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Bickleigh Vale Village News

July 23

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Inaugural Edition of Bickleigh Vale News

Welcome to the first issue of our monthly newsletter with updates on our roadside vegetation projects, what we're doing about the potholes and maintaining the lanes, a water main leak, along with some interesting things from our web site and Facebook group.

So, why introduce this newsletter? We live busy lives these days and have less opportunity to get together than we may have in the past. By the time each of our quarterly meeting's come around, things from a couple of months earlier may have been missed or no longer as relevant. Let's see if we can fill in some of the gaps.

Please email me articles on anything you'd like included in future editions – you're sure to be aware of things happening in the village that I'm not!

Chris.

Roadside Vegetation Projects

Most of the plants in our front entrance to Bickleigh Vale Road fared very well thanks to a mild summer and damp autumn. The Edna Walling rose survived being transplanted and it putting on growth again and it's all looking pretty good.

We've now ordered, and had delivered, more plants to supplement the area and a couple more areas in the road. Carole is looking after them for us until the ground dries out and the weather is a bit warmer in late September for the spring planting.

In the meantime, we need to keep across the weeding of those newly planted areas. If you can spare a few minutes every few weeks to pull out a few weeds, that will certainly help. I think we're going to need to burn those small weeds along the edge of the road again too.

Road Maintenance

The whole of the intersection of Edna Walling Lane and Bickleigh Vale Rd is a mess now and the big pothole is growing each time it rains. Clearly, the road maintenance work by YRC's contractor has been unsatisfactory in the past couple of years, with the road becoming ever muddier and potholes becoming bigger and developing more often. Peter contacted the Council last week to get something done about it and he's finally made some real progress – thanks Peter! We're treating it as a two-step process – get the immediate holes repaired and the intersection safe again over the next couple of weeks and then move on to getting topping replenished each maintenance cycle, including leaving us with a small pile of topping for our small-scale pothole fixing.

Stay tuned and look out for the grader!

Mains Water Leak in Bickleigh Vale Road

It never rains but it pours! You may have wondered what the blue and white Yarra Valley Water tape on the tree and the red and white safety tape around the area outside The Spinney was all about. Unfortunately, a mains water leak had developed and was reported last Tuesday by Carole and Chris. On Friday, they were still waiting for a crew to come and fix it, whilst huge amounts of water were pouring down their driveway. No wonder their back garden was under water! This must have been going on for some time before they found the source.

Shout out, too, to Adam from Yarra Ranges Council who is standing in for our usual contact, Aaron, over the next three months. Adam's been really helpful in assisting Yarra Valley Water to understand they need to hand dig to find the water leak in front of The Spinney, and not just rip into it with a big machine. He will also supply some additional replacement plants because there will be a need to remove a few to carry out the repair, but not the wholesale removal that Carole was initially advised would be needed.

Heritage Listing of “Mossmont”

We were contacted through our web site “Contact Us” email by Steven Carter from Buninyong near Ballarat asking if we could offer any assistance on heritage protection. He and his wife, Veronica, own “Mossmont” – an old timber homestead on seven acres of land and a nursery originally created by nurseryman Francis Moss, one of Buninyong’s most famous pioneers. Steven and Veronica want to have Mossmont heritage listed and wanted to know if we had any useful information about how the residents of Bickleigh Vale went about having our village heritage listed in the early 1980s

After looking through the tubs of documents handed over from Allan and Jan and from Mike O’Loughlin some years ago, as well as those we’ve already scanned and uploaded to our web site, it seems that we aren’t holding any useful documents that could help Steve in their quest.

Despite this, they intend to visit Bickleigh Vale in the next few weeks to walk around and see the place so, if you see them, say “Hi!” from us all.

Web Site and Facebook Group Deleted Comments

Speaking of our web site, for the first-time last week, we had someone trying to use us to promote a completely unrelated business. They did this by making a comment on The Barn Blog page and included a link back to a finance company’s page. Fortunately, the Weebly software immediately notified our web admin team by email that a comment had been made, and our normal process of checking what had been said kicked in. The offending comment was promptly deleted and, although we can’t stop this happening again in future, we know it’s easy to manage.

Interestingly, and probably unrelated to the web site comment issue, was a post around about the same time from someone trying to use our Facebook group to promote a heating duct cleaning business. Again, our Facebook Admin team deleted that comment promptly and we move on.

Abbotsley Landscaping

We’ve not added much new content to our web site recently but, for those of you who missed it, there’s a post on the Abbotsley Blog with the story of a recent landscaping project to create a wheelchair ramp in place of steps to the house. Check it out at: <https://www.bickleighvale.com.au/abbotsley-blog/wheelchair-access-landscaping-project> .



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