



# THE GRANITE NEWS

MARCH 3RD 2008

VOLUME 2

ISSUE 6

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

## PEOPLE and PLACES

### GAIL and BRIAN VAN ROOYEN

#### “LAKITHI”, TERIP TERIP

One of the most beautiful homes and gardens in the district has been established by Gail and Brian van Rooyen over the last 8 years.

They looked at a great many areas before deciding on 320 acres at the headwaters of Hughes Creek. The district appealed primarily for its wonderful water, undulating country, the climate and seclusion without isolation, and they wanted to start from scratch with their own ideas for house and garden.

David Underwood, then of Highlands, was the architect and Gail had to be quite firm with him to use her own vision! The result is a superb long low dwelling with lovely wide verandahs, and built of man-made “sandstone” blocks, which will age gracefully with the surrounding granite.

Howard Mitchell's stonewalls and terraces are the backbone of the 5 acre garden, with earthworks by John Furlanetto, building by Doug Watson and once again, Gail's artistic ability and botanical knowledge have been used to create a truly stunning effect.. Gail has been a passionate gardener all her life, and having come from South Africa 21 years ago, she was seduced by Melbourne gardens after the sub-tropical climate of Durban.

Both Gail and Brian are from farming stock from Northern Zululand in South Africa, where they had a deep connection with the Zulu people, both being fluent Zulu linguists.

Gail's grandmother was from Wales, and grandfather from Scotland, but Brian's forebears were Flemish, -if you go back several centuries!.

This property is named “Lakithi” which means “Our Place” in Zulu, and now runs black Angus cattle.

Gail and Brian met in Durban in 1965, married in 1968, and had 4 children. In 1986 Brian was approached by a company in Australia to become the CEO and run its Australian textile operation.

South Africa was politically very difficult, and the future for their children was questionable, so they decided to take on the firm in Australia, and emigrated.

They found Australia a comfortable and secure place to be. Their 3 sons all went to school in Melbourne, but only one, Jonathan, has married and Aussie and still lives in Melbourne. Grant is in Denver, Guy in Cincinnati, while their daughter, Tamlyn, lives in London, and between them all, there are 7 grandchildren. Brian has retired from his firm, and is now Deputy Chairman of Australian Wool Innovations, as well as serving on a number of other boards. This involves quite a lot of international business travel, especially to China. They both travel frequently to visit family, and the greatest joy is when the family all come to Terip Terip.

By Peg Lade

## NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Student of the week Award



Congratulations to Kassie Shaw for her outstanding result in her tables test. Just goes to show that practice does pay!

### Foodworks Reminder:

A reminder for families and community members that when shopping at Foodworks to please allocate your point to HPS with the number 642!

#### Seniors

Tables: Kassie, Laura, Imogen,  
Spelling: Kelly, Jack, Imogen  
Home Learning: Jarrad, Kelly  
Juniors  
Spelling: John, Walter  
Reading: Kendall, Lachie  
Counting: Begins term 2 for Preps  
Tables: Lachie, John  
Home Learning: Kendall

### Controlled Burns

Over the next few weeks, weather depending, DSE will be organizing some controlled burns in their forestry areas. This of course will mean an obvious smoke haze across the surrounding area. If any fire-fighting members are interested in furthering their skills by attending these burns, contact Region 12 HQ -57991517 - for proposed dates and details.

## WEDGE TAILED EAGLES ARE BEING KILLED IN HIGHLANDS

It is with great sadness and distress that we write about these magnificent birds being deliberately killed.

At least seven carcasses have been found over the past 12 months, possibly more. We need to act to stop this as soon as possible.

**If you have found a carcass in the last year please ring Greg Chant, Wildlife Officer on PH 57611611 with as exact a position and date as possible.**

If poisoned, the eagle usually dies close to the source of the poison, depending on the strength of the poison.

If you find a fresh carcass, put it **straight** in the freezer, mark the spot where you found it and ring Greg. He will collect the bird and test it to establish the exact cause of death.

This is treated as a very serious crime with \$12,000 fine per bird or 12 months jail for both.

Traditionally, the culprits have been sheep farmers poisoning at the time of lambing but fortunately most people are now better educated and understand the value and appreciate the beauty of these magnificent birds.

Below is a photo of a dead eagle found on Greg and Lyn Young's land.

Greg said “Both Lyn and I are deeply distressed to learn of the eagles' deaths. We love watching them flying past our house and they are an important part of our lives and our pleasure”



### RAINFALL for FEBRUARY.

The month started with good falls, but now the green grass is disappearing very fast. Highlands had 34.4mm for February, Terip Terip's total unavailable.

# Classifieds & Community Notices

## A Sad Message for our Highlanders

Our much missed neighbour, Del Carew died on the 19th February 2008 in St. Vincent's Hospital. She had been unwell for almost two years. Del loved living in Highlands. She always said it was the happiest time of her life. She loved the animals and birds, her cottage garden, Staffy, the Staffordshire terrier and the house which she and Gilbert so tastefully created.

Never forgotten, Neil and Margaret Nagle and friends

## A Note from Frances Smythe in Tasmania

Del looked after my boys when we needed a babysitter and the boys loved her. Alister was most impressed one day when she sewed up a hole in his socks!

She was a very gentle person with a very keen interest and strong thoughts about many things, particularly nature. She has a lovely family we were lucky enough to be invited to her house for morning tea to meet her sons, their wives and her grandchildren. She was very proud of her children and rightly so, they possessed the very same gentility that was Del.

## For Sale

Dressed Free Range Turkeys  
\$12 per kilo 2 -4kg birds  
Contact Marj Leigh 57904298



Who would like to suggest a caption for this gorgeous photo?

## BITS OF BOTANY AND BIRDS

CALTRIX TETRAGONA  
(Common Fringe Myrtle)

A heathy, variable shrub, which can grow to 2m, especially in rocky places. It has white to pink star-like flowers, which are a food source for moths, butterflies and other insects. It grows well in gardens and rockeries and is easily propagated from cuttings, but not so easily from seed. Although it is common around Highlands, it is fairly widespread in other areas.



## Caveat Church Meeting

A meeting is to be held at the Caveat Church on Wednesday 12th March 2008 at 7.30PM.

On behalf of the community the HCCC (Landcare) has leased the Church at Caveat to:

- Restore and refurbish the building and associated structures.
- Landscaping the grounds.
- Rebuild the boundary fence.

The church will be available for weddings, christening, funerals, parties, meetings, ALMOST ANYTHING.

The aim of the meeting is: To update the community on what has happened so far and where we are at. To elect an autonomous committee to administer the Church for the lessee (HCCC)

Set out the plan for the restoration. Set in motion funding applications. Anyone who is interested is most welcome and invited to attend. If you can't make it but you are interested please make interest known to Scott McKay 57969260. Please contact anyone who has had a past association with the Caveat Church and invite them along.

**November 7th 8th 9th Ruffly Art Show Entries wanted 5790 4318**

## Why Landcare?

Have you seen:

- Creek lines choked with willows and other weed species
- The beginnings of soil erosion on slopes
- Rabbits and foxes having an impact on farmland and stock
- Gorse, blackberries and other weeds spreading
- Salinity – reducing farm productivity & having an impact on water quality
- Native vegetation under threat
- Native birds and animals disappearing

Landcare Groups can help mitigate these problems by providing valuable support to individual landholders and local communities. Landcare is about community members coming together to identify and collectively tackle environmental problems. It is also about assisting landholders get the most from their land, maximising productivity, whilst ensuring sustainability. The support and assistance that Landcare Groups can provide takes many forms – knowledge, advice, grants and incentives, resources (e.g. planting equipment), and innovative programs and projects.

Contact Janet Hagen PH 57904268 to find out which local Landcare group you should join.

## CAE Reading Suggestion

Theft: A Love Story by Peter Carey  
From the humble backwater town of Bacchus Marsh via cosmopolitan Manhattan and Sydney to the bright neon lights of Tokyo, Carey takes us on a rollicking and madcap ride. Narrated in turn by Michael 'Butcher Bones' Boone, an ex-con, once famous artist and his idiot-savant brother Hugh 'Slow Bones' Boone, a tale of vivid colours and poetic injustice is marked up, torn apart, bought and sold. A love interest in the form of femme fatale Marlene brings a mix of trickery and beauty – you never really know what is real and what is an illusion. Theft: A Love Story won the NSW and Victorian Premier's Awards and was shortlisted for the 2007 Miles Franklin Award.

## For Sale

Guinea Fowl \$15 @

Goats 4 - 6 months sold \$50 @

Phone Rayon 57904382 after dark or 57921417 and leave a message

## Community What's On Calendar—March/April/May

Weekbeg3rd March	TeripTeripmowingrosterTimandFrancesLawrenceJohnandLuCraven BothsidesofSpringsRoadandall4courts Highlands-CaveatCFARosterCrewB
LabourDay weekendMarch 10th	BUSHMARKETatGoulburnPark.Lotsfstallsandentertainment -alongsidethegreatduckrace,carnival, musicalentertainment,foodanddrinksstallsand manyother differenttypesofmerchandise, Entry\$2under16free.
SATURDAY 15THMARCH	TERIPTEIPCOMMUNITYBBQATHERECRESERVE 6pmforsherriesandnibblesMeatsupplied.BYOdrinksandglass\$15perperson\$5forschoolchildren PleasebringasaladordessertRSVPLuCraven57904011FrancesLawrence0432324929
March17th	RuffyHallCommitteeElection8pm
20th –28th March	<b>Monkey Tail Collection 2. A closer look at Australian Wildlife.</b> Newdrawings,paintingsandsculpturesbyJ.DarrenGilbert.atRuffyProduceStore26NolansRoadRuffy CentralVictoria3666.Openweekendsandpublicholidays8amuntil6pm,fridaylunch(03)57904387 www.ruffystore.com
20thMarch	HCRFBGeneralmeeting7.30pmatthehall,allwelcome.
27thMarch	LastThursdayofthemothBBQatCaveatchurch.BYOdrinksandenjoyasausagefor\$2andacatchup withfriendsandneighbours.
Saturday29th March	Atlast...theFIRSTmeetingoftheHCRFBJuniorBrigadememberswillbeheldonmiddayatthefireshed.If anyoneaged11 -16,whohasnotalreadyregistered,isinterestedinbecomingajuniormemberofthebrigade pleasecontacttheSecretary57969301forfurtherinformation.
Sunday30th March	HighlandsRamblersextnextwalkwillbefromAndrewShaw's,onGumRoad,throughbushonWoolshed Creek, andtoSprunt'sRoad.MeetasusualattheHighlandsHallat10.30orAndrewShaw'sfrontgateat 10.50.EnquiriesstoPegLade 57969222.,AndrewShawPH57904297
3rdApril	HCRFBExecutivemeeting7.30pm
5thApril	HCRFBnighttrainingexerciseonat8pm.FurtherdetailsTBA.
SaturdayApril 5th	6pmAutumnCommunityGatheringRuffyHallComealongandhelpusfarewelldaylightsavingandwelcome therain.FreeBBQtea.Bringasaladtoshare.Everybodywelcome
SundayApril 20th	4pmRuffArtZpresentsMatineeperformanceofCJDennis'GingerMickatGallipolibyPettyTraffickers CompanyintheRuffyHallBookings57904318
Thursday24th April	LastThursdayofthemothBBQatCaveatchurch.BYOdrinksandenjoyasausagefor\$2andacatchup withfriendsandneighbours.
SATURDAY 26THAPRIL	CARBOOTSALAEATTERIPTEIPRECREATIONRESERVEFROM10AMREFRESHMENTSANDLIGHT LUNCHAVAILABLE\$15CARBOOTORSMALLTRAILER\$20UTILITY\$25LARGE(TANDEM)TRAILER \$3TRESTLETABLEHIREComealongtosellofyourunwantedtreasures,orbuysomeoneelse'streasure!! FORINFORMATIONandBOOKINGSCONTACTTRISHUDEN -57904377LUCRAVEN -57904011
Saturday10th May	RuffArtZSeasonofSaturdayspresents -Dev'lishMary - oldtimey&westernswing 8.00pm,RuffyHall. ContactGlenon57904318fortickets(\$26ea.)orinformation.
Thursday22nd May	HCRFBGeneralmeeting7.30pmatthehallprecededbytheAGMandbiennialelectionofofficebearers,all welcome.

### LOCAL primary producers

andothermembersofthecommunity  
arebeingurgedtomakesubmissions  
totherecentlyannouncedinquiryinto  
grocerypricing.

TheMemberforSeymour,Ben  
HardmansaidtheAustralianGovern-  
mentdirectedtheAustralianCompeti-  
tionandConsumerCommissionto

inquireintothecompetitivenessof  
retailpricingforstandardgroceries.

“Thereareallegationthatpricerises  
atthecheckoutsofmajorgroceryre-  
tailersarenoreflectedatthefarm  
gate.”

Whenpricesfluctuateduetofactors  
thataffectsupply,suchasthecurrent  
drought,theallegationisthatretail

pricescanrisewhilefarmgate  
pricescanremainatlowerlevels.

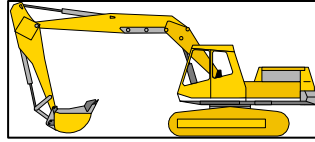
Writtensubmissionsaredueby11  
March.TheACCCwillalsohold  
publichearingsinselectedruraland  
regionalcentres.Detailsonmakinga  
submissionareavailableonthe  
ACCCwebsiteatwww.accc.gov.au  
orphone1300302502.

Rocky  
Passes



CellardooropenSundays11am -4pm  
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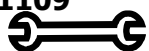


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