



# THE GRANITE NEWS

WHITEHEADS CREEK • TERIP TERIP • CAVEAT • RUFFY • HIGHLANDS • HUGHES CREEK

JANUARY 21, 2008

VOLUME 2

ISSUE 1

## PEOPLE and PLACES.

TARCOMBE (originally known as the "Vale of Tempe") was a pastoral run on Hughes Creek, the first squatter controlling about 40,000 acres in 1841.

In the early days there were many disputes about boundaries, one notable one being between Thomas Webster of Dropmore, and F. J. Bury of Tarcombe. Eventually, Surveyor's Creek (runs into Hughes Creek downstream of Dropmore), was agreed to be the boundary.

In the early days, the difficult access was from Avenel (via the Wicked Hill) or from Longwood, and the property which was now much smaller, changed hands many times. Some names were Budd, Adams, Finley, Kong-Meng, and in 1903 Roderick Ferguson acquired it. By 1914 drought and rabbits had taken over and he left. One owner in the 1930s and 40s, a Mr Parker Adams, was reputed to be a "good rabbit man" and he got things more under control.

In 1955, Gilbert Hayes bought the property from Lachie Little (Ronnie and Malcolm's father) and a Mr Le Roux. It was then 2900 acres and 1100 acres was added when part of Habbies How was sold in 1980.

A Post Office was established at Tarcombe homestead in 1887 and it continued until 1943. Some names of postmasters were Finlay, McIntyre, Jaeger, James Chisholm, Mrs Reynolds, Moore, Buick, Scott, Bunting, Frank Tubbs and Earl. The mail was conveyed from Longwood by horse drawn vehicle, and in Frank Tubbs's day there were 14 gates to open.

The nearest school was the Hughes Creek, or Tarcombe, school at Bungle Boori, which opened in 1884, closed from 1915 to 1925, and finally closed for good in 1943.

The present owner, Gilbert's son Robert, was 4 years old when he came to Tarcombe, and he says there were 7 gates to get to Euroa, and 6 or 7 to get to Seymour. His early schooling was by correspondence, until a school bus started to the Ruffys school. Rob hated being sent to Haileybury College in Melbourne as a boarder, for his secondary schooling, as he always wanted to run the property, and saw no sense in anything else!

In 1972, Rob married Jan Bain, whose father worked at Habbies How for many years. They built a solid new house, designed by David Underwood (then of Highlands) with beautiful granite rockwork by Howard Mitchell.

Jan and Rob brought up 2 daughters (one now a vet and one an Ag. Scientist) and a son, Tim, who lives with his wife, Cindy, and a daughter Bridie, at "Temagong", Terip, but works at Tarcombe most of the time.

Gilbert (who died in 1998) set up a very successful Hereford stud and a large flock of medium-wool Merinos, these being constantly improved by Rob. This year, for the first time, there will be a noon-property bulls sale, and bulls will be sold privately.

Rob and Jan work very hard to maintain and improve a very beautiful, but often difficult property. They have planted thousands of trees, are sometimes disheartened by failures, but intend to continue, and they get great pleasure from family encouragement and support. By Peg Lade

## NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Welcome Back

The time has arrived for yet another exciting year at Highlands Primary School. We acknowledge our returning students Year 6: Michael, Jack and Kelly, Year 5: Daniel, Year 4: Laura, Cuchulainn, Kassie and Imogen, Year 3: Jarrad, Year 2: John and Walter, Year 1: Kendall and Emilie. We would like to welcome Lauchlan in Year 1 and our Preps: James, Rick, Kaylam and Kristal.

### 2008 Term Dates

Term 1 - Tuesday Jan 29th to Thursday March 20th  
Term 2 - Monday April 7th to Friday June 27th  
Term 3 - Monday July 14th to Friday September 19th  
Term 4 - Monday October 6th to Friday December 19th

## Fire restrictions are NOW in force.

### WELCOME TO ISSUE NO.1

I hope everyone is feeling rested and refreshed after the break and that delicious rain.

The Granite News will be printed on a Wednesday this year and delivered on Thursdays and Fridays.

Mavis Cook, from Ruffy, is coordinating the folding of the newsletters for the Ruffy - Terip area. If you live in that area and would like to help please ring Mavis on PH57904007. Mavis will be collecting the newsletters from Highlands Primary School each Wednesday as she listens to children reading on that day so you won't need to drive all the way to Highlands.

People have asked when is the deadline for articles. Because there is always more to put in than there is room to print it, it works on a first in claim the spots so don't delay, if you have something to be included, send it to me as soon as you can.

Jon has done TGN heading as a temporary measure as there was no clear winner last year. Please send in your headings and I will run them for 4 weeks to give readers a chance to think about which one they prefer.

[miranda@activ8.net.au](mailto:miranda@activ8.net.au)

### Staffing

Our wonderful staff has remained relatively similar to the end of Term 4 2007.

The following arrangements are set in place at least for Term 1:

Mon- Allyson and Di  
Tues- MACC/MARC, Allyson and Di  
Wed- Allyson and Peter (volunteering)  
Thur- Allyson, Miranda and Kerry Hogan  
Fri- Allyson and Miranda

# Classifieds & Community Notices

## 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 – maybe a second house on a property? No stock, one polite dog. Contact Lyn Bradbury on 57969103 with offers or suggestions.

## 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 local plants.

This year we will be developing the area donated by Peg and Doug Lade and beginning the planting. We have funding to visit the Cranbourne Botanic Garden to see how they have presented plants. While we have received funding to establish the arboretum we still need an active committee to ensure it continues into the future.

Ring Miranda if you are interested or would like more information. PH 57969261, Thank you to Greg Young, Scott McKay and Peg Lade who have already offered to join the group.

## 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 to:

Hi Arts Committee, RMB4665 HIGHLANDS VIC 3660

Please refer to our website at [www.hiarts.org](http://www.hiarts.org) for the Notice of Intention to Exhibit 2008, Artist's Profile and Guidelines for Exhibitors for details

**Plastic dog kennel free; phone Leone on 57969290**

## BITS OF BOTANY AND BIRDS

### AUSTRALASIAN GREBE.

This is a small waterbird, which lives on many established dams with good vegetation round the edges. At the slightest hint of danger, it will disappear beneath the surface of the water, to reappear often some distance away. It builds a floating nest of reeds and grasses, and when there are eggs, it will rapidly cover them with vegetation and disappear as 'quick as a flash'. When the young hatch, they can swim immediately, and escape from danger by ducking under a parent's wing.



## 2008 1080 campaign

Everyone who regularly uses 1080 poison baits will be aware of the changes in the way 1080 will be available to users from now on. Accredited landholders will be able to purchase their baits directly from these commercial outlets accredited to supply S7 chemicals.

Landmark Alexandra 57723110

Peter Davis Rural Benalla 57626522

Rodwells Mansfield 57751588

The landcare group will endeavour to find a supply of guaranteed weed free & sterile, un-poisoned oat to distribute to members as free feeds prior to poisoning. Contact Miranda 57969261

Ideally baits should be laid in a freshly turned furrow when no 'green pick' is available for rabbits to eat in the paddocks. This could prove difficult this season, all the rain we are getting is keeping the native grasses green!

By Janet Hagen

## Sporting Shooters Association Australia (Vic Branch)

Sporting Shooters Association's Conservation & Wildlife Management Program

The Sporting Shooters Association of Australia's (SSAA) Conservation & Wildlife Management (CWM) program is being offered to landholders to help control pest animals such as foxes, rabbits, wild cats and dogs, pigs, and goats in National Parks, State Forests, and private landholdings. Both DSE and DPI have used the SSAA's CWM program over a number of years as an effective management tool. SSAA are willing to offer the same service to groups of private land managers and other adjoining public land managers to control pest animals. It is not the SSAA's intention to replace an integrated approach to pest animal management, but to make extra resources available to groups of landholders undertaking control programs. In late December 2007, each Landcare group received a copy of the SSAA's service offer to landholder groups.

SSAA CWM team members:

all carry \$10M public liability insurance

abide by the Association's rigorous code of ethics

are trained and accredited under the SSAA's humane, fire arms accuracy and safety provisions

work under supervision of fringers and other land managers

are experienced in getting the best possible outcomes for land managers

More information or to book a CWM team: contact: Colin Wood (Manager - Hunting & Conservation SSAA), tel: 88922777

## Food Tip from Ruffy Store

Australian sardines, unlike their sad, undernourished European cousins squeezed into a tin are fresh, big, plentiful and cheap.

The main catch is in the cooler months between March and November.

The Cook's tip for boning fresh sardines is to cut them down the centre then 'butterfly' open and lay flat, skin side up.

Roll with a rolling pin then remove the spine and bone easily. The Chef was impressed.

## Community What's On Calendar—January/February/March

Weekbeg 28th January	Terip Terip mowing roster Brian & Gail Van Rooyen George and Trish Uden Carpark and all 4 courts Highlands-Caveat CFARoster Crew C
Saturday 2nd February	Working Bee at the Highlands Community Hall. Beat the heat & join the Hall Committee for a cooked breakfast at 7am before we install our new outdoor furniture, return the court fence following resurfacing, prepare the main hall for a coat of paint, & generally clean up the grounds.
<b>Tuesday 5 February</b>	2.00pm at the Salvation Army Hall, Seymour The Melting Pot series of talks are conducted by the Seymour & District University of the Third Age and are held on the first Tuesday of every month. Dr Cordero will be talking about how the food system affects climate change and how climate change will affect food choices. See insert for more details.
Sunday 10th Feb	Highlands Caveat CFA general meeting to be held on at the hall at 10.30am. All welcome especially weekenders.
<b>15-17 February 2008</b>	Sustainable Living Festival - Melbourne Where: Federation Square, Melbourne Details: the Sustainable Living Festival showcases a huge range of exhibitors, talks, workshops, art, films and performances celebrating and inspiring sustainable communities. Explore the Festival's three -day program in Melbourne and be a part of the celebrations. More information: goto <a href="http://www.slf.org.au/festival/tel:92491888">http://www.slf.org.au/festival/tel:92491888</a> , or email: <a href="mailto:info@festival.slf.org.au">info@festival.slf.org.au</a>
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. Last year was fantastic.
Saturday 23rd February	The Black Market [low kilometre produce], 10am - 12pm the last Saturday of each month. The 23rd February is the first stone for 2008. If you'd like to know more, call Candi (57969366) or Leone (57969290). Please come with any extra eggs, fruit or home made anything that you'd like to swap or sell. Brian and Jessica's summer garden now has some organic veggies available - 57992197 to order - pickup at the Black Market or by other arrangement.
1 & 2nd March	Hi Arts Exhibition and Festival 2008, Highlands Community Hall
March 1st - 2nd	PAINTINGS 1977 - 1983 The local community are cordially invited to an exhibition of paintings by Dennis Spiteri. The paintings can be seen at the artist's 'Hillcrest' studio/gallery in the Highlands in conjunction with the Hi Art exhibition in the Highlands hall. The gallery will be open to the public on the weekend of March 1st from 9am to 5pm. The exhibition will continue until 30th March, and can be seen by appointment during that time. Telephone: 57969373
21st March (Good Friday) to 27th April 2008.	<b>Monkey Tail Collection 2. A closer look at Australian Wildlife.</b> New drawings, paintings and sculptures by J. Darren Gilbert at Ruffy Produce Store 26 Nolans Road Ruffy Central Victoria 3666. Open weekends and public holidays 8am until 6pm, Friday lunch (03) 57904387 <a href="http://www.ruffystore.com">www.ruffystore.com</a>

### News from the Ruffy Store

The great excavation out the back is neither a helipad nor the site for a tractor field day but perfect for a marquee.

We have cordoned off a corner of the paddock next door and leveled a reasonable sized area overlooking paddocks with granite outcrops and glorious distance, settings and all that stuff. Possible uses for the leveled off corner of a paddock are numerous; a petanque piste or boccerink, a concert venue, a backyard cricket pitch with a couple of beers or, just a good spot to sit back and soak up the scenery.

It would be an amazing placetohave a wedding –with the appearance of being in the middle of nowhere but the reassurance of the Ruffy Store just a hop over the hedge.

### Rabbits with scabby faces

Neil Nagle from Granite hills road recently reported finding rabbits with scabs and lesions on their faces around their mouths and noses. Being concerned that these rabbits could have caught a new disease which might spread to other animals, Neil contacted the Department of Primary Industry animal health officer in Seymour. He was advised that these were scars resulting from fighting with other rabbits. Apparently at this time of years rabbits fight over the ownership of warrens!

Speaking of fighting over warrens, a new excavator equipped to do rabbit control warren ripping will soon be arriving in the catchment. Michael Kopanica is planning for his retirement from Land Vic & Land for Wildlife by embarking on a new career as a land moving contractor. That should clear the backlog of warren ripping work in the district. If you have warren ripping and harbour removal work to be done on your property contact the land care coordinator, Miranda Yorston, to order subsidized hours then the contractor of your choice:

Andrew Shaw 0427969297 Highlands

John Furlanetto 0427344956 Ruffy

Michael Kopanica 57904235 Caveat

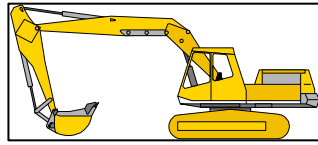
By Janet Hagen

Rocky  
Passes



CellardooropenSundays11am -4pm  
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Saturday8amto4pm**

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