

The Granite News

Ruffy
Caveat
Highlands
Terip Terip
Hughes Creek
Whiteheads Creek

People and Places Interview with an international visitor, Mr. S.CLAUS.

It is truly amazing the number of people who pass through Highlands from such diverse backgrounds.

Sometimes they are just lost, but nevertheless, enjoy the tranquility of our area.

One warm evening recently, I had been looking at the bog and dam just below our house when I heard an almighty splash and a thump! This startled off the birds and even the frogs and crickets fell silent.

Amongst the swampy reeds and ti-tree I saw someone I haven't seen for many years, so was thrilled to find out that he was still fit and travelling around. This elderly man, with a large white beard and very round stomach was nursing his head after a crash landing in our bog! Fortunately there was no real damage to the mosses and marsh plants, nor were there injuries to our old friend.

His helpers were very busy trying to repair the broken vehicle, whilst the rather battered reindeer munched on some sphagnum moss (Oh yes!) They were all so much smaller than I recall. My old friend Mr. Claus told me how wonderful it was to pass by Highlands, Ruffy, Terip and Whiteheads Creek and to see how well people were, despite the drought, and how much they were willing to do for one another.

He was so impressed he said he would be sure to return later in December, this time with a better sleigh, so as not to risk his life, his helpers or the frogs in my bog!

After they fixed up the old machine, they set off for Strathbogie, but not before I gave them some carrots, a nip of whisky (better not tell Dough how much!) and some fresh shortbread.

I can't wait to have them all visit soon, so will be watching the night skies all December. It just shows what happens when you least expect it, and how it is such simple joy.

Happy stargazing and Merry Christmas. (by Sammy Strong, for Peg Lade)

FREE V/LINE TRAVEL CHRISTMAS, NEW YEAR'S EVE

TRAVEL on V/Line train and coach services will be free on Christmas Day and New Year's Eve this year.

Travel on metropolitan trains, trams and buses will be free all day and night on December 25 and from 6pm on December 31 until the first timetable services resume on January 1, 2008.

V/Line will operate a special public holiday timetable on Christmas Day. Passengers are encouraged to visit vline.com.au for full details or call 136196.

The following timetable arrangements will apply to V/Line services over the festive period:

Monday 24 December, Christmas Eve – Normal Monday train and coach services will operate.

Tuesday 25 December, Christmas Day – Free travel is offered all day, with a special Christmas Day timetable in operation.

Wednesday 26 December, Boxing Day – Public holiday timetable will apply. Similar to a Saturday timetable but with additional and altered coaches. Thursday 27 to Sunday 30 December – Normal services will operate.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO JOIN A COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT FOR THE NEW HIGHLANDS ARBORETUM

You don't have to be an expert to join this committee, you just need to share an interest in protecting and promoting our indigenous plants.

Next year we will be developing the area and planting. We have funding to visit the Cranbourne Botanic Gardens to see how they have presented plants. This is a very exciting project. We have received funding to establish the arboretum but need an active committee to ensure it continues into the future. Ring Miranda if you are interested or would like more information. PH57969261

Volume 1, Issue 43
17th December, 2007

Fire restrictions are NOW in force.

WELCOME TO ISSUE NO.43

This is the last edition of
The Granite News
for 2007.

It will return when school goes back in
2008.

Many thanks to Peg Lade, Jan Gardner, Mavis Cook and all our friends who have helped fold on a Thursday night.

If you wish to advertise on the back of TGN next year (this pays for the printing) then please contact me by email miranda@activ8.net.au. There are 15 places available next year and it will be a case of whoever gets in first. The cost is \$150 plus GST, \$165.00. TGN goes to more than 360 households 40 times in the year so it is very cheap advertising. Don't send money yet as the school needs to send you an invoice first.

Thank you everyone for all your positive feedback and encouragement this year - Merry Christmas, from Miranda

NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Congratulations to Kelly Petersen who found 78 words using only the letters from the word Christmas

TAKING 2008 ENROLMENTS NOW

Phone Allyson on 57969208

'I am so grateful to have found Highlands Primary School, and feel my children are very fortunate to have had such a great start to their educational career.' Satisfied parent.

HIGHLANDS CAVEAT CFA

Just a message to advise any Highlands/Caveat firefighters who are on leave at any stage over the school holiday to advise Sharon Shaw 0357904297 asshaw@activ8.net.au or their lieutenants in case of a fire.

Classifieds & Community Notices

RABBITS AND CHEMICALS

Organize your ripping hours and chemical orders now. There is a maximum of 80 ripping hours per landowner for which Landcare provides a 50% subsidy. Chemicals include Brush Off, Wet-ter and Round Up. Ring Miranda asap

HOUSE WANTED

A single lady is seeking a home to rent. Need not be fancy but the Highlands Seymour general area would be great. Must be reasonably cheap - may be a second house on a property? No stock, one polited dog. Contact Lyn Bradbury on 57969103 with offers or suggestions.

NO EXERCISE CLASS

Exercise classes will resume again in the Highlands shall after the Christmas school holidays.

Willow Removal

HCCC will organize a small willow removal program next year. Priority will be given to waterways at the top end of the catchment, where the problem starts. If you would like to be included, please send me your details including a rough estimate of the size of the problem and a map, thanks Miranda

SCRAPBOOKING

Interested in scrapbooking for a day? I would be happy to hold a class during the school holidays for adults and children. Call Ali AH 57904126 before Christmas so we can organize a date and venue.

REWARD

For Stolen 'Game' Camera

Stolen: a Moultrie 'game' camera from our property located off Switzerland Ranges Flora Reserve. Two trail bike riders seen on property in August/Sept. whom maybe able to assist us. One bike with conspicuous yellow mudguards and trim, the other mainly black or dark trim. The camera is about the size of a shoe box and has a camouflage outer colouring. A reward offered for information on the above trail bike riders and/or the return of the camera (no questions asked). Phone 0412521228.

Community New Years Eve party at The Shaws

Starting 5pm onwards, BYO everything, BBQ's supplied. Venue 160 Gums Road CAVEAT

BITS OF BOTANY AND BIRDS

XANTHORRHOEAMINOR or Small Grass Tree, is flowering spectacularly in Lade Road, Highlands, at the moment. It is a large tussock, the multi-stemmed trunk is underground, unlike the well known Austral Grass Tree, which can have a very thick and tall trunk.

The Small Grass Tree has long, showy flower spikes, and it can be grown in gardens. It is often stimulated to send up these spikes after fire, but that is not the case here.

Traditionally, the nectar producing flowers were used to make a sweet drink with water, and the straight flower spikes were used to make spears.

The Small Grass Tree is not listed in the Goulburn - Broken Catchment Revegetation Guide, so maybe it is not common in our area.



Highland Arts Experience

Hi Arts Exhibition and Festival 2008

The Hi Arts Committee are preparing for their 2008 Exhibition which will again be held at the Highlands Hall in March 2008.

The 2007 Exhibition was a great success with exhibitors from far and wide across all mediums.

The Committee would like to invite you to exhibit again in their successful Exhibition which will take place 1st and 2nd March 2008.

We look forward to you exhibiting with us and to receiving a completed Notice of Intention to Exhibit 2008, and entry fee by Friday 25th January to:

Hi Arts Committee, RMB 4665 HIGHLANDS VIC 3660 Please refer to our website at www.hiarts.org for the Notice of Intention to Exhibit 2008, Artist's Profile and Guidelines for Exhibitors for details and conditions of entry.

LOST AND FOUND

Found wandering along Old Saleyard Lane several weeks ago by Isabel and Staci. Now relocated and living very happily at Peg and Doug Lades "Loch Tannar"

Eastern Long Neck Tortoise
The most common of Australia's 25 species of tortoise is the long-necked or snake-necked turtle *Chelodina longicollis*. The 'stinker' as it is often called is something of a passion for Canberra University's Professor Arthur Georges. "You see people picking them up off the side of the road after a big rain. They drive about 40m, then suddenly pull up and the turtle is hastily removed from the car," he laughs.
From Alistair Lade



BABYSITTING

If anyone needs a babysitter these holidays please give me a ring. I'm not there for all the time but try me.

Harriet Yorston
PH 57969261
Mobile 0438567648

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ESCAPED

TWO black sheep from a property in Caveat. Please contact Sylvia if you have seen them 0417101614.

Community What's On Calendar—December/January

Weekbeg 17th December	Terip Terip mowing roster Jim & Jill Davidson Les & Sonia Sloan Around Clubhouse and all 4 courts
Saturday 22nd December	Cricket match Ruffy VS Highlands at Ruffy Recreational Ground 3pm start. BBQ following. BYO everything
24th December	Christmas Eve Church Service A Church Service will again be held in the Caveat Church at 5.00pm on Christmas Eve. All are welcome. It will take the form of the telling of the Christmas Story together with carols singing.
Friday 4th January	1st Friday BBQ at the Ruffy Produce Store. Remember to book so they can have enough tucker.
Saturday January 5, 2008	Terip Terip Annual Tennis Tournament from 10am Enquiries Helen McKenzie 57904211 or Cindy Hayes 57904226
22ND FEBRUARY	After a wonderful 20 years celebration the Whiteheads Creek Landcare group will launch into the new year with an informative talk on the Bush Curlew by Susan Sleight at 7.30pm at the Whiteheads Creek Hall. Everyone is welcome.
25th January, 2008	Hi Arts, Notice of Intention to Exhibit and Artist Profile into Hi Arts Committee RMB4665 HIGHLANDS VIC3660
1st & 2nd March, 2008	Hi Arts Exhibition and Festival 2008, Highlands Community Hall

NOTES ON ECHIDNAS

Echidnas, or spiny anteaters as they are sometimes known, are monotremes (mammals that lay eggs). There are only three species of monotreme in the world - the platypus and two species of echidna, one of which is restricted to the New Guinea highlands.

They have many features which are reptilian in nature such as egg laying, legs that extend outward then downward, and a lower body temperature than other mammals.

Two weeks after they mate in the period from June to September, a single rubbery-skinned egg is laid directly into a small backward-facing pouch which has developed in the female.

After 10 days the egg hatches and the young remains in the pouch. During the following period of lactation the female spends most of her time in a burrow but will leave the young behind, covered with soil or wood fibre, to go foraging. Juveniles are eventually ejected from

the pouch at around 2-3 months of age due to the continuing growth of their spines (ouch!).

The Echidna is relatively common and widespread in areas of the Goulburn Broken Catchment that have good native vegetation cover.

Echidna spines are very sharp and can cause local infection so it is best not to try to pick them up without protection.

They often break their snouts when dropped so if an echidna is injured or in danger and has to be handled, the best method is to place it in a sack or plastic garbage bin.

If there are Echidnas in your area it is a good idea to leave gaps under fences where possible. This will allow them to roam freely when feeding.

Believe it or not, Echidnas are good swimmers, paddling about with only the snout and a few spines showing.

2006 Maygars Hill Shiraz Judged Best Wine at the 2007 Strathbogie Ranges Wine Show

The consistent award-winning wines of the Maygars Hill vineyard of Longwood East, continued this format at the 2007 Strathbogie Ranges Wine Show, held last Friday at Ruffy with the 2006 Shiraz winning a Gold Medal, the Best Red Wine Trophy and the Best Wine of Show Trophy.

The Best White Wine of the Show, the 2004 Elgo Estate Riesling received the second highest score at the Show and was described as having "attractive lime juice aromas and flavours, with good length and balance".

Friday night saw the Wine Show Dinner held at the Ruffy Public Hall, where award-winning wines from previous shows accompanied an excellent meal prepared by Strathbogie Ranges Wine Region sponsor Ruffy Produce Store.

James Halliday did not see the importance of having to possibly adapt grape growing practices in the region with the possibility of lower rainfall and higher average temperatures. We would like to thank the Strathbogie Shire Council, Cork Supply Australia, Graphix Labels, Landmark Euroa, Vinvicta Products and the Ruffy Produce Store for their support.

By Cameron Atkins



The Granite News acknowledges the following sponsors.

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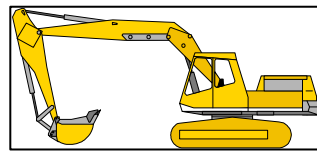
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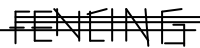
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