



THE GRANITE NEWS

16TH FEBRUARY
VOLUME 3
ISSUE 03

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

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Despite my extensive travels around the district getting to know people, not only through these interviews, but in all the varied community functions and organizations, I have been delighted and amazed to discover a long-lost resident from quite a few generations back, still living in their family shack. Jim returned to the family holdings after some time away working in New York for large firms until he lost his entire family fortune in the last stock market crash. This drew him back to the retreat of the Highlands roughly 6 years ago, a deeply demoralized man indeed. (He still cannot face wearing a tie or shaving. His beard now reaches his knees, and the smell is quite off-putting)

His half-Samoan, half-Russian, part Canadian parents settled on their scenic property overlooking the distant hills of the snowfields some 85 years ago and forged a meagre living from the newly cleared fields that literally broke his father's back, growing potatoes for their personal still and pig-gery. He recalls long nights with his family of 11 brothers and sisters and parents, singing songs from the homelands, enjoying the brew. They also enjoyed the company of travelers from far-flung countries, speaking many Russian dialects. This enabled Jim to learn many useful languages that took him in his teens to exotic countries overseas and faraway.

Since returning to his birthplace, he has lived simply, shunning the company of all except his cross breed dogs, goats, chickens and ferrets, Charlie and Rex. His considerable fortune lost in NY has been rebuilt through various embezzling schemes, and spent largely restoring the shack, which is a spectacular structure lined in copper sheets, with ornamental gargoyles protecting the doorways. Indeed, I was only lucky enough to stumble across this wonderful vision on one of my orchid walks, but had to be wary in case the ferrets were released-Jim has trained them to attack humans on sight! So it is quite extraordinary to discover new faces in the most unexpected places, which certainly keeps me on my toes!

I THINK WE ALL NEED SOME LIGHT RELIEF THIS WEEK – Thanks to Sammy Strong for this – (Peg) !!

AVENEL'S BUSHFIRE VICTIMS RESPONSE

The town of Avenel has moved quickly to respond to the bushfire crisis.

Three local groups came together to organise the town's effort - the Burnt Creek Landcare Group, the Avenel Action Group and the Avenel Primary School.

A covered trailer, which is the Landcare Group's tree planting trailer, has been outside the Post Office since Monday morning to receive donated goods.

Co-ordinator of the Landcare Group, Mr Sandy MacKenzie, "Last Saturday, when conditions were significantly worse than in 1965, reminded us all that what happened in Wandong, Flowerdale and Kinglake could just as easily have happened in our town" Avenel's response includes a register of those donors who have surplus farm materials such as fence posts, tools, fodder and agistment. Mr Malcolm Little is the contact person for those wishing to make such donations. He can be contacted on 5796 2301 Donors can register their intent at the Post Office so that the larger and heavier goods can be collected later for distribution.

One donor said that he had five hammers in his tool shed. "Why on earth do I need five hammers? Am I going to list them in my will?" he asked as he delivered three to the trailer.

"It's a reality of life that, while the donation response is currently magnificent, it will subside in the days ahead as the media coverage moves on to other stories. It is easy to forget that fire victims will have to face the prospect of months, even years, of recovery. We are looking for local transport firms to deliver these goods free of charge - please call me on 0411 552 426 if you can help, Mr MacKenzie said.

Donors from other towns are welcome to use it but please do not leave perishable or poorly packaged foodstuffs.



WELCOME TO ISSUE 3

Please send all articles to my new email address-miranda@omnipotent.com.au

Highlands Caveat Brigade meeting to be held on the 19 February will be postponed until further notice.

NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Highlands Primary School returned to normal on Monday. An enormous thank you to all the members of the community who helped tidy up our grounds to make it safer for our students.

A very special thanks to Scott McKay, Graham Fern and John Hammond for their effort. We really appreciate it.



Above is Jenny Fischer and Marie Gilbert attacking the lavender and below is Elly Fischer hiding behind the kangaroo paw



HiArts Exhibition & Festival

The HiArts Exhibition & Festival will go ahead on 28th February & 1st March & proceeds will go to the Fund for Bush Fire Victims. We need lots of helpers & there are many ways in which you can help during the week-end. Please phone Judy or Stuart Reid on 5796 9358. Bring along your friends & family for a great weekend.

Community What's On Calendar—February/March 2009

Week s beg 16th February	Terip Terip mowing roster Tim and Frances Lawrence Brian and GailVan Rooyen Both sides of Springs Road and all 4 courts
Week beg 15th February	John Furlanetto Team : (0427 344956) Henry Noye Randal Threlfall Rob Gardner John McLean Mar- cus Hill Gary Hewlett Phil Brown (E: Colleen Furlanetto & Kerry Hewlett)
19th February	WHC Landcare Meeting. Committee members there is a meeting on the at the WHC hall at 7.30pm. All new and old comers are most welcome.
19th February	Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative (HCCC) First meeting for 2009 8pm Terip Terip Recreation Centre, at the tennis courts. All welcome. Come and hear what's happening in your district to combat weeds and rabbits, what help is available to plant trees and protect remnant vegetation, what important issues need to be faced in 2009. Don't just sit there thinking about it, come and join in and put in a helping hand or just lis- ten and become better informed. You might enjoy it!
21st February 2009	WHC Landcare invites you to a seed planting morning at the WHC hall with Janet Hagen. It is at 10.00am . All welcome and if you have some natives that you would like to plant them bring them with you. Janet will take the tubes away and they will be cared for until required for planting.
SATURDAY 21ST FEBRU- ARY 2009	TERIP TERIP COMMUNITY BBQ and FUND RAISING AUCTION (large number of items to be auctioned – donated by regional businesses) AT THE REC RESERVE 6.30PM for 7PM AUCTION TO COMMENCE AT 8PM Bring a small salad to share (and your cheque book!)RSVP 13th February Lu Craven 5790 4011 Frances Lawrence 0427 904 262
Sun 22nd Feb	HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS IS CANCELLED DUE TO THE FIRES
Wednesday 25th Febru- ary	Baynton Sidonia Landcare group invites you to join them at their annual Local Oral History Eve- ning from 6 pm at the Baynton Hall Everyone is welcome: those with stories to tell about the dis- trict in the past and its people now long gone, as well as those who just want to come and listen. Refreshments and pizza at the end of the evening provided. Enquiries: Clare on 54234152 Gold coin donation
Thursday 26th February	Secret Men's Business meets again at the Caveat Church, enjoy a sausage and chat with a mate. These are good times to get together and share a story or two.
28th Feb -1st March 2009	HiArts Art Exhibition and Family Festival Artists interested in exhibiting should check the website www.hiarts.org for details. This year entries can be fully processed on line.
Sunday 1st March	White Hart Hotel, Longwood 4.00pm - Rachel McCracken - country and classics live music call White Hart on 03-5798-5203 to book.
13th March.	Ruffy Store: March has an especially big do with singer David Francey serenading those who book early enough for the evening dinner and entertainment. This is a good way to avoid Brutus the ides and have a good night out.
Saturday 14th March	White hart Hotel, Longwood 7.30pm Salty Dog 2002 Australian blues band of the year .Call White Hart on 03-5798-5203 to book.
19th March	WHC Landcare is organizing an information night and meeting at 7.30pm at the WHC hall. Kate Stothers from the DPI will be there to share with us her wonderful presentation on sustainable farming and biodiver- sity. Lesley and I heard her presentation at the biolinks forum last year and were both very impressed as I am sure you all will be. Please make an effort for this one as you will surely be rewarded and of course there will be a great supper after and a chance for a chat. See you all soon, Carol Braun.
Sunday 22nd February	HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS - will meet at Highlands Hall at 10.30 am, or at the corner of Gum Road and Moore's Road, Caveat at 10.50am, for a wonderful walk from Gum Rd over a hill (not too steep) with a spectacular view to everywhere, then on to Woolshed Creek and to Dropmore. Contact Peg Lade 57969222 Ring Peg before coming to check the walk is going ahead, depend- ent on fires and weather.

Classifieds & Community Notices

Dear Editor,

I extend my deepest sympathies to the many people impacted by these tragic fires.

Many people have lost their lives, family members, homes, friends, animals and the things they care most for.

The resilience of the people in our local community and the support of the surrounding communities has been heartening to say the least.

There will remain a fire danger for the rest of this fire season and I encourage people to be prepared.

I thank the many emergency and relief services and staff for their work, their courage and their unwavering and inspirational care for the victims of the fires.

The efforts towards fighting fires by volunteers will be ongoing.

The effort towards recovery will need many people for a very long time and I encourage people to continue to give their skills and assistance.

My staff and I will make the recovery our highest priority for the foreseeable future and I encourage people to call on 57992760 if they need assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Ben Hardman

Member for Seymour

The Victorian Government has set up a hotline and website to coordinate kind offers of volunteering from Victorians and put them in touch with community organisations.

Families affected by the recent tragic bushfires will be offered a free computer to help them stay in touch with friends and family thanks to the Victorian Government and the Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA).

Free public transport will be provided to individuals and families who have lost their homes and have received one of the following grants from the Department of Human Services (DHS): Emergency grant; Emergency grant; Temporary living grant; and Re-establishment grant.

Free legal advice will be available on a legal helpline 1800 113 432 and from lawyers at all operational Bushfire Relief Centres.

Donations can be made online through www.redcross.org.au or by calling 1800 811 700.

Anyone willing to volunteer time and skills should call Information Victoria on 1300 366 356 or register at www.govolunteer.com.au

Donations to the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund can be made by calling 1800 811 700 or at www.redcross.org.au

BITS OF BOTANY AND BIRDS

PRICKLY LETTUCE (*Lactuca serriola*).

Some people may have noticed a different, and very prickly "thistle" on the edge of the bitumen on some of our roads. This is Prickly Lettuce - not a noxious weed, but is introduced from Europe. It is palatable to stock, particularly horses (and Birds), has plenty of protein, and seems to have pain killing properties (but avoid those prickles!) The leaves are dull bluish-green and stiff with spines on the midrib and margins. The small flowers are pale yellow, like a dandelion.



EPIPHANY 1986-87

The local community are invited to view Dennis Spiteri's exhibition EPIPHANY 1986-87 in his studio / gallery at 'Hillcrest' Old Highlands rd. In conjunction with HiArts, the gallery will be open 28th Feb.- 1st March, 10am to 5pm. The exhibition will continue until 29th March and can be viewed by appointment during this time. Telephone: 57969373

A VERY MALE PINK PIG

Found 2 weeks ago at Habbies Howe, ring in his nose, very quiet. Ring Julia 57969259 Does anyone want him?!

FRESHWATER LANDSCAPES

Landscape gardening including quality designs & construction. Contact Robert Hawken 0433708077

Rabbit Fumigator

Robert Kipping of Locksley has been fumigating rabbit warrens with phostoxin tablets for many years. Shooting is used as a follow up to fumigation. Police check available. Ph 57 985 528

PEACOCKS x 2

12 Weeks \$25 each

Ring Helen McKenzie

(03) 57904211

HIGHLANDS CAVEAT RFB

We have established a number of 'phone lists' for our area. The aim is to spread local, emergency information as quickly as possible.

This is not to be relied upon or to replace your current information systems eg Radio AM 774 and FM 97.7 & 91.1, CFA radio etc. The information is to help inform you but not to make decisions for you.

All information released will go through Jono Rumbold, the Communications Officer. If you were not contacted over the weekend with information about the CFA meeting being postponed then you are not on a list. If you want to be part of this emergency network it is your responsibility to phone Pauline Roberts 57969301 and she will put you on a phone list.

At the Community Meeting held on the 11th February it was suggested that people submit ideas for future fire protection for our area to our Communication Officer, Jono Rumbold on jr@omnipotent.com.au. He can then present them to the next CFA meeting.

Round 1 of the FarmReady Industry Grants now open!

Guidelines for the FarmReady Industry Grants are now available at www.daff.gov.au/farmingfuture <<http://www.daff.gov.au/farmingfuture>>

HUME AND HOVELL CRICKET

Although the Hume and Hovell Cricket Ground is probably the last thing on your mind you will be pleased to know that although the fire burnt a shed went under the bunk house and onto the oval, it survived.

We are still planning to play on Saturday week.

A bus has been organized to leave Ruffy Store at 8.45am (Park in Hobart street) It will pick up at the Highlands Hall at 9.15am.

If you wish to be picked up along the way (Boathole Road, Caveat, Highlands, Ghin Ghin Rd) please contact Doug Mclean 57904387 or Scott McKay 57969259

If you wish to play contact either of the above. We'll send out another email with teams as they fill up.

Regards

Doug and Scotty

Rocky
Passes



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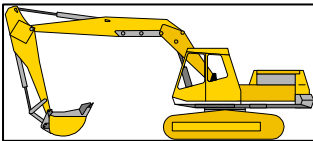


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