



# THE GRANITE NEWS

23RD MARCH  
VOLUME 3  
ISSUE 08

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

## PEOPLE AND PLACES

### SIMPLY SHARING

Many readers will already know Leah Jones from attending her workshops, visiting The spirit house Gallery, or more recently, the Naturally Made Store in Binney Street, Euroa, and of late, her International Women's Day lunches have become a ritual. Leah always brings together a lively bunch of women and this year Anne Brown from Seymour talked to us about how she came to set up The Simply Sharing Organisation.

Anne comes from a family of adventurous travellers and last year, partly as the result of planning, she found herself at Bhaktivdanta Vidya Mandir Primary School in West Bengal, India.

The pupils who attend the school, came from poor farming villages near Mayapur on the Ganges and the school is funded by a secular Indian NGO, and Anne was shocked to find that her students, often as young as three years old, were sent to school each day with only a small tin of puffed rice to eat.

When Anne's investigations led her to the Hari Krishna Iskcon nearby who would be able to provide a nourishing meal to the children for one dollar a day, therefore it only costs \$40 to provide a child with a meal on every school day for a whole year, and knowing that their children would receive a good meal would encourage parents to keep sending their children to school.

Already, Simply Sharing has raised enough money to feed all the students in the school for the whole of term one, and now Anne is working with a team to feed the school for the rest of the year.

Amongst the great strengths of this project are Anne's commitment and energy, and her determination to make every dollar donated go directly into real meals. At a time when we all feel stretched it was good to look beyond our own borders.

If you would like to find out more about the Simply Sharing project, you can contact Anne on 5793 8228, 0409 962 468, [anne.brown@y7mail.com](mailto:anne.brown@y7mail.com) or PO Box 92 Seymour VIC 3661

"She reminds me of Peg Lade"  
From Sari Wawn

## NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Several students from HPS are interested in learning to play tennis. Is anyone out in the community able to help them. It could be during school or after school hours. Ph Meagan 57969207

### STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Imogen Geffert :For maximising opportunities and a vibrant enthusiasm for learning! Outstanding effort!



Home Learning Award:  
Seniors: Imogen Junior: Lachie

Singing Group: The Singing Group made their first public appearance at the Yea Autumn Fest. I am sure anyone who was lucky enough to hear them was as proud as I was! They have worked hard to learn songs, spent recesses practising and were excellent representatives for Highlands PS. Congratulations to Laura, Imogen, Kassie, John, Walter, Kendall and Jessica.

Painting: Leone has nearly finished working with the students to plan and design the paintings for the wall in the undercover area. Before they start on the final work we need someone to undercoat the wall in preparation for the amazing art work! I would be very grateful to hear from anyone who could assist.

### A MESSAGE FROM PEG

" Thank you to everyone who has sent cards and flowers, for their concern and visits. It's been wonderful. The purple scarf is hanging up where I can see it. And I nearly know the poem off by heart. I'm making progress but will probably have to go to Rehab to speed up the recovery process. Can't wait to come home. Love to everyone"  
Peg Lade.

Peg told me she's interviewing all the staff to write up some articles for TGN, never one to just lie there!!!

## WELCOME TO ISSUE 8

Please send all articles to [miranda@omnipotent.com.au](mailto:miranda@omnipotent.com.au)



### FESTIVAL AND RAIN BRING LIFF BACK TO THE BUSH

This is part of an article from the Stock & Land publication. It also appeared in The Age.

"Busker John Bennett, 8, an enthusiastic talent with the ukulele and guitar, works through his song list for an appreciative audience at the Yea festival.

Many performers came courtesy of the Melbourne International Arts Festival, including some big-name bands such as Spiderbait and Little Red.

A much smaller name in the entertainment world is John Bennett, but what he lacks in size, age and recognition he makes up for in enthusiasm. His parents are winemakers from the hill town of Caveat, in the Strathbogie, and his mother, Susan Bennett, said he had been playing since he was four, mostly hit tunes from the '60s to '80s.

At yesterday's festival a busload was brought in from Kinglake and the nearby towns of Flowerdale and Glenburn. Bus-trip organiser Anne Leadbeater said it was nice for fire-affected people to come to Yea just to see a bit of greenery, though their own areas were already "starting to see a little bit of green. The Australian bush is very resilient; and so are our communities."

As for Yea, like many towns in fire-ravaged areas, it has been doing it tough. One of the festival organisers, Sandra Hanley, said the fires had made many shopkeepers realise how reliant they now were on tourism. Kim Chadband was helping out in the Mar-malade Cafe. "There was an 80pc drop after the fires, but today it is so busy we are struggling to cope!"

## Community What's On Calendar—March/April 2009

Weeks beg 23rd March	Terip Terip mowing roster Tim and Frances Lawrence Both sides of Springs Road and all 4 courts	Brian and Gail/Van Rooyen
21st March.	Highlands-Caveat Rural Fire Brigade EXTRAORDINARY MEETING & COMMUNITY GET TOGETHER VENUE: HIGHLANDS HALL & SURROUNDING GARDEN BRIGADE MEETING 5PM BRIGADE & COMMUNITY DINNER SERVED FROM 6PM ALL MEMBERS & COMMUNITY WELCOME	
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 Andrew Shaw 57904297 Ring Andrew before coming to check the walk is going ahead.	
Tuesday 24 March	Highlands Playgroup – New for 2009! Now meeting at local homes anytime between 9.30am - 11.30am every 2nd Tuesday including school holidays. DESPERATELY seeking more families with children aged 0-5. All welcome – free!- byo drink and snack for your child/ children. Please phone Marisa on 5796 9360 for next meeting place. If Tuesdays aren't suitable, ring me anyway. It may be possible to meet another day.	
Thursday 2nd April	Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative monthly meeting 8pm Whiteheads Creek Hall. Please come along and have your say on what you think is important for a sustainable future.	
Saturday 4th April	Black Market:10:00-12:00 at Rocky Passes [1590 Highlands Rd]. It's a very casual, local food exchange. This month's guest cook is Michael Greer, cooking the fabulous Polenta and Pine Nut Slice that we all tasted last month! All welcome. Any questions, call 57969366.	
Sunday 5 April 2009	Open Day - Holden Flora & Fauna Reserve @ 10:30am end of The Strand, Sunbury (Melway 382 F9) Jacksons Creek EcoNetwork, together with ParksVic & MelbWater, invite you to explore this little-known 96ha Reserve adjacent to Jacksons Creek. The Reserve was set up to preserve threatened species of the local area and it harbours Platypus, Peregrine Falcon, Growling Grass Frog and the Earless Dragon. FREE, BBQ lunch Please contact Christina Cheers 9744 1923	
9th April to 17th May 2009.	An exhibition by J. Darren Gilbert. Monkey Tail Collection 3 New drawings, paintings and sculptures of Australian wildlife and anthropomorphic elements. www.monkeytaildesign.com Opening Night. 5.30 to 8.30 Thursday 9th April 2009. At Ruffy Produce Store. 26 Nolans Road. Ruffy. Victoria. 3666. T. (03) 5790 4387 E. store@ruffy.com.au W. www.ruffy.com.au Open Friday 11.30 to 6.00 Weekends and public holidays 8.30 to 6.00	
Friday 10th April	'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. Gold coin donation to cover power.	
10th April	Good Friday Appeal, (Tin collectors for RCH) Watch out for the Ruffy fire trucks and CFA members collecting for the Good Friday appeal. Beginning at the Ruffy Fire Shed @ 10am and will run most of the day. Lunch will be available consisting fried fish and salads. Cost \$5.00 per head (proceeds of lunch to Ruffy CFA and to assist with costs of running the day) Please let us know if you can join us for lunch by Thursday the 9th. We hope the big white Easter bunny will be seen hoping around too!!! RSVP or Enquires to Colleen 57 953 435 or Sally 57 904335 or Kerry 57 904392. Thank you and Happy Easter !!!!	

### APRIL EVENTS ALEXANDRA LIBRARY

2	French Conversation with coffee and cake	1 – 3
2	4F food, fun & fiction on Fursdays for anyone under 12	3.45 - 5
	4 Street Art Youth Workshop, ideas, techniques, paint & food	1 - 4
7	On the Couch – Lots of laughs, new books and wine	6.30 - 8
9	Murrindindi Writers – all aspiring writers welcome	10
9	Holiday Activity – Gingerbread House	3 – 4
14	Holiday Activity – Badminton	3 – 4
	Junior Friends of the Library - Chocolate Anzacs	5.30 – 6.30
16	Holiday Activity –Secret Book Box	3 – 4
13	Storytime for 3 – 5's stories, fun, activities & songs	11 – 12
20	Vintage Readers - grey power book discussion group	2 - 4
21	Tuesday Show – The Somme (note Evening Session)	7.30 – 8.30
23	Murrindindi Writers – all aspiring writers welcome	10
23	4F food, fun & fiction on Fursdays for anyone under 12	3.45 - 5
28	Blokes Night – drinks and a yarn with mates	6.30 – 8
30	Storytime for under 3's, rhymes, stories, activities & songs	11 – 12

### Street Art Workshop

A 3 hour youth workshop with a professional artist - teeming with ideas, techniques, paint and food – free event.

#### Free Internet

Wireless Internet available -  
BYO laptop  
Don't Forget \* We are OPEN  
Tuesday EVENINGS 6-8!

#### NEW

Scrabble  
Every Friday 2 – 4 More players  
wanted

# Classifieds & Community Notices

## FISH RESCUE

Water Levels in the Hughes Creek reached critical levels fish survival for 3 weeks ago . The creek below Bungle Boori stopped flowing. This is where the Macquarie perch live . Fern Hames , Native Fish Coordinator from DSE was notified and came out to survey the fish last Friday . She found the fish in a stressed condition and in poor health but no dead fish were discovered. No flow of water into the deeper pools where the perch had retreated resulted very low oxygen levels in the water and increased water temperatures . The survival of these fish is very important . The Hughes Creek is one of only 3 sites in the Goulburn Broken where maccas are found . The Hollands Creek , which stopped flowing 3months ago and the King Parrot creek where they were moved from the week before because of the threat of ash and silt inflows after the bushfires.

An emergency decision was made to remove 10% of our perch , (32 fish) to a special pond at Snobs Creek Fishery near Eildon . The health of these fish quickly picked up with improved oxygen , a decent feed and treatment for parasites . These fish will be kept at Snobs Creek to ensure the gene pool survives and to restock Hughes Creek if needed in the future when water levels return to reasonable levels .

I would like to thank Fern and her team for their dedication to the welfare of our native fish.

Janet Hagen



## FREE RANGE TURKEYS

### FOR SALE

Freshly dressed whole birds \$12kg  
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Phone Marj 5790 4298

## FUNDRAISING IN RUFFY

In a weekend of fund raising activities around the country, Ruffy Bushfire Appeal Committee hosted two events at the Ruffy Store . The committee supported by teams of people from the community, local musicians, businesses and staff, who all donated time and resources. Thanks to their efforts, the David Francey concert on Friday 13, and the auction and barbecue on Saturday 14 raised \$20,000.

The responses speaks volumes about how much we owe to the people of Murrindindi, and the many fire fighters from local brigades who helped to bring the fire under control, and both the rain and the gatherings of people at these events has done much to lift our spirits.

While the Committee takes a little time to put together a full report, to everybody who put in to make the events such a success – our heartfelt thanks.



Jono Hagen and David Sleight did a great job at the BBQ, thanks boys!!



David Francey was not only a beautiful singer but also a fabulous story teller. Before each song he explained where it had come from and each time shared a little bit of his life with the audience. By the end of the concert we all felt we knew his wife and family personally, what a great art.

## CLEARVIEW RETREAT

We've just launched the website for Clearview Retreat, and invite you to take a look at it.

[www.clearviewretreat.org.au](http://www.clearviewretreat.org.au)

We are now running our Weekend Mountain Yoga Retreats on a monthly basis at least, sometimes more frequently. We also welcome two new yoga teachers to our Weekend Mountain Yoga Retreat program: Claire Heywood and Nina Isabella. Details of their current upcoming retreats are on the website. We will also have Deb Robertson and Hendrika Van Dyk starting in the near future; their retreats will be posted on the website soon.

After the anxiety of the fire period it is good to be settling down into the cooler and more agreeable weather of autumn, and our orchard is being particularly abundant this harvest season.

Jocelyn Bennett and Paul Macgregor

## TERIP TERIP TENNIS

The Terip Terip tennis club has come to the end of the 08/09 season. The team finished 4th on the section 2 ladder and faced top side Nagambie in an elimination final. After a fighting effort, we were beaten (flogged actually), but very proud to have made it to the finals. The clubs 'brownlow' votes were counted that night and the deserving winner was Frances Lawrence. A big thank you to all our team members this season and anyone who has filled in for us or supported us. Our well wishes go out to Merv Penny and Helen McKenzie – we wish them speedy recoveries and hope to see them on the courts next season fitter than ever.

The ladies winter season will soon begin. Any lady who might be interested in playing or filling in for us on Mondays should call Cindy Hayes or Frances Lawrence.

## WANTED: COPIES OF THE RUFFY REVIEW

We are having all the old copies of the Ruffy Review community newsletter scanned onto a CD for distribution later this year. These issues are missing from our archive: February 1991, February 1995, July Aug, Sept, Oct. Nov.2002, Dec. 2003, Feb, March, April 2005. If you have any of these issues could we please borrow them to scan. Ring Sharron 57904329 or Glen 57904318 if you can help. Many thanks

Rocky  
Passes



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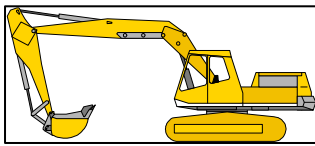


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