committee turns its attention to building and grounds maintenance, and improvements. There will be a working bee called and we will be asking for your help.

The recent August dinner was a most enjoyable occasion. The French theme called for guests to dress accordingly and the results were both imaginative and in some cases very creative. Images from the night can be seen on the next page and on the Acheron Hall website [www.acheronhall.com](http://www.acheronhall.com).

Current projects to improve the hall's amenities are, to provide access to the ceiling space so that insulation and fire extinguishers can be installed. A display cabinet will be installed in the entrance vestibule, which will be used to show

memorabilia pertaining to the history of Acheron.

Recent improvements include the installation of sensor lights and modification of the switch board to provide easier and less complicated switching on and off of the electricity via a master switch.

In the coming month our annual general meeting will be held. The attendance of all Acheron residents is welcomed and we hope that there will be some Achronites who would like to put themselves forward for Committee

Cheers John Thorp

### Item of Interest - Acheron bus stop

We have been advised that following our request for a bus stop at Connellys Creek Road on Maroondah Hwy, that PTV is in the process of implementing an 'Acheron Bus Stop'. Our thanks to our MLA, Cindy McLeish for putting forward our application.

### 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 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.



Half day: \$50  
Less than half day: \$15 per hour  
Parties and major events:  
Locals \$100  
Non-residents: \$200

### COST

Meetings and small gatherings:  
\$2.00 gold coin donation from each participant.

### BOOKINGS:

Barbara Gamble on 0417 013 701 or [barbaramgamble@bigpond.com](mailto:barbaramgamble@bigpond.com)

## Acheron autumn/winter rainfall - 2017

Autumn - Winter rainfall has been down 14.9% on the same months as compared to last year.  
March - August 2017 - 337.5 mm  
March - August 2016 - 396.5 mm

These figures are measured east of the Acheron River and may be slightly different to rainfall in other parts of Acheron.

Email us if you have any news for the next newsletter on  
[acheronhall@gmail.com](mailto:acheronhall@gmail.com)



# Winter Dinner 2017

Acheron Hall's annual Winter Dinner 2017 had a French theme, and as you can see by the photos, most people really got into it by dressing the part. There was quite a variety in the costumes - most opting for the striped top, beret and red scarf look, but there was also a French waiter; a gendarme; a soldier and Quasimodo (the hunchback of Notre Dame); to mention a few.

There were prizes for the best male and best female costumes. A wonderful dinner was provided by Lisa and Alan Harding of 'the Grant Street Grocer'. They and their team did an excellent job. And the hall looked great, thanks to the tireless Acheron Hall Committee and helpers.

Our next event is the Christmas Party Saturday 9th December.



## Acheron Tennis Club News

**Acheron Tennis Club** is affiliated with the Acheron hall Committee, and continues to seek to develop the Acheron tennis court in McColl Lane as a facility for the community. The court surface has been repaired and surrounds levelled. The club is seeking grant funding from a number of sources to secure funds to complete court fencing, and to construct a simple shelter for viewing games and for storage of the tennis net.



The club holds a social hit of tennis on the third Sunday of each month and all members of the community are welcome. Membership of the club is encouraged and is a very affordable \$5 per person or \$10 per family. Details may be obtained from Andy Lloyd on 0439883599 or [andyllloyd10@gmail.com](mailto:andyllloyd10@gmail.com), or Joanna Willey on 0433 636009 or [joanna.willey@gmail.com](mailto:joanna.willey@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](mailto:acheronhall@gmail.com)

## Acheron Fire Brigade to sound its siren?

Acheron Brigade is seeking to consult the local community on the issue of if and how it might use the Brigade fire siren which is installed at the recently rebuilt CFA station at Acheron.

At the Acheron Rural Fire Brigade General Meeting on Sunday 21st May, the healthy state of the Brigade was highlighted with strong turnouts for all calls this past season. Bev Dick, our brigade Community Safety Coordinator, also reminded members of the many precautions required as winter approaches, most especially the need to ensure chimneys are cleaned, fire alarms tested and replaced as required, and evacuation procedures planned.

Captain Alan Harding led a discussion on whether the siren on the new station should be used as a warning system in the event of major immediate threat to the local community. The Brigade is now seeking to consult the community on this issue and seeks your feedback.

Alan recalled his younger days at Eldon when the siren would sound each Sunday morning, and highlighted the increased fire awareness that regular testing would create.

A trial of the siren was proposed to test whom can actually hear the siren. A monthly testing regime would be required, and with the siren to be tested for a maximum of ten seconds on the first Sunday of the month to coincide with the Brigade monthly training.

The objective would be to ensure that in the event of a major imminent threat, the siren could be sounded continuously to alert the local community as a signal for locals to seek more information.

### Points for and against the proposal were discussed...

#### Points for

- The siren and its testing would raise awareness of the CFA and fire precautions more generally
- In the event of an immediate threat, the siren would alert locals, especially those in the paddocks away from normal communications, to seek more information from other sources such as UGFM, websites, phone arrounds, etc.

#### Points against.

- In an event of an emergency, (fire or flood) the threat can be expected to be known well in advance, and be well communicated by other means (smoke, pagers, website, radio stations, and CB band communications), and hence the siren is likely to be of little added value.
- Use of the siren in an emergency is likely to be once it is too late to safely leave anyway, and may equally cause confusion and panic especially for visitors to the area. Rather, mechanisms which encourage a considered and early response by residents to implement their fire plan are preferred.
- The remote and most vulnerable parts of the Acheron area are unlikely to hear a siren anyway.
- The testing regime would need to be consistently followed, which created another task for the CFA volunteers in the brigade, with little direct benefit to its operational effectiveness.



- The siren would be an unwelcome further noise in the area and detract from the tranquillity of the district for tourists and visitors.
- There was a clear majority of the meeting against the proposal. **It was agreed that the concept should be communicated to the community for comment prior to a final decision to be made at the November General Meeting of the brigade, which will be held at the Acheron Hall, at 10.30am on Sunday 19th November, 2017.**
- The CFA has an interim policy on the use of CFA Sirens, which are used to alert brigade members to

respond to an emergency, and Community Sirens, which are used to alert the community to possible danger and to seek further information. CFA recognises that some communities may consider the use of sirens as part of a community alert system. CFA considers the use of sirens for this purpose has limitations and difficulties in application because:

- they are only part of a comprehensive community alerting system;
- they cannot provide specific information about the threat of bushfire, to enable people to act appropriately;
- they may not be interpreted appropriately by all members of the community; and
- there can be no guarantee that a siren will be heard by all people in the targeted community

CFA policy states that it supports the use of Community Sirens as part of a Community Alerting System but it will not provide, fund, or manage a community siren. CFA requires any plan to use a CFA or Community siren to alert the community to include a comprehensive community education program, developed as part of a partnership between the community, brigade, and local Government.

The Brigade Management Team are seeking your views on this matter. It will consider the way forward when it meets in October, with a view to making a recommendation for decision at the November General Meeting, which will be held at the Acheron Hall, at 10.30am on Sunday 19th November, 2017.

Further information may be obtained from, or opinions conveyed to, any member of the Brigade Management Team, or by calling Alan Harding on **0419 596 449**, Bev Dick on **0428 384 410** or [bevdick3903@gmail.com](mailto:bevdick3903@gmail.com) or Andy Lloyd on **0439 883599** or [andyllloyd10@gmail.com](mailto:andyllloyd10@gmail.com)

