



THE GRANITE NEWS

SEPTEMBER 8TH 2008

VOLUME 2

ISSUE 27

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

PEOPLE AND PLACES

MIKE and SANDY EMERY.

Newly arrived residents at Longwood East are MIKE and SANDY EMERY.

Traditional upbringings for Mike in suburban Melbourne, and Sandy in rural Riverina changed from the early 70s. Sandy spent 2 years backpacking solo through Europe and America, with Mike climbing the corporate ladder as an economist. One day, Mike walked into the office and handed out his collection of ties to colleagues, then he and Sandy headed North to Port MacQuarie.

Mike taught scuba diving at such unlikely places as Walgett, Armidale, Wagga, Narromine etc. Sandy worked 2 jobs and ran a picture framing business. Dive charters took them, with clients, to Lord Howe Island, Red Sea, Egypt, New Caledonia, Coral Sea and the Great Barrier Reef.

With no previous experience, they built a 9 m. cataraman in 1992, and sailed the East Coast before working on Hamilton Island for 2 years. A bigger boat was needed for sailing further afield, so 3 1/2 years later, in 2000, a massive 15 m Cat, built by Mike and Sandy, was transported from the family farm shed at Finley to Melbourne, and sailed to Sydney. They lived on the boat, in full view of the Harbour Bridge, and worked at the Olympics. A plan to sail the world for 2 years was abandoned due to unforeseen circumstances, and the "Black Eagle" was sold.

Next, they designed and built a beautiful contemporary home on Russell Island, Q., and drove local ferries, but after several years, the work became tedious and the pull of family down south was increasing.

Time to move again, and Mike says "We really thought we wouldn't find anything as beautiful as the outlook we had on Russell Island, but we have found something as good, if not better, at Longwood East.

A small hazelnut orchard on 10 acres, with 40 acres of bush and rocky hillside (covenanted with Trust for Nature), and views to die for, is our next challenge. We know nothing about nuts, so it's a steep learning curve, and a challenge we take on with much enthusiasm. Over the years, life has opened a number of wonderful chapters for us, with the latest being the best."

NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL



Student of the Week

Cuchulainn Coulter for his improved management of self and his learning. Congratulations to Laura and Lachie for full marks with spelling & tables.



Scotty umpiring "the" match, go Mitch!

Coconut Pilaf

Prep time 10 mins, Cooking time 35 m

Ingredients

- 60gm ghee/butter
- 2 medium onions, sliced thinly
- 1 teaspoon cumin seeds
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 4 cardomom pods. Bruised
- 3 whole cloves
- 1 teaspoon turmeric
- 1 cup (200gms) basmati rice
- 1 2/3 cups coconut cream
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/2 cup pistachios, copped coarsely
- 1/4 cup currants

Melt ghee in large frying pan; cook onion, stirring over medium heat about 4 mins or until soft. Stir in seeds, cinnamon, cardamom, cloves and turmeric, stir over medium heat approx 2 mins.

Stir in rice; stir over heat a further minute. Stir in coconut cream and the water, bring to the boil. Reduce heat, simmer covered for about 20 mins or until all liquid is absorbed and rice is tender. Remove and discard cinnamon stick. Stir through nuts and currants. Stir pilaf with fork before serving

This is delicious, thanks Prue Smith

The Wind in the Willows and swamp wallabies

Staying in Canberra on a family visit recently, I read a copy of the Bulletin of the Australian Network for Plant Conservation (Vol.15 No.4 March – May 2007) reporting on a conference with the theme, What lies Beneath? or, put more technically, "The role of soil biota in the health and rehabilitation of native vegetation."

Recent research suggests that many mammals than are mycophagous (fungus eating) and play an important role in dispersing fungal spores. Further, as they forage for their fungus, they aerate the soil and make entry points for nutrients and water, leading scientists to the conclusion that when restoring native vegetation, we should work from the soil up, not the trees down.

Briefly, here are the main points from the published papers :

Ectomycorrhizal fungi (these include truffles, and we do have some native varieties) are vital components of Australia's biodiversity.

Diverse mammal communities are important for maintaining plant-fungal associations and ecosystem health.

The swamp wallaby, for instance is one mycophagous (fungus eating) mammal, and thirty seven others have been identified in recent research.

Soil and litter invertebrates play an important role in plant growth in revegetated systems.

And here's the quote that got me in, which may have some of you rethinking what lies beneath one of our children's classics, The Wind in the Willows.

'Presently they all sat down to luncheon together. The mole found himself placed next to Mr Badger, and, as the other two were deep in river gossip from which nothing could divert them, he took the opportunity to tell Badger how comfortable and homelike it all felt to him. "Once well underground," he said, "you know exactly where you are, nothing can happen to you, and nothing can get at you. You're entirely your own master, and you don't have to consult anybody or mind what they say. Things go on all the same overhead, and you let 'em, and don't bother about 'em. When you want to, up you go, and there the things are, waiting for you." The Badger simply beamed at him. "that's exactly what I say" he replied. "There's no security, or peace or tranquility, except underground.'

By Sari Wawn

Community What's On Calendar—September/October/November

Week beg 8th	Terip Terip mowing roster Sue Martin Tim Andrews and Andrew Holloway Around Clubhouse and courts
7th-13th September	Whiteheads Creek/ Tarcombe RFB Truck Roster Barry Roworth Geoff Bond Brian Tolley Lindsay Heffer
Friday 12th September	'Drinks on the Deck' at Highlands Community Hall at 6.30pm. Bring food to share for a meal together and catch up with friends old and new.
13th September	Whiteheads Creek Landcare AGM. Guest speaker Steven Rawlins who has held very high positions in the Dept of Agriculture in the US. He will talk about the future of food production in a time of heightened carbon dioxide. . So please come along, hear a very interesting speaker, and catch up with your friends.
Monday 15th September	TERIP TERIP RECREATION RESERVE AGM 8pm Terip Terip Recreation Hall
Thursday 18th September	Direct Seeding Field Day Bus tour of a number of properties around the Longwood Plains District, looking at different aged projects, successful application, threats and management. Pick up points: Benalla, Violet Town, Euroa RSVP essential. Please phone Jim Begley, DPI Benalla on 57611574
18th September	Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative (HCCC) monthly meeting, 7.30pm Whiteheads Creek Hall. All welcome
Saturday 20 September	Seymour Bushland Park – Nest Box Installation Day 9.30am, come along to the Seymour Bushland Park and help us put nest boxes in the trees for animals not fortunate enough to find a suitable nesting hollow. The Seymour Men's Shed and students from Seymour Technical High School have built some wonderful nest boxes. We are now ready to install them. A BBQ lunch will be provided for all volunteers on the day. Just bring a hat, sunscreen, suitable shoes and lots of enthusiasm. Seymour Bushland Park is on the Goulburn Valley Highway, 5 kms east of Seymour. Please email or call to confirm you attendance for catering purposes: contact Kristy, on (bh) 0357346 382 or email seymourbushlandpark@gmail.com. Check out the new website: http://seymourbushlandpark.googlepages.com
Wednesday 24th September	Kanumbra/Yarck district. 9am to 12 pm Join one of Victoria's leading herpetologists, Peter Robertson, in the hunt to find this elusive lizard. Past volunteer surveys of this kind have increased the known population of the Striped Legless Lizard dramatically. Outdoor clothing and footwear required. BYO lunch. For more information and to join the hunts, please contact Bertram Lobert, on phone 5790 8606.
Thursday 26th September	Secret Men's Business BBQ at The Grotto, Caveat Church from 5.30pm, held every last Thursday of the month. All welcome.
Friday 26th September,	Spring into Nature at Earlston Woodland Walk and talk at the Trust owned Earlston woodland property north of Violet Town. Recent management activities and funding sources of the 146ha property will be discussed by Trust staff. Management activities to date include mistletoe removal, native herbivore plot enclosure fencing, rabbit harbour destruction, erosion control, rabbit warren ripping, and direct seeding trials. 1:30pm. Afternoon tea provided. Take the Violet Town – Dookie Rd north from Violet Town for 13 kms to Paynters Rd intersection. The property is located on the corner of Paynters Rd and Nalinga Rd, enter via gateway on Paynters Rd. Contact Shelagh Curmi on 0407521154 or 57611525; email shelaghc@tfn.org.au.
Sunday Sept 28th	HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS will walk from near Mt Broughton to the Switzerland Road, where we will have cars to bring us back to Highlands. Meet at the Highlands Hall at 10.30 am. Leaders - Peg Lade (57969222) and Andrew Shaw(57 904297)
Sunday 28 September	Bush Walkabout at Dead Dog Gully Time: 10.40am – 2.00pm Location: Dead Dog Gully Autumn Gully Road • Fun for the whole family • Guided walk and activities • Barbecue lunch • Discover the fascinating stories of the Jaara Jaara people, Bendigo's Gold history as well as the amazing plants and animals living in the bush Bookings essential as places are limited Call 5430 4620 to make reservations
3rd October	Dr Susan Lawler will be the speaker at Highlands Landcare AGM. Her subject will be Australian Freshwater crayfish (including yabbies). Highlands Hall Sausage sizzle at 6.30pm.
4 & 5 October	Farm Gates and Shed Doors Rocky Passes Estate and other producers of the Goulburn River & Ranges Region are throwing open their farm gates and shed doors to invite you in for a 'look around the back'. Jump on your bike or in the car or ride the tour bus and travel around from door to door. For more information www.goulburnrandr.com.au
Thursday 30th October	Secret Men's Business BBQ at The Grotto, Caveat Church from 5.30pm, held every last Thursday of the month. All welcome.
Saturday 22nd November	RuffArtZ Season of Saturdays presents - Bric a Brac - dance, nostalgia & romance 8.00 pm, Ruffy Hall. Contact Glen on 5790 4318 for tickets (\$26 ea.) or information.

Classifieds & Community Notices

BITS OF BOTANY AND BIRDS

SNOW GUM -(Eucalyptus pauciflora) is a small to medium tree and very slow growing. It usually has a rather crooked trunk and many branches with beautiful distinctive, smooth grey-green and cream bark. The leaves are glossy, thick and waxy with a broad, curving shape, and the gumnuts are quite large. It occurs in the Snowy Mountains from Southern NSW through Vic to Tasmania, but there are local specimens here. Two are in a reserve past the Ruffy Recreation Reserve, Rob Hayes has at least one at Tarcombe, and there are several in the Strathbogie Township, and perhaps some near the Blue Bin at Terip. Please let us know if you find any.



WANTED TO BUY

Suzuki Stockman, preferably registered. Please ring Peter 041935 6404

RUFFY STORE NEWS

Spring 2008 across verdant fields There has been much ado about the Store this last year and yet the best remains the same. The much speculated upon "helipad" beside the store is currently in regular use as a Petanque (froggy bowls) court, all welcome of course - fourth Sunday of every month 1.30pm start
On the environmental front the roof romping possum has eaten the Cumquat leafless, and at the rear the granite courtyard is now available for loud conversations, breaking wind and so forth.
We welcome the smiling faces of Katie and Annabelle to the line up of lovely ladies - see The Age Good Food Guide 2009.

The Ruffy Store now in its record breaking 6th year - our sincere thanks to all Careers @ Ruffy Store

All this success - we need another chef. If you know a good one, collar them and pass on our details.

HIGHLANDS LANDCARE AGM

3RD OCTOBER 2008
6:30 PM SAUSAGE SIZZLE
7:15 PM GUEST SPEAKER
DR SUSAN LAWLER topic
AUSTRALIAN FRESHWATER
CRAYFISH

NOTICE OF MOTION 1

Proposed: That the Highlands Landcare Group abolishes the position of Vice President.

Proposer: Jenny Webb
(President)

Seconder: Jeffrey Swain
(Secretary)

Intent: To convert the Vice President position to an Ordinary Member position.

Discussion: There are many advantages accruing from an additional Ordinary Member position. A major consideration is that there will be four Ordinary Member positions able to undertake specific projects.

The current committee recommends that you support the motion.

NOTICE OF MOTION 2

Proposed: That the Highlands Landcare Group establish the position of Immediate Past President.

Proposer: Jenny Webb
Seconder: Jeffrey Swain

Intent: To enable the experience and insight of the most recent incumbent to be available to the new President and other Committee members.

Discussion: The major advantage is to enable a managed transition of responsibility while retaining a connection to the history and practices of the organisation.

The current committee recommends that you support the motion.

Bridge Maintenance Works

Bridge maintenance works are to be undertaken on the Ghin Ghin Road Bridge in Ghin Ghin Road Yea. The bridge will be closed from 8.30 am to 4.30 pm from Monday 29 September 2008 until Friday 3 October 2008

For further information about these works, please contact Peter Cownley – Operations Engineer Murrindindi Construction or Ian Ellett Manager Assets & Infrastructure on 5772 0333.

GETTING SMASHED

Young people drink alcohol for the same reasons as adults – to relax, to be sociable, or to drown sorrows. Adolescent drinking attitudes are influenced considerably by adult drinking behaviour.

What is alarming, however, is the amount of alcohol being drunk and the age at which young people begin to consume it. Research shows that young people aged between 14 and 29 have the highest rate of alcohol consumption in Australia.

Evidence is growing to show that alcohol consumption can damage the young developing brain. It is also known that young people who regularly misuse alcohol risk becoming adults with multiple health and social problems – if they reach adulthood.

There is almost one alcohol-related death of a young person in Victoria every week. Hospitalisations in Victoria due to alcohol are increasing, and the rate of harmful alcohol consumption in females is increasing.

The onus is on the adult community to educate young people about healthy levels of alcohol consumption and that message must be credible and consistent.

Recent debate about teenage drinking has highlighted some relaxation of traditional parental boundaries. However, it is not simply the responsibility of parents to influence their teenagers' drinking attitudes – teenagers' attitudes are also dependent on what they see in from media, their peers and the adult community generally.

For information about the Australian Alcohol Guidelines, go to www.alcohol.gov.au/internet/alcohol/publishing.nsf/Content/guidelines

Community Health at Yea Hospital – phone 5736 0400 and at Alexandra Hospital – phone 5772 0800

All "Your Health and Well-Being" articles are now available on the Alexandra District Hospital website under Health News – www.humehealth.com.au/alexandra.

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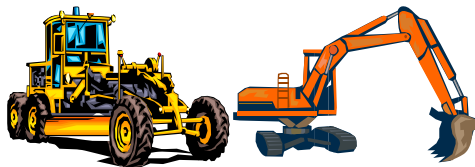
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Please contact Mauro on 5796 9363, m_delfrate@hotmail.com

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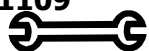
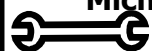


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