

The Granite News

Whiteheads Creek
Hughes Creek
Caveat
Highlands
Ruffy
Terip Terip

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WELCOME TO ISSUE NO.4

Just letting you know that the deadline for information for each issue is Friday 9am. The aim is to deliver it to our kind posties on Monday or Tuesday mornings but that may mean you don't receive it until Wednesday.

If you hear of people who are not receiving The Granite News please let me know.

A number of people have asked if they can also receive an email copy as it is in colour and better quality and that is fine, just send me your email address and I'll add you to my address book.

What is the longest word that can be made using only the letters from one row of the keyboard? Typewriter.

What is the only English word to end in mt?

Good Reading Suggestions From The Ruffy Book Group

NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

School Helpers: Thank to the 3 wonderful community members who have volunteered to help out at the school, so far. We are looking at having a minimum of 2 people each day who can spare 1 hour or so to listen to our students read and have some meaningful discussions regarding their books. There will be a cuppa and chat session to talk about strategies to use when listening to students read and other ways you can help out on at 3:30pm on Monday February 19th. Please come along if you can spare a little time for our wonderful students.

New Preps: Highlands Primary School is very pleased to welcome our Preps for 2007: Kaylam Kirkham, Emillie Stafford and Kendall Richards. All three were very excited to be starting school and meeting new friends and have settled in very well. We look forward to watching these three students grow and learn at our wonderful school.

School Camps 2/3/4/5/6 students:

Two major camps will be happening in Term 1.
4/5/6-Lorne Monday 19th -Thursday 22nd March,

2/3-Torquay Wednesday 14th to Friday 16th March
School camps are an integral part of the curriculum. They allow students to develop their independence, confidence and to further enhance their life experiences.

DRY, DRY, DRY!

Scorching days at the beginning of the week followed by a withering wind has hastened evaporation from our dwindling dams, and frizzled up the remaining pastures. Hughes Creek used to be one of the few streams in Victoria which ALWAYS flowed, but I believe that it is a series of puddle holes at Avenel and other places.



Bus Captains :
Imogen Geffert and Kassie Shaw



AUSLAN

For those who are wondering what the hand signs are that the students are practicing, it is the language used by deaf people all over Australia. Like any language other than English, it has its own grammar and structure. Two major differences between Auslan and English are that Auslan cannot be spoken or expressed in a written form. It is entirely visual and relies on hand and body gestures. We are lucky enough to be able to have Peter Roberts who not only is a great class teacher, but also a fully qualified teacher of deaf. Part of Peter's 2 year training was to become fluent in Auslan. It is recognised by the Department of Education and Training as one of many 2nd languages that can be taught in schools. Our students are learning Auslan as a whole school group on Friday afternoons. What a great way to finish up the week, particularly for our visual learners.

Classifieds & Community Notices

RACHEL'S EXERCISE CLASS

Sixteen attended the gentle class at 6pm and another 8 lined up for the more challenging exercises at 7pm. Rick Webb was given the prize for best beginner and we are all hoping that Rachel will be able to find a instructor to keep the classes going. The last two classes will be held at the hall will be needed in preparation for the fabulous HiArts weekend in March.

Ring Rachel on 0422255256 for further information.

Wanted: A Dog Sitter

We need someone to look after our small, very cute and reasonably well behaved dog (Spoodle) for occasional sleepovers while we are in Melbourne. Chloe is small and doesn't shed hair and is very well house trained. She would need a safe yard

For Sale:

Double horse float, good condition, extra foot in length, comfortable travel for two big horses, freshly painted, centre divide, sound floor, hydraulic brakes, registered until 24/03/07, user friendly, new tyres \$5,800
Ring Harriet 57969261

Highlands Hall Working Bee

A big thank you to the adults and young people who helped at the working bee at the hall on Saturday. A great effort on a hot day!

Highlands HiArts Exhibition 3rd & 4th March

In addition to art, poetry and music and children's activities, the exhibition will be having pottery and spinning demonstrations, sales of homeware, local produce seedlings and herbs. This year we will have a wide range of food, wine and beer. Saturday night BBQ will have a local band to dance, sing or just listen to. A new feature will be our guest artist Penny Jenz, more about her later. Those wishing to exhibit and still haven't registered need to contact Jill 57969331 pronto!

Judy & Stuart

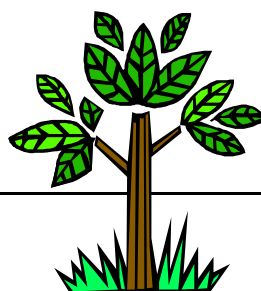
HPS REQUEST

Help From A Handy Person: If you are a handy person and have half an hour or so to spare fitting towel rails etc to the new staff bathroom, please give Allyson a call at HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL on 57969208. You will need to bring your own tools.

WATER SAVING TIPS

If you have a pool, a pool cover is a clever way to reduce evaporation and the need to regularly top up your pool's water level. Without a cover, more than half the water in your pool can evaporate over a year.

Choosing local native plant varieties and other water wise plants attracts wildlife and means less maintenance and watering



Guide Dogs, Victoria

Each year Guide Dogs Victoria opens our kennel doors and invites families for a behind the scenes look at how we breed and train our world famous Guide Dogs. This year I would like to invite your school community and families to this great day out. So join our adorable puppies, Wag the Dog (of Wiggles fame) and Dr Harry Cooper at this fun family event.

Open Day is on Sunday 4 March 2007 from 11am - 4pm and entry is via gold coin donation. All funds raised from the day go toward the continued provision of services to blind and vision impaired Victorians. If you have any questions or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0398544462 or theresa.h@guidedogsvictoria.com.au. Guide Dogs Victoria - sharing the journey www.guidedogsvictoria.com.au

Drought Employment Program.

The Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority will provide paid work for drought and frost affected farmers from January to June 2007.

Farmers, farm workers and farm service providers are encouraged to apply immediately for the Drought Employment Program.

The program will provide full time work for about 60 farmers who are under employed or unemployed as a result of the drought or frost.

Victorian Government funding has been made available to Catchment Management Authorities statewide and the GBCMA has received \$2.7 million.

Expressions of interest are invited to undertake work on Crown Lands such as:

a. Fencing b. Weed control and removal c. Basic construction d. Rubbish management e. Seed collection

Employment Type: Casual

Time Fraction: Full Time

Hours: 7am - 4pm Mon - Friday

Work Availability: Dec 06 - June 07

Rate of Pay: \$21.60 per hour

MLA APPLICATION TO GO AHEAD

The depletion of established single/small groups of paddock trees is the focus of this submission.

Jenny Strong has written a preliminary application for funding to the MLA (Meat & Livestock Australia) for \$15,000 over 3 years. This is to trial different fencing techniques of scattered paddock trees for regeneration. There is also an application for funding to trial a variety of methods to remove mistletoe.

Jenny has now heard from ten interested landowners so an application can be made.

There will be a meeting at the Strong's on Dropmore Road on Thursday 15th February at 8pm.

If you are interested in being part of this proposal, please contact Jenny now ph. 57969213.

Community What's On Calendar - February/March

Week beginning 12th Feb	Highlands CFA Crew A - Lt. Andrew Shaw
Thursday 15th February	Highlands/Caveat RFB mid - season meeting Highlands Hall at 7.30pm. John Smith from Region 12 H.Q. will be in attendance to answer any members' queries re jobs and/or responsibilities. All welcome!
23-25th Feb	Highlands—Caveat Crew Leader Course
Sat 24th Feb	Ruff Artz "A Season of Saturdays" Bohemian Nights 8pm Ruffy Public Hall Tickets on sale from Glen Ph 57904318
Sunday 25th Feb	Highlands Ramblers. Our first walk for 2007 will be in the Hughes Creek - Stewart's Creek - Glen Lyon area, depending on the weather. Meet as usual at the Highlands Hall at 10.30a.m. , with your lunch and a drink, (and your bathers if it's shot!) Any newcomers are very welcome, -enquiries to Peg Lade -57969222. (Now walk if it's a Total Fire Ban Day)
1st March	HCC Executive Meeting Highlands Primary School 8pm
2nd March	Clean Up Australia Day for Highlands Primary School children and community members.
3rd & 4th March	Hi Arts Weekend, Highlands Hall. There will be excellent food, wine and beer. Saturday night BBQ will be on as usual with a dance band. A great weekend, tell your friends, get them up to stay the weekend

AN INTERVIEW WITH A LOCAL THE POND PROFESSOR.

Peter Graf has established a flourishing business in Highlands. He designs, builds and maintains ornamental land and garden ponds. Peter left his home in Ringwood at the age of 18. For 8 years he worked in a wide variety of jobs, ranging from labourer with a landscape gardener, garbage collector, sales assistant, a clerk in Social Security, fruit picking etc. As a mature age student, he then obtained a Diploma of Primary Teaching, paying his

way by a variety of casual jobs. He taught for 11 years, mainly in country schools and married Tricia, who is now a nurse at the Yea Hospital, and they have 4 gorgeous children. Peter and Tricia searched for a block of land for 8 years, until they found a suitable place with 2 creeks and a superb view, at Highlands. Peter then worked for a Graduate Diploma in Aquaculture before setting up his business. He breeds and grows aquatic and semi-aquatic plants, as well as native and exotic fish. Peter's clients are mainly in the suburbs of Melbourne, -he originally advertised in the Yellow Pages and had articles

in Landscape magazines. His work is now sought after by architects as well as Landscape gardeners. A great deal of ingenuity and enterprise has been put into establishing this most unusual and successful business

BITS OF BOTANY AND BIRDS

Eucalypt Flowering.

One noticeable feature of a drought, such as at present, is the profuse flowering of some Eucalypts. In November and December, first the Broad-leaved Peppermint (*Eucalyptus dives*), then

the Narrow-leaved Peppermint (*Eucalyptus radiata*) were absolutely covered in blossoms. Now, it is the turn of the Messmate (*Eucalyptus obliqua*). So, if you don't recognize a Messmate, look for a medium to tall tree, with a fairly dense foliage of dark, glossy leaves. A fibrous, stringy bark

and covered in creamy white blossom. Let's hope that all this botanical urge to reproduce will result in lots of young seedlings, especially if they can be fenced off from grazing. In nearly days, *Eucalyptus obliqua* was the very first eucalypt to be botanically described by the British Museum. _

Highlands CFA

In response to more requests as to how does one wash those bright yellow overalls I'll revise last year's suggestions from Region 12 H.Q. On arrival home from a fire, soak in cold water to remove most of the dust and ash. Then wash them in warm to hotish wash with Napisan (for preference) or any liquid detergent. Do not use soap powder, as the granules are fat based and can lodge in the weave of the fabric

and become flammable. If you have already washed these overalls with soap (and who hasn't?) then yes the fire retardant qualities will have been affected, but then they diminish over time anyway. The reflective strips also get damaged if you use boiling hot water or dry clean them. The fact that one label says you can dry clean them only adds to the confusion. Mind you I'd definitely give the dry cleaning a miss as don't they tend to use solvents

that are flammable? And if you are thinking of leaving your overalls like Steve Waugh's baggy green, unwashed for life, that's not such a great idea either as leaving the carbon in the material also accelerates deterioration. One final thing don't forget to wear all cotton, and that includes jocks and socks, underneath your now parking clean, fat-free overalls and you should be as fire resistant as possible.

By Pauline Roberts

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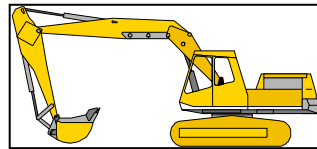
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