



## INTERVIEW WITH A LOCAL

MAVIS and DON COOK of Ruffy, live on a idyllic 2km section of Hughes creek, where platypuses are regularly seen. Mavis and Don treasure the creek, which they have completely fenced off, and they don't believe in taking any water from it. They have planted hundreds of native trees. Don and Mavis, and other neighbours, care for the nearby Boathole, removing willows and cleaning up rubbish left by thoughtless visitors.

They have a small vineyard, with the intention of a supply of Sauvignon Blanc for themselves and friends. Mavis was brought up in Liverpool, England, and in 1967, she arrived in Australia with 2 small children to start a new life on her own. She was an experienced bookkeeper, so soon found a job – in fact, at first she took on 3 jobs. Then she met a friend of her brother, Don, who was stationed at Singleton, NSW, in the Army, and they married in 1972. After Don left the Army, he became Sales Manager for Castrol Oil. They lived at Port Fairy in a 1858 cottage made of rubble and faced with mud, which they restored. The next year saw them living in many different places, following Don's promotions and subsequent moves interstate. In fact, they lived in 21 houses in 36 years! When BP took over Castrol, Don started his own business, recruiting top executives for various companies.

However, they yearned for country living, and 2 years later, they discovered the Ruffy property, following an agent's directions. After a guilty climb over the locked edge gate to inspect, who should they meet but the owners, who happened to be very well-known to them! A sale was speedily resolved to everyone's satisfaction. At first, Don travelled back and forth to Melbourne for his job, but now works in Shepparton for the Salvation Army as a business liaison officer, finding jobs for long-term unemployed.

Don and Mavis have both involved themselves in the Ruffy community, Don is Treasurer of the Hall Committee, and working for acquisition of the old Ruffy School, also the CFA. Mavis is another much loved and valued volunteer at the Highlands School, she says she'd like to adopt all the kids! Mavis, with 3 helpers, collects and folds, The Granite News for Ruffy, how could we do without her!

## NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Student of the Week Award

Jack Hodgett is our student of the week this week for his amazing resilience and determination displayed while on camp last week. Special mention also for the way in which he helped staff and students throughout the week.



### Wanted:

Containers with lids to mix up paint for the mural at the hall. Jars or plastic containers with lids would be perfect. Please send them into the school as soon as possible.

Wednesday 23rd April was our principal's last day at HPS as Allyson Mildren. May 10th will see her become Allyson Dixon. She will return to HPS using her first name. This decision was made after lots of discussion with students and some parents. Although she's sure it will take us a while to get used to the change, she believes it is an appropriate change to make. For anyone interested in sticky beaking, Brett and Al will be married at Pinnacle Valley Resort, Mt Buller road at 3pm on Saturday May 10th.

### Student Awards:

50 Nights Reading Award - Lachie

75 Nights Reading Award - James

Junior Room  
Reading: Lachie  
Counting: Rick  
Tables: John, Kendall

Senior Room  
Spelling: Laura, Kelly, Jack  
Tables: Kelly, Jack, Laura, Mick, Kassie, Imogen

## WELCOME TO ISSUE 11

It was terrific to hear from Jim Davidson, I hadn't realized that TGN was an international publication!

G'day Miranda,

*I have just finished reading the latest edition of Granite News which Jill forwarded to me here in the Philippines each week. I look forward to receiving it and reading it makes me feel very much more connected to home.*

*I was particularly impressed with the article on Lockie and Judy Cameron in the latest edition and went to Lockie's weather station site. Wow, what an impressive site. I was immediately struck by the fact that although the temperature in Highlands was only 8.2 degrees C the humidity was about 90%. Here in the Philippines the humidity is always about 90% but the temperature is usually closer to 30 degrees C.*

*While I certainly miss many things about Oz, my life here is very interesting and very different. Living and working in a different culture is a fantastic experience and it is a very real privilege for me to be able to be here.*

We are looking forward to a fortnightly contribution from Lorraine Coleman from WHCR Rural Fire Brigade, it will be great to increase the content from WHC. If you know anyone who doesn't receive a copy let me know and I'll email it to them.  
miranda@activ8.net.au

## 2008 Victorian Landcare Forum - Creswick

When: Thursday 29 & Friday 30 May 2008  
Where: Novotel Forest Resort, 1500 Midland Highway, Creswick

Cost: \$25 - volunteers & community group members. This cost is all inclusive and includes accommodation at the resort, all meals, and participation in the Forum.

The Forum will explore 4 key themes

- Increasing community participation
- Developing new and stronger partnerships
- Landcare leading and adapting
- Visions for the future

Who should attend?: members of Landcare and Friends Groups, landholders, community members, and Landcare staff with a role supporting community landcare. Registrations close: Friday 2 May 2008  
More information:

doug.evans@ppwcm.vic.gov.au

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

Weekbeg 28th April	TeripTeripmowingroster HelenMcKenzie GeorgeandTrishUdenAroundClubhouseandall4courts Highlands-CaveatCFARosterCrewA
Friday2ndMay	HighlandsLandcaregeneralmeeting.Comeandenjoyaglassofwineandfindoutwhat'sshappeninginLandcareinourarea.TherewillbeaspeakerfromDPItotalkabouttheblackberryREPprogrammestartingsooninHighlands,aspeakerfromHealesvillesanctuarytotalkaboutourwonderfulWedgeTailedEagles,SammyStrongtalkingaboutourprotectingScatteredtreesprogramme,JennyWebbtotalkaboutthebandicootsresearchandMirandaYorstonofillyouinonthenewarboretum.TherewillbetimefordiscussionandanopportunitytosaywhereyouwouldliketoseeHighlandsLandcareheading.7.30pmHighlandsHall
SundayMay4th	Whitehead'sCreekLandcareGroupKulabaRiparianWalk/Picnic10:30a.m.  MeetatKulabaWestWoolshed935HighlandsRd,Whitehead'sCreek Comewalkthenowstabilizedgullyandseetheresultsofseveralyearsofunderstoryplanting.Revelinthebirddiversityexplosion.Shareyourstories,catch upwitholdfriends,makesomenewones.Enjoyaconviviallunchinarevitalizedbushlandsetting.R.S.V.P. Carolyn57924212orDavid57923693by2ndMay
Sunday4thMay	MaygarsHillWinery"OpenDay"11amtillduskMusicwithPaulWookeyandIanTritt LunchselectionfromtheSilverSpoonWineavailablebybottleorglassArtExhibitionbyMegHeres AfternoonteaFeaturinganaerialdisplaybyPIPBORRMANTheCastrolAviator INFOANDLUNCHBOOKINGSE -mail -vineyard@strathbogieboutiquewines.comorJenny -0402136448 Mapatwww.strathbogieboutiquewines.comGateEntry -\$15.00percar/aircraft <b>SupportingtheEuroaVolunteerCancerUnit</b>
Friday9thMay	'DrinksontheDeck'. HighlandsHall Bringfood&drinkstoshare. Theeveningwillstartat6pm. Comealong&meetupwithold&newfriends. Youdon'thavetoliveinHighlands,comeonWhiteheadsCreekandTeripTerip.
Saturday10th May	RuffArtZSeasonofSaturdayspresents -Dev'lishMary - oldtimey&westernswing 8.00pm,RuffyHall. ContactGlenon57904318fortickets(\$26ea.)orinformation.
Thursday, 15th May.	TheHughes'CreekCollaborativewillbemeetingatWhiteheadsCreekHallat7.30pm.Thisisanopportunitytofindoutwhatothersareworkingon,socomealongifyoucansparethetimeandareinterested.TheCollaborativehasbeentryingtofindasolutionthroughbettermanagementtothehorrificdamagebeingdonetothepeacefulnaturalenvironmentofHughesCreeknearBunglebooriebyhordesofmotorbikecampers.Ifyouhave lovedthiscreekandcareaboutityoushouldhaveyoursay.WritetoStrathbogieShireexpressingyour concernanddemandaction.ContactJanetHagenformoreinformationonthisdisasterjhagen@bigpond.com
Thursday22nd May	<b>HCRFBGeneralmeeting7.30pmatthehallfollowedbytheAGMand biennalelectionofofficebearers,allwelcome.</b>
Sunday25th May	HighlandsRamblermeetat10.30attheHighlandsHallforthe postponedwalk,ledbyAndrewShaw.EnquiriestoPegLade -57969222.
Thurs29thMay	BBQatCaveatchurch.BYOdrinksandenjoyasausagefor\$2andacatchupwithfriendsandneighbours.
Thursday29& Friday30May	2008VictorianLandcareForum -CreswickWhere:NovotelForestResort,1500MidlandHighway,Creswick Registrationsclose:Friday2May2008Moreinformation:emailForumSecretariatvia landcare.forum2008@dse.vic.gov.auorcontactDougEvans -PPWCMA'sCommunityEngagementManager (tel:92964662,doug.evans@ppwcma.vic.gov.au)

### **FUNDING OF \$30,000 FOR PLANNING PROJECT IN MURRINDINDI, STRATHBOGIE AND MANSFIELD**

MemberforSeymour,BenHardman saidtheprojectaimstoprovideasustainableagriculturalandruralliving strategyfortheShires.

"Outofthisworkwillcomeapractical setofrecommendationsforchanges totheregion'srespectiveplanning schemes,"MsBroadsaid.

"Iencouragekeystakeholdersand thecommunitytoworkwiththeirlocal Councilsonthisimportantproject. Thisisafantasticinitiativeandthe collaborationbetweenthe three Councilswillbecrucialasweplanfor theregion'sfuture,"MsDarveniza said.

To findoutmoreaboutfunding,goto theRuralLand -UsePlanningProgram websiteat  
[www.dpcc.vic.gov.au/rllup](http://www.dpcc.vic.gov.au/rllup)

### **Green Paper**

TheStateGovernmenthasreleased agreenpapercalled"Landand biodiversityatatimeofclimatechange". Itiswellworthalook,andtheyare askingforsubmissionsby30thJune. Thereareanumberofworkshops whichyouareinvitedtoattend,includingoneinSheppartonon23rd May.Gototheirwebsite <http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/> landwhitepaperandfollowthelinks to"Haveyousay".

# Classifieds & Community Notices

## Kids, Teenagers and mobile phones

Toparentsmobilephonescanbeapradicalwayofkeepingparentsandchildrenintouch.

HealthEffects:AnindependentprofessionalresearchgroupwhoinvestigatedtheavailableevidenceregardingtheeffectsofmobilephoneuseonhealthfortheBritishGovernmentstated:

... 'youngstersmaybemorevulnerabletoradiofrequencyradiationbecauseoftheirdevelopingnervoussystemsandastheywillhavealongerlifetimeofexposurethantheirparents.'

Becomeaninformedconsumeryourself...lookatthefineprintaboutplansandcontracts.Checkallthecostsinvolvedwithmobilephoneuse.

Whatisitgoingtobeusedfor?Consideryourchild'slevelofmaturityandpersonalresponsibility.Whatcantheyaccessviatheirphone?Egtheinternet.

Discusswithyourchild,andsetlimitsabout,whatareareasonablecostsandwhoisgoingtopayforthem.Considera'pre-paidoption'asthisprovidesaprotectivebarriertooverspending.

Rulestoconsiderinrelationtomobilephoneuse:

Useofhomephonetocallmobiles - Decidewhetheryourchildisallowedtousehomephonetocallcontactfriendsonmobilephonenumber.Ifyourchildhasamobilephone -Setupagreedrulesinconsultationwithyourchild.

Whoisallowedtouseyourchild'smobilephone,andunderwhatcircumstances?

Timeswhenitisnottobeusedegfamilymealtimes,whentalkingtofacetofacetogather.

Whoisyourchildallowedtogivetheirmobilephonenumberto?

Ifyouwouldlikemoreinformationaboutthisoranotherparentingrelatedtopic,contactMereditthatHumeRegionParentEducationService(ShoppartonOffice),Tel:58233200

## For Sale

HondaXR200trailbike1997model  
Asnew,hardlyridden\$3000Gavin  
0419309431

## For Sale

GuineaFowl\$15@  
PhoneRayon57904382afterdarkor  
57921417andleaveamessage

## CONTROVERSY over naming of New Deli, Café & Wine Centre!

"Thetown'sfolkshouldbejumpingforjoyratherthanhoppingmadoverthe'leaking'oftheproposedbusinessnameofAvenel'sGourmetDelicatessen,Café&WineCentre.

"FatGutz",thenameinitiallyfavouredbythepartnershasprovedtobeaspectacularsuccessingeneratingpublicityforthenewbusiness.Thebusinesswaslaunchedas"TheTrough"inkingwiththestrongemphasisonthethoroughbredIndustryforwhichtheStrathbogieRegionisrenowned.

SituatedrightnextdoortoHayley'sawardwinningbeautysalon -Hails -hands,face,body,feet"TheTrough"willberunbyDarren&ReneeBoote(businesspartner).Botharepassionateaboutfoodandlovetosourceandcookqualityproduce&freshingredientstocreatesimpleyetseriouslygooddishes.

Aswellasthecontinentaldelicounter -withcheeses,smallgoodsandantipastodelights,shelveswillbepackedfullofgourmetgroceryitemsandcomplimentaryproducts.Therewillalsobearangeofpre -packagedgourmetmeals,preserves,jams,chutneys&picklesonsaleunderthe"FatGutz"label." ByDarrenJames

## Congratulations

JoTrantorandMathewMaddenhaveannouncedtheirengagement,congratulations!

JoandMatliveatHighlandsandJo teachesatYeaPrimarySchoolandMatworksasaplastererinYea.

## Climate tools for farmers

Two,newtoolshavebeendevelopedaspartmentofaBureauofMeteorologyprojectsponsoredbytheManagingClimateVariabilityprogram.Onetool showsarangeofrainfallscenariosformostrainfallrecordingstationsinAustraliaandtheotherisanonlineproducttofindoutwhatfactorsareinfluencingtheclimatetheirregionbyclickingonaninteractivemap.Forfurtherdetailsvisit[www.bom.gov.au/wat/](http://www.bom.gov.au/wat/)

## WANTED

Yabbiestobuy.Yabbiesupto80mmforJeremyandArielgraf,20cents eachPH57969243

## BITS OF BOTANY AND BIRDS

TheGREYBUTCHERBIRDresemblesagreyandwhitehalf -sizedmagpie,andisquitewidespreadinVictoria.Locally,oneisalertedtoitspresencebyaloudmellowpiping.Butcherbirdshavethehabitofhangingcapturedpreyonahookorforkofatree.Theypreyonsmallreptilesandbirds,mammals,frogsandlargeinsects.ThecloselyrelatedPiedButcherBirdisblackandwhite,andhasoneofthemostbeautifulofbirdsongs.ItoccursinNorthernVictoriaandinlandandNorthernAustralia.



## LOST:

OneadultpeahenfromCaveat/DropmoreRoad(nexttoAntcliffeChaseVineyard). Ifanyonehasseenher,pleaseringIsabelle57904247.

## Highlands Hall Update

ManythankstothesmallgroupofpeoplewhoworkedveryhardonSaturday19thApril. Therewillbeanotherworkingbeeshortlytoinstalltheoutdoorchessboardamongotherthings. Watchthe'GraniteNews' forthedata&comealongandhelpusimprovethefacilitiesatthehallforthewholecommunity.

## 20 HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS

managedtocompleteawalkbetweenshowersofrainonSunday27thApril. WestartedontheoldCoachRoadatHighlands,andwereintriguedbycarvingsonahugeolddeadtree.Mytheoryisthattheyweremadein1887byaroadgang,campedtherewhiletheyhackedouttheCoachRoad!

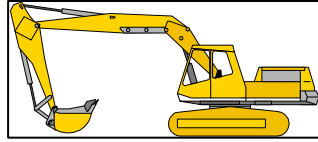
**Save your empty toilet rolls and drop them in to HPS for planting grasses in the new arboretum.**

Rocky  
Passes



CellardooropenSundays11am -4pm  
orbyappointment -57969366  
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