BAPS News

THE 20ᵀᴴ OCTOBER 2020 WILL GO DOWN IN BAPS HISTORY

At 2pm on the 20th October the Ballarat Agricultural & Pastoral Society took possession of the Mount Rowan site on Rosehill Road. This 40 acre property has been acquired from the Federation University, with negotiations for the purchase taking 4 years and 10 months. Certainly not a quick process. On the site we have:

- Equestrian Centre,
- Shearing Facilities,
- Office,
- Three class rooms,
- Kitchens
- Toilets and showers
- Implement sheds.

The Society owes a huge debt of gratitude to Michael Daunt for his tireless work over the years to bring this to fruition, together with the dogged determination of the Showgrounds Development Committee. Without the sheer tenacity of Michael and the team this purchase would not have taken place.   Original settlement was to be end of June 2020 and then was pushed out to the 30th September. Again due to legalities it was once more delayed until finally we received the good news on the 20th October that everything had been finalised and the Mount Rowan site was ours.

Now the work of creating a state of the art Showgrounds and Events Centre begins.   The committee has engaged a civil engineer – Tim Wright and there are now regular meetings looking at the very best way for the new showgrounds to operate.

These are exciting times and although it will be two to three years before we move onto the site permanently.   We will keep you up to date as we reach significant milestones in this major project.

EQUESTRIAN CENTRE

As advised with the purchase of the Mount Rowan site BAPS has now acquired an amazing indoor Equestrian Centre. BAPS is very excited to be able to offer the opportunity to use this great building, enabling you to bring and exercise your horse/s.   In our next newsletter we will write about the history of the fantastic building and the hard work of the RDA.

The Equestrian Centre will be available for hire and at present BAPS is finalizing everything to enable people to book the centre to exercise their horses or to run events.   A new website will be available soon to book your slot online. As we are not quite there yet please be patient but we look forward to seeing bookings coming through once we are fully up and running.

The rates to use the arena are:
Casual use - $20 p/h per horse
Private use - $50 p/h per horse
Half day events $200
Full day events $400

There will be a cleaning fee attached to event bookings and this will be advised as soon as possible.

There will be a hyperlink from the BAPS website to the new Equestrian website so it will be easy to locate.   We will announce when everything is in place to book the centre. In the meantime tell everyone you know who has horses.

Watch this space for updated information.

MOUNT ROWAN SHEARING FACILITIES

You now have the opportunity to book the Mount Rowan Shearing Facilities. The shed has the capacity for eight shearers, together with holding pens. Indoors there is a good kitchen, shower and toilets for the use of those hiring the shearing shed.

T B White has an agreement with BAPS for the use of the facilities so you can either book to have your sheep shorn through them or you are most welcome to contact BAPS directly and book your own contract shearers and sheep through BAPS.

It is hoped in the not too distant future to have an open day at Mount Rowan. This will give you the opportunity to view the Equestrian Centre and Shearing facilities. Once restrictions lift further we will send through a date.

DRIVE IN MOVIES COME TO THE BALLART SHOWGROUNDS

Have you been wanting to go to the movies with your family, friend, or a date out with your other half? With theatres closed due to COVID it has been one of the pleasures lost to us over the last few months. However, we can now offer you the opportunity to go to the movies without leaving your car!!

This is a very exciting event for the City of Ballarat and the BAPS. After almost three months of working with Chris Jones, Director of the Showbiz Enterprise Group, and Council, the Drive In Movie nights are ready to be launched. The movies will be held on the Broadhead Arena with the arena accommodating up to 150 vehicles. To begin with movies will be held on a Friday and Saturday night. Depending on patronage this will be extended to three then four nights per week. There will be old classics as well as more up to date releases.

Tickets can be purchased online at the Showbiz Cinemas website www.showbizcinemas.com.au. Just click on the Ballarat button. The cost will be $35 per vehicle. Instructions as to how you enter the grounds and are guided to your spot on the arena will be included with the ticket.

There will be food vendors and you will be able to order refreshments via an app and have them delivered to your car.

For those of you who are members of the Showbiz Cinemas Club your ticket price will be $25 per vehicle.

So let's support this great event and make it a success. Movies anticipated to start Friday 13th November.

BAPS MEMBERS BENEFIT

Being a BAPS member entitles you to a free Showbiz Cinema membership. This will enable you to pay only $25 for a vehicle for the Drive In Movies, saving you $10. When indoor theatres open up you will also receive a great discount on tickets. If you would like to receive your free membership email eo@ballaratshow.org.au. Include your first name, last name, phone number and email address. This will be passed onto Chris Jones and he will organise your membership.

SUNDAY MARKET REOPENING

The Sunday Trash and Treasure Market held at the Ballarat Showgrounds every Sunday has been absent since almost the beginning of the year. The great news is with the lifting of restrictions the Rotary Club are preparing to open the gates once more. It has been important for the Rotary Club to get their COVID Safe Plan in place to create the plan of how they will control numbers. So many people have been asking over the last few weeks when the market will be opening so we are anticipating good numbers.

Opening day Sunday 15th November.

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KITCHEN GARDEN COMPETITION

For those of you who live in Ballarat and have a vegetable garden, don't forget about our kitchen garden competition. There are some great prizes so it is well worth taking the time to put in an entry. Entries close 27th November. Don't forget to tell your friends and family and get them to enter as well

As well as the above competition we will be launching several more over the next month. One competition that is currently being worked on is a "Cropping Competition". You will receive information on this in the near future.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

I don't know about you but I do have a bit of a sweet tooth. One of my favourite desserts is Sticky Toffee Pudding. Just too delicious to resist, so I thought I would make it the recipe of the month. It is a lovely offering after main course when you have friends around for dinner. Oodles of sauce and lashings of cream – or not, your choice ☺ It is so easy to make.

STICKY TOFFEE PUDDING

170g dates, stoned and chopped
1 tsp baking soda
300ml boiling water
60g butter
170g castor sugar
2 eggs
170g self-raising flour
½ tsp pure vanilla

Sauce:
200g brown sugar
½ cup cream
125g butter
1 tsp vanilla

Preheat oven to 180°c. Grease deep muffin tray or an 18cm square cake tin. Mix the dates and baking soda. Pour over water and leave to stand. Cream butter and sugar. Then add eggs one at a time, beating well. Fold flour in gently. Stir in date mixture and vanilla. Pour into the prepared tin or muffin tray. Bake for 15 minutes or 30-40 minutes if using a larger cake tin.

For the sauce – put all the ingredients into a saucepan and gently bring to the boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 5 minutes. Pour a little sauce (or lots if you like☺) over the warm pudding and drizzle over liquid cream or vanilla ice cream.

UNTIL NEXT TIME

If you would like to become a member of BAPS please contact us on eo@ballaratshow.org.au or phone: 0438 437 493

Elizabeth van Beek – Executive Officer BAPS.