



THE GRANITE NEWS

MARCH 10TH 2008

VOLUME 2

ISSUE 7

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

People and Places

LEONIE GABRIELLE of Highlands, is one of four well-known, successful local artists, who have had an unusual and interesting life, with a wide variety of talents to her credit. She works in oils, pencils, sculpts in bronze, and has won awards at Tallarook and Yea, she easily sells her quirky creations.

From an early age, she has studied martial arts, particularly judo, and taught adults and children. She left school at 15, having found formal learning difficult, due to her dyslexia. This she regards as an asset as she has had to develop a remarkable memory. Her first job, as a teenager, was working as a Girl Friday for her father in his tool making and plastic engineering business. She saved her money, and travelled overseas in 1996 with her boyfriend, a pocket knife in her pack and her martial arts skills, she was ready for anything! They used local transport, or hitched rides, through SE Asia and Europe. In Austria and Italy, they went mountain climbing with minimal food and equipment, then to England.

In Sydney, Leonie worked in a print and painting gallery for 9 months, then country beckoned, and she got a job using her creative skills in workshops for the Play Group Association of NSW. Because she looked so young (she still does) she often had trouble with hire car people querying her age. During this time, she went to Bali, worked as an artists' model, and learnt a lot about art. She met her next partner, Shaun, at Lismore in NSW, they organized a Retreat Centre, and built and lived in a treehouse for 3 years. During this time, she attended a conference in Russia and Siberia, one of the things to do with well-being, on to Hawaii for Martial Arts, then home.

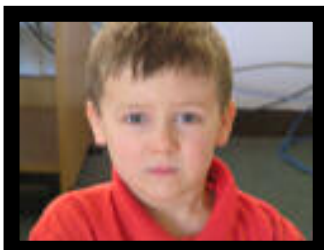
In 1999 they bought 165 acres at Highlands and had an immediate connection with the land and its rocks. A month's holiday in Mongolia with a girl friend was a highlight - lots of drawing, portraits, singing and language. Leonie and Shaun's son, Stohm, was born in the house they built at Highlands, the best day of her life, says Leonie.

Leonie helps creatively at the Highlands School, she started the local "Scribblers" group and local play group, is a co-founder of HIARTS, and does Harmonic singing sporadically.

What an asset for Highlands!

NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Student of the week Award



Congratulations to John Bennett for his amazing ability to read really long numbers like 3,399,559,977.

School Council Elections

Congratulations to Chris Bennett and Robyn Richards for their unopposed election to School Council for a 2 year term. 1 parent position still open on School Council - if you are interested please contact Allyson ASAP.

Magazines

We would really like some coloured magazines for our students to use for cutting and pasting. If you have any of these (please check for appropriate images) that you would like to donate, please drop them into the school mailbox.

Student Awards

Senior
Tables: Jarrad, Laura, Imogen, Cuchulainn, Kelly
Spelling: Jarrad, Kelly, Jack, Imogen
Home Learning: uchulainn
Junior Room
Spelling: John,
Reading: Great effort all round
Counting: Begin term 2 for Preps
Tables: John
Home Learning: Emilie

Easter raffle

Time is running out quickly to purchase tickets in the Highlands Primary School, Junior School Council Easter Raffle. Please call into the school to purchase your ticket before the raffle is drawn on Monday March 17th at 5:30pm. Tickets are 50c each and all money raised goes toward the Junior School Council.

Lost and Lonely Kitchen Ware: a few odds and sods left at the hall after the Christmas celebration now at HPS. Please call in and see if any of the items look familiar.

WELCOME TO ISSUE 7

Thank you to the community groups who are sending in dates set for the calendar. Thanks also to Mavis and her team of Ruffy folders. Highlanders, where are you? Phone 57969261 or miranda@activ8.net.au

This email arrived from a friend in Fresh Water Creek who receives TGN. "I would like to congratulate you on the wonderful job you and your community are doing with this most impressive publication. I am not familiar with the surroundings or the people, but I have found reading the information and hearing about local activities really enjoyable! It's great. It makes me want to move to Highlands! It is a truly exceptional example of how small things can make a big difference."

Thanks Claire

Native Grasses Field Day

This was held in Highlands on the 1st March and attended by 20 interested landowners from all over the Hughes Creek catchment.

Dr. Peter Mitchell was a very informative speaker. He explained that there are over 1200 different species of Australian native grasses. Native grasses have persisted well on most farms due to their persistence in acid and low fertility soils, a greater tolerance to a wider range of soil texture types, and drought and frost tolerance.

Encouraging native perennial grasses in existing pastures will have the benefit of improved ground cover and soil stability, weed competition with high persistence, low input grazing systems, increased water use to reduce groundwater recharge, improved soil structure and organic matter, reduced soil acidification rate and greater species diversity.

There's a lot of *Microlaenastipoides* (Weeping Grass) around at present. It's green throughout the year producing high quality feed. Have a look in your paddocks for it now.



Classifieds & Community Notices

BITS OF BOTANY AND BIRDS

The WEDGE TAILED EAGLE is well known to all of us, and is the faunal emblem of the Northern Territory. It is one of the largest eagles in the world, and is dark brown to black, the young being lighter. They have immensely sharp vision, and build huge stick nests with 2-3 eggs, but usually only one chick survives. The chicks are covered with a white down when hatched. Rabbits are the major food, also lizards, live birds, carrion, especially road kills, and a small % of lambs. They often hunt as a group, and an eagle can lift about 50% of its body weight. They are monogamous mate for life. They have been known to attack hang gliders, fixed wing aircraft and helicopters. Bounties used to be offered for dead eagles, and in 1968 in W.A., 147,237 were poisoned or shot. Indirect poisoning occurred through baits for foxes and dingoes, and pesticides. Now, they are totally protected.

As I write this, a Wedgie is perched on the dam bank near our house, and another has been sailing overhead. What a magnificent sight!

By Peg Lade.



Yea Preschool Centre

Your Framed Family Portrait for only \$10.00 (VALUED AT \$110.00)

Please help Fundraising effort on Saturday, 19 April 2008 Contact Debbie Redding on 57972710 to book your photographic session

Payment of \$10.00 must accompany booking.

Yea Equestrian Riding School

Horse riding lessons for beginners to advanced on quiet horses and ponies. Starting at \$17.00 Holiday program running PH: 0400289504 Sarah

Save your empty toilet rolls and drop them in to HPS for planting grasses in the new arboretum.

Historical Item

Written one hundred and twenty years ago. Taken from an Old Euroa Newspaper Dated 20/4/1888

District News TARCOMBE Rabbits Extraordinary

(From our Special Reporter)

Three well known gentlemen from Longwood, hearing that a good day's rabbit shooting could be obtained at Tarcombe, determined to have a day's pastime.

Early on Good Friday morning they harnessed up a fine pair of trotting horses. They were well supplied with sportsmen's requisites, not forgetting tea, sugar and a sprinkling of fire water. The day was cool and bracing, no dust anywhere, thanksto a fall of rain on the previous evening. The road ran south some twelve miles. For a long distance it was a continuous ascent. All the country was of a granitic formation, large boulders lay strewn in all directions. In many places the road was filled with round stones of considerable size, thus rendering driving arduous. Where the road skirted sidings and made sharp crossings the difficulties increased and made running hazardous in the extreme.

The team doubled themselves up and pulled like a staunch plough horse, occasionally requiring a rest to regain their strength.

In winter time the track becomes a morass and only a light trap can get through. Recently a draught horse was so completely submerged that it required the strength of five horses to extricate him!

After five miles of such travelling the party passed through the property of Kong Meng and sons. Great improvements have already been effected by these enterprising men. They have erected some fine fences, made clearings and gardens and built a commodious homestead.

So far not a rabbit to be seen. The country is all hill, mountain and valley. The hills clothed with green trees; bracken and tree ferns are growing in the hollows. The country seemed well adapted to sheep grazing.

The travellers passed through Upton, a place of little note now but formerly of importance as being the headquarters of a sheep station. After this the road wended along by the side of a fine stream, a tributary of the Hughes Creek.

Meeting one of the hospitable owners of Tarcombe, information was obtained which pleased the party. They were told to try the hill opposite the house and they would be satisfied.

After making a brief halt for refreshments the party opened out and made for the hill. In a few minutes they saw more rabbits than they had dreamt of. Rabbits to the right of them! Rabbits to the left of them! Rabbits to the front of them!

They didn't volley and thunder but the guns did with a will. Rabbits black, white, piebald, grey and nondescript coolly trotted along. They did not deign to run, but took matters leisurely, frequently sitting up listening. There they were a veritable rabbit army, fully three thousand strong. The veriest tyro could have shot them by the dozen.

The party blazed away as fast as they could load, the rabbit tumbled down the slope in their death somersaults.

On the way back sack full of rabbits were collected.

Stranger to relate, although grass was scarce yet the rabbits were in splendid condition. The ground was hard and rocky. The burrows were all over the hill but very shallow. The whole surface of the hill was scratched up and covered in the manure made by these little animals.

The guns, becoming choked with burnt powder became difficult to use. The travellers were well pleased with their surprising success, and after hitching up their team, got home to Longwood in excellent time.

GARDEN GOODIES

At the end of summer gardens can look a little tired? One shrub that can be relied upon to look great all year is *Choisyatarnata*, or Mexican orange. Its deep green, glossy leaves provide a lush background at this time of year. It needs only minimal water and will grow in full sun or part shade and even tolerates considerable root competition. It can be clipped hard and makes a good informal hedge or topiary specimen. *Choisy* can be slightly frost tender when small but is not a problem after the first year and seems to be resistant to most pests and diseases. It has bunches of slightly scented, white flowers in late winter and spring. It can be propagated easily from layers and is readily available from most garden outlets.

By Jenny Webb

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

Weekbeg10th March	TeripTeripmowingrosterHelenMcKenzieTheListers Highlands -CaveatCFARosterCrewC	Carparkandall4courts
SATURDAY 15THMARCH	TERIPTERIPCOMMUNITYBBQATHERECRESERVE 6pmforsherriesandnibblesMeatsupplied.BYOdrinksandglass\$15perperson\$5forschoolchildren PleasebringasaladordessertRSVPLuCraven57904011FrancesLawrence0432324929	
March17th	RuffyHallCommitteeElection8pm	
20th –28th March	Monkey Tail Collection 2. A closer look at Australian Wildlife. Newdrawings,paintingsandsculpturesbyJ.DarrenGilbert.atRuffyProduceStore26NolansRoadRuffy CentralVictoria3666.Openweekendsandpublicholidays8amuntil6pm,fridaylunch(03)57904387 www.ruffystore.com	
20thMarch	HCRFBGeneralmeeting7.30pmatthehall,allwelcome.	
27thMarch	LastThursdayofthemonthBBQatCaveatchurch.BYOdrinksandenjoyasausagefor\$2andacatchup withfriendsandneighbours.	
Saturday29th March	Atlast...theFIRSTmeetingoftheHCRFBJuniorBrigadememberswillbeheldonmiddayatthefreshed.If anyoneaged11 -16,whohasnotalreadyregistered,isinterestedinbecomingajuniormemberofthebrigade pleasecontacttheSecretary57969301forfurtherinformation.	
SaturdayMarch 29th	BlackMarket:10am -12pm -shareslow,lowkilometerfoodwithyourneighbours. Pleasebringyourexcess veggies;eggs;jamsandpickles...enjoyconversation,andpleasebringsomethingtoshareifyou'dliketostay forlunch. IntheKitchenat9am(PegLade'sorangeecake)...Enquiries -Candi57969366orLeonie57969290.	
Sunday30th March	HighlandsRamblersexwalkwillbefromAndrewShaw's,onGumRoad,throughbushonWoolshed andtoSprunt'sRoad.MeetasusualattheHighlandsHallat10.30orAndrewShaw'sfrontgateat 10.50.Enquiries toPegLade 57969222.,AndrewShawPH57904297	
3rdApril	HCRFBExecutivemeeting7.30pm	
5thApril	HCRFBnighttrainingexerciseonat8pm.FurtherdetailsTBA.	
SaturdayApril 5th	6pmAutumnCommunityGatheringRuffyHallComealongandhelpusfarewelldaylightsavingandwelcome therain.FreeBBQtea.Bringсалadtoshare.Everybodywelcome	
SundayApril 20th	4pmRuffArtZpresentsMatineeperformanceofCJDennis'GingerMickatGallipolibyPettyTraffickers CompanyintheRuffyHallBookings57904318	
Thursday24th April	LastThursdayofthemonthBBQatCaveatchurch.BYOdrinksandenjoyasausagefor\$2andacatchup withfriendsandneighbours.	
SATURDAY 26THAPRIL	CARBOOTSALAEATTERIPTERIPRECREATIONRESERVEFROM10AMREFRESHMENTSANDLIGHT LUNCHAVAILABLE\$15CARBOOTORSMAALLTRAILER\$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.	
Thursday29th May	LastThursdayofthemonthBBQatCaveatchurch.BYOdrinksandenjoyasausagefor\$2andacatchup withfriendsandneighbours.	

Ageing Grant

MurrindindiShireCouncilhasbeen awardeda\$10,000granttoplanfor theageingcommunity,andcreate opportunitiesforseniorstoliveactive andfulfillinglives. MayoroftheMurrindindiShireCouncil,CrLynGuntersaidthegrantwould helpthecounciladdressthe localim-

pactsofAustralia'srapidlyageing population. "InMurrindindiShireweexpectthat, by2016,around20%ofthepopulation willbeaged65yearsandover. "Residents50yearsandoverareencouragedtoparticipateinthisplanning. Withfewerpeoplecomprisingtheyoungergenerationsitisimportant thatwebeginplanningtosupportolder

peopleinourcommunitytolive healthy,activelives. "Socialinteractions,employment, housing,transportandcommunity attitudesoageingcanallinfluence thephysical,emotionalandmental well-beingofolderpeople.

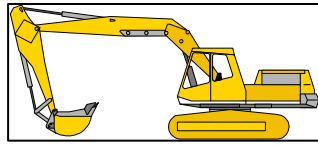
FormoreinformationcontactSandra Saxton,on57720304.

Rocky
Passes



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