



THE GRANITE NEWS

23RD FEBRUARY
VOLUME 3
ISSUE 04

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

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Some Recollections of Fires in the Highlands Area.

A changing population over the years means there are few of us left to remember early fires. An enormous blaze raced through in the late 1800s, from well N of Dropmore to the Goulburn River and back on the S wind through Highlands.

Steve McAlpin recalls his father saying the fires were not nearly as bad in the 1920s, because the rabbits had eaten everything. In those days, a mixture of phosphorus and pollard was spread as a rabbit poison. This tended to ignite spontaneously, and was a major cause of fire. Ken Yorston (the late Peter Yorston's father) and Doug Lade's father, Neill, would gallop on horses at the first sign of smoke and beat out flames with green branches. There were no fire restrictions and no Fire Brigades. The late Ewen Waddell, of Caveat, called a meeting to form the first local Brigade, Grandpa Neill lade becoming the first Captain, Furphy tanks were pulled by horses and later by motor vehicles.

In January 1965, the huge Longwood fire (which killed 5 children and 2 adults trying to flee in a car), burnt through Tarcombe and Bungle Boori to Fernside and Granite Hills. Again, the S wind sent it back across the unburnt part of Bungle Boori and Mt Helen at Habbies Howe. Bill and Libby Webb were holidaying at Portland with their 4 children, they drove back in the middle of the night. Libby remembers mustering stock with Bill, and Dick Webb, not many were lost. Doug and I, and our 5 children, were in a swimming pool at Murrindindi, S of Yea, when burnt bracken actually landed beside us! Not a sound from any child as we drove up the Ghin Ghin Cutting, with the N sky a smoky orange cloud. An urgent phone call came to say a spot fire had reached Granite hills then the S change came.

9th January 1969 – another shocking day – screaming wind and high temps – a fire started near Ghin Ghin, another at Junction Hill, W of Yea. This burnt to Alexandra on NW wind, with shocking losses of stock and property. The S change brought it to the top of the Switzerland Range at 4 pm where the Army was mobilized with a bulldozed break and many troops.

The Highlands Hall became a Red Cross Post where we produced 100s of meals for a week. The Euroa Red Cross arrived with supplies (including much needed toilet paper!) and an enormous pot of beautiful stew – we had to heat it on camping stoves and dish it up on saucers with teaspoons – no power or telephones. Later, we equipped the hall with 2nd hand stuff, and got ourselves well-organized (and haven't needed it for 40 years). What a different set-up at the Hall now!

On this Black Saturday (7Feb) with 46 degrees at Highlands, and the vicious wind, a branch was blown on the Power line at Steve McAlpin's, the wire landed on a fence and by some miracle, there were no sparks, the fuses at the Hall were tripped and we are all still here, and very proud and thankful for our wonderful community over many years.

By Peg Lade

NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS

On behalf of Highlands Primary School Council, it is with the greatest pleasure that I announce to the school and wider community the appointment of Meagan Callander as Principal of Highlands Primary School. We are really fortunate to have such an experienced and highly regarded teacher who has a wealth of experience to share with our school community.

"I am honoured to accept the position of Principal of Highlands PS. I look forward to being part of the strong learning community that is already in place at Highlands PS. I thank all students, staff, parents and the wider community who have already made my time here so enjoyable." Meagan

CONGRATULATIONS MEAGAN

Elly Fisher School Council President



WELCOME TO ISSUE 4

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

HPS Student of the Week

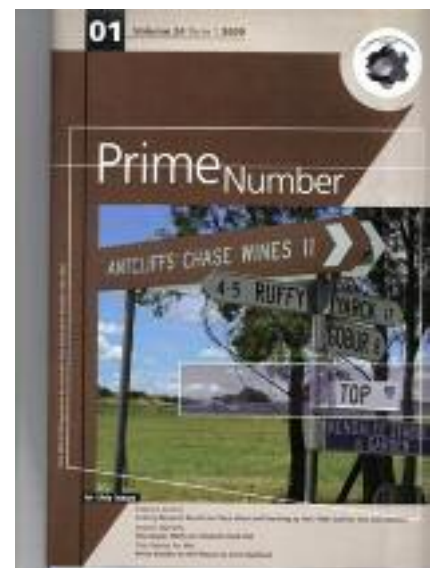
Alex Horne, for a great job of settling into school. Well done!



Welcome back! It is terrific to return to school after the tragic events of the past fortnight. Our thoughts go out to everyone affected by the bushfire tragedy, especially schools within our region.

IA huge thank you to the parents and community members who assisted in the school clean up. The place looks amazing and feels much safer. The photo below is the front page of a maths journal we received this week, looks familiar!

By Meagan Callander



Community What's On Calendar—February/March 2009

Weeks beg 23rd February	Terip Terip mowing roster Tim and Frances Lawrence Brian and Gail Van Rooyen Both sides of Springs Road and all 4 courts
Week beg 22nd Febru-	George Noyes Team : (mobile 0432 928301) Gerard Hill , Justus Hagen, Jono Hagen, Michael Hill, David Austin, Graham Johnston, Susan Sleigh, Andy Williams
19 - 28 Febru- ary, 2009	Exhibition of Paintings, photographs, sculptures called "Strathbogies - North-East Victoria " WHERE: James Makin Gallery CONTACT: Marguerite Brown E:publicity@jamesmakingallery.com T: 03 9419 8988 HOURS: Tuesday - Friday 10pm - 5.30pm Saturday 11.00 - 5.00pm
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. And there's more ... In collaboration with HiArts, Rocky Passes is hosting an exhibition of Rob Freeman's drawings. Open Saturdays & Sundays - 28 Feb/1 March; 7/8 March; 14/15 March or by appointment. 1590 Highlands Rd. 57969366.
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.
4th and 5th of March	ARTfelt JACKET 2 day WORKSHOP with Leah Jones, Felt and Stitch Artist Stretching the boundaries of wearable art and fashion Make a wearable art jacket with felt and silk in this two day workshop. Students will be asked to stretch the boundaries of their thinking and creating as they felt, embellish, design, cut and sew a wearable art piece that can be worn to even the best events. All you will need is a basic knowledge of felt- ing and the ability to let yourself go completely and enjoy the creative experience. COST \$170.00 10am - 4pm The Naturrally Made Store, 39 Binney Street, Euroa. 0409 951 040 (w), 5795 1040 (h) leah@wisewomanwearables.com.au www.wisewomanwearables.com.au
Saturday 7th March	Black Market - low kilometer food exchange - 10-11am market as usual then at 11ish, car pool up to Mauro and Debbie del Frate's for a pizza oven cooking demo. All welcome. Rocky Passes 1590 Highlands Rd 57969366
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.
Friday 13th March	Your Water Forum A Reality Check on WATER USE in the Strathbogie Ranges 9.00am, Shire of Strathbogie Theatre, Bury Street, Euroa, Professor Sam Lake speaking, Cathy Botta facilitating discussion to formulate our affirmed action plan Registration is vital by 10th March Contact T?F 57908563
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 March	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

LUNCH BOX TIPS

Healthy lunches and snacks are important for active children. Eating healthy food helps children concentrate and learn. Healthy eating changes are not always easy to make - set a good example with your own eating habits. Encourage children to be involved in preparing their own lunch and choosing the foods to include. Choose a variety of food from all food groups:

Fruit - choose fresh or tinned fruit. Dried fruit is sticky and high in sugar, so have it occasionally. Best left out of the lunch box are dried fruit bars and 'straps', which are very high in sugar, low in fibre and stick to children's teeth.

FOR SALE AS A RESULT OF THE BUSHFIRE

Strathewen Angus -- an Angus herd of 30 years standing and having Australia's highest 2007 calf drop on the CAAB, Grass Fed and Domestic profitability Indexes has been largely burnt out by the recent fires.

We now have 60 head of cattle penned up on about one acre and we are very keen to sell cattle other than our core breeding herd as quickly as possible at fire sale prices.

We have SEVEN yearling bulls by Hyline Right Time 338, Vermilion Yellowstone, Te Mania Ada and Te Mania Yorkshire out of Merrigrange/ Merridale Vicky, Te Mania Mittagong, Lawsons/GAR Blackbird, Booroomooka Wilpena and Summitcrest Erica (USA) bloodline cows.

We have TWELVE cows, some with bull calves at foot, by Te Mania Xpo, Vermilion Yellowstone, GAR Prime Design and GAR Yield Grade from the above cow lines plus Banquet Dream and Victoree Sunbeam.

We also have THIRTEEN matings of embryos by the above sires and by Leachman Boomtime, all at the lowest prices in the breed for top quality embryos.

We also have FREE SEMEN on offer to Angus breeders.

For details of all animals and genetics contact Bruce Newport, 9714 8370 or 0419 316 278 or go to the Angus Australia website where there are bull/female, embryo and semen catalogues with full pedigree information.

BITS OF BOTANY AND BIRDS

CARE for BIRDS in the GARDEN.

1- CLEAN WATER, if you are prepared to maintain the supply in dry times. Shallow containers on low pedestals are best. Put a flat rock in the middle to provide a take-off point. Situate near shrubs so the birds have somewhere to feel safe e.g. from cats. Perching spots on trees and shrubs nearby are encouraging.

2- I have 3 or 4 small unglazed terracotta bowls hanging around the garden, again with perching spots near, I fill them once a day using 1/2 cup sugar to 1 litre water. So simple and so rewarding. I don't want to make the birds dependent on me, (but sometimes I cheat, and add extra at lunch-time!!)

A MESSAGE FROM ANDREW SHAW

To all Highlands/Caveat CFA members and our Communities, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank everyone for their outstanding support over the last few weeks in this time of horror and shocking circumstances. It has meant a great deal to me that our community has banded together in a time of need. Thanks for these efforts and especially thanking all the CFA members who have volunteered their time to crew the trucks and keep watch over our areas.

Regards

Andrew Shaw (CFA Captain HCRFB)

KITTENS FOR SALE

4 F 1x Grey/white tortoise shell, 1x black with white socks, 2x all Black. \$20 ono. Kassie Shaw 03 57904297

PEACOCKS x 2

12 Weeks \$25 each

Ring Helen McKenzie

(03) 57904211

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

ROB FREEMAN'S DRAWINGS

In collaboration with HiArts, Rocky Passes is hosting an exhibition of Rob Freeman's drawings. Open Saturdays & Sundays - 28 Feb/1 March; 7/8 March; 14/15 March or by appointment - 1590 Highlands Rd, 57969366.

Rob Freeman is a self taught artist with a passion for the black and white art form of drawing. He uses Mitsubishi pencils on Scholershammer board to create his outstanding images of wildlife. His work reflects his ongoing concern for the environment, and the wedge tail eagle is a favourite raptor that he continues to study and draw. He has always found the practice of killing wedge tails a confounding display of ignorance.

Rob works largely on a commission basis and has held many successful solo exhibitions in Australia. He was runner up in the James Hardy Wild Life Art prize and a prize winner in the inaugural Waterhouse Natural History Art prize 2003. His work has been published in numerous wild life publications including:

'Wild Life Art News'- Minnesota USA

'Feather and Brush: Three Centuries of Australian Bird Art', Olsen. P (CSIRO publishing 2001)

'Aviculture in Australia', Shephard. M (Black Cockatoo Press 1989)

His work can be found in private collections throughout Australia and internationally.



A VERY MALE PINK PIG

Found 3 weeks ago at Habbies Howe, ring in his nose, very quiet. 57969259

Can any person who has chocolate moulds please drop them in to the Primary School or call Sharyn 57904297. We are going to make chocolates for Easter at HPS.

Rocky
Passes



Cellar door open Sundays 11am-4pm
or by appointment - 57969366
1590 Highlands Rd

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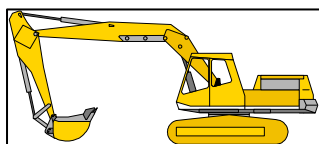
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