



THE GRANITE NEWS

25TH MAY
VOLUME 3
ISSUE 15

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

PURE LOCAL ENERGY PROJECT

Households in Murrindindi and Mitchell will be able to save money, reduce their carbon footprint and support local jobs by participating in an innovative community solar energy project.

The program will enable residents to install a 1kW solar photovoltaic (PV) system at the substantially reduced cost of \$2000 (if you are eligible for the \$8000 grant). This in turn will reduce household electricity bills by an estimated \$250 per year. Interested residents can choose to install the base 1kW system only or a larger system to suit their household needs.

The Pure Local Energy Project, complements the Federal Government's Solar Homes and Communities Plan Rebate which provides financial support up to \$8,000 (\$8 per watt) for installing a 1 kW PV system. Further savings to residents are made possible though the power of bulk buying.

The solar systems to be installed under this program are grid-connected, which means that electricity generated that is not used by the household can be exported back into the national electricity grid. As a result participating residents will be able to take advantage of the proposed Feed-in Tariff scheme. If passed by the State Government of Victoria, the feed-in tariff will see owners of 3.2kW systems or smaller receive a 60 cent tariff (or credit) on their electricity account for every unit of unused electricity they generate and export to the grid. To gain maximum benefit from the project, residents should be home owner-occupiers, have at least eight square meters (e.g. 2 x 4m) of unshaded, north-facing roof, and have a household taxable income of less than \$100,000. The offer is only available for the next five weeks as the Australian Government's solar panel rebate of \$8000 expires on 30 June 2009. For an obligation-free direct home inspection, please contact Solar Shop Australia at Tel: Solar Shop Australia (133 765) or for more information visit www.solarshop.com.au/purelocalenergy.

NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL



Student of the Week

Kassie Shaw: For being a fantastic role model at school and on excursions. Well done Kassie!

Boite Choir:

Last week Philip Wischer and I joined with teachers from ten other local schools to learn the songs for the Boite Schools Choir 2009. This huge extravaganza has been taking place in the Yea and Alex area for three years but this is the first time Highlands PS have been involved. Students indicate their interest and learn the songs. We meet in Yea for a practise with all other schools on a Saturday in July, we then go to Richmond to rehearse on the big stage and the main performance is on Thursday 14th August.

During the main performance students are on stage with over 300 other students and perform to a huge audience. There is a registration fee involved and students are required to purchase T-shirts for the performance. At this stage students from the Autumn Fest Singing Group has expressed their interest to be involved and have received the CD and song words, but we will discuss it more over the coming weeks and hopefully get more students involved.

We intend to take the entire school to Melbourne on Thursday 14th to watch the performance.

For Sale:

Two pedestal fans that are no longer needed by the school. Make a donation.

WELCOME TO ISSUE 15

Please send all articles to miranda@omnipotent.com.au

May 31 Cut Off for Compost Bin & Worm Farm Subsidy

Are you thinking about buying a compost bin or worm farm? Strathbogie Shire's Compost Bin and Worm Farm Subsidy, an initiative of the Sustainable Communities Program, ends on Sunday May 31. Don't miss out on this opportunity to put a valuable resource to good use at a very low cost.

Almost half of our household garbage is made up of kitchen scraps and garden waste. Converting your food and garden waste into compost or worm castings has many benefits for you and the environment including:

- Providing a marvellously rich soil conditioner
- Saving valuable landfill space
- Reducing the greenhouse gas methane
- Saving water in the garden
- Reducing garden costs through providing a free and natural fertiliser

The participating retailers are

- Nagambie Hardware
- WB Hunter Euroa
- True Value Hardware Euroa
- Saville's Plumbing & Hardware Supplies
- Violet Town Rural & Hardware

Contact Cathy Koning, Sustainable Communities Coordinator
Phone 5734 6357



Verena comes to teach the seniors basket weaving. The students love it and are very proud of their creations.

Community What's On Calendar—May/June 2009

Fortnight beg 25th May-8th June	Terip Terip mowing roster Car park and all 4 courts	Jim and Jill Davidson	John and Lu Craven
24May-30May	WHITEHEADS CREEK- TARCOMBE RURAL FIRE BRIGADE TRUCK ROSTER Glen Watson Anthony Wallis Doug Halpin Gary Richards		
28th May	Secret Men's Business at the Caveat Church on the last Thursday of every month. Come along at 5.30pm and enjoy a snag and a chat by the fire. Everyone is welcome, even Chloe.		
31st May	White Hart Hotel T: 03-5798-5203 E: white.hart@bigpond.com In the Dining Room, we're looking forward to our first food & wine event of the year. Shades of Autumn will be a sumptuous four course menu, matched to local wines. The menu is a celebration of 'all things tasty' from Strathbogie and the region and includes Avenel Mushrooms, Ruffy Turkey, and Local Venison. Price is \$65 per person including wines. Bookings are essential so call early to avoid disappointment.		
31 May - 6 Jun 2009	WHITEHEADS CREEK- TARCOMBE RURAL FIRE BRIGADE TRUCK ROSTER Barry Roworth Darren Brock Tim Hayes Michel Becks		
Wednesday June 3,	Terip Terip RFB Biennial General Meeting 7.30 pm at Terip Terip Rec Reserve All welcome - Bernie McMahon Secretary-Treasurer 57904352		
4th June	Ruffy Community Action Group - 1st meeting of this newly constituted Group, Ruffy Hall, starting at 8.00 pm.		
4th June	HCCC meeting Terip Terip Recreational Hall 7.30pm All welcome. Come and hear what's happening to Landcare at the moment, it's not all great news as there is no guarantee of ongoing funding for a lot of the programmes that assist our community cope with weeds and rabbits and in the past has assisted us to plant cheaper, indigenous trees, and fence off areas for revegetation etc		
Saturday 6th June	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 Jocelyn Bennet and Paul MacGregor, cooking a lovely curry ... just the thing for the cooler months! All welcome. Any questions, call 57969366.		
7th June	White Hart Hotel T: 03-5798-5203 E: white.hart@bigpond.com 4.00pm - Jimmy Davidson (a Longwood FC legend from the 70's singing old time rock)		
10th June, Benalla; 11th June, Long- wood	Soils Alive – . Free workshops on understanding organic matter, soil biology and the benefits of dung beetles. Lunch and notes provided. To book in contact Charlie Sexton on 57 611 560 or email kirsty.youman@dpi.vic.gov.au		
Friday 12th June	Drinks on the deck at the Highlands Hall, all welcome to come and share a meal and catch up with friends or meet new people. Gold coin donation for the hall. 6.30pm onwards		
Sunday 14th June	Melbourne composer and classical guitarist David Adams will be giving a recital in the Highlands. David will be playing works by Tarrega, Sor, Carcassi, Bach, Navaez, Adams and Primrose. Venue: Dennis Spiteri's Studio/Gallery, 'Hillcrest' RMB 6020 Old Highlands Rd. Everyone welcome. Time: 2pm. Entry by donation. No booking is necessary, but to give us some idea of numbers to expect, could people that are interested in coming please contact Dennis or Margaret on 57969373 or email: denisspiteri@activ8.net.au		
20th June	White Hart Hotel T: 03-5798-5203 E: white.hart@bigpond.com 7.30pm - Ruckus (one for the diary - these guys and girl will be performing foot stompin' country rock - listen to them at www.ruckus.net.au)		
25th June	Secret Men's Business at the Caveat Church on the last Thursday of every month. Come along at 5.30pm and enjoy a snag and a chat by the fire. Everyone is welcome.		
28th June	Highlands Ramblers walk Call Andrew on 57 904297 if you need more details Highlands Hall 10.30am		

Classifieds & Community Notices

HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS



Photo by Geoff Lade



Highland Ramblers own Time Team, with Dennis looking for treasures and Andrew and the team looking on. Photo by Lorraine Wotherspoon

On 17th May, 18 Highlands Ramblers explored the Granite Hills area, walking on the long ridge from the woolshed to a point overlooking Larnoo and the Goulburn Valley. Andrew showed them an old mine shaft near the edge of the granite, where white quartz was visible. This was originally sunk by Alan and Hughie McAlpin, during the Great Depression, but no gold was found.

Lunch was at the top of the hill, and then we walked west, and down to another creek, past Sorraghan's Hut, and back to the cars, near the spectacular granite boulders.

Next walk is on 28th June, and will be in the Fassi Fern area, opposite Sprunt's Road, and Andrew will show us an old mill site. Andrew says he will arrange for a car to ferry walkers back, so there won't be too much up-hill. Meet at Highlands hall 10.30 as usual.

By Peg Lade

BITS OF BOTANY AND BIRDS

ROBINS

Scarlet and Flame Robins have come down from the high mountains, and there are plenty of them enjoying the warmer atmosphere of our hills. Other robins you MIGHT see, are red-capped (they live in the inland, but sometimes disperse), The Hooded Robin is all black and white, and used to be quite common here, but I have not seen one for over 10 years. Quite common and a friendly bird, is the Eastern Yellow Robin. They sometimes come into gardens, (but not mine). Most of the female Robins are a nondescript grey-brown.



The Hooded Robin

REBORN

Environment Victoria and the Total Environment Centre have launched a new campaign for a national e-waste recycling scheme.

REBORN is calling on federal and state environment ministers to give televisions, computers and other old electronics a second life.

There are already over 168 million items of toxic e-waste in Australian landfill. With Australians continuing to buy new electronics, including digital TVs, this number will rise unless the government takes action.

TV and IT industry groups actually support a nation-wide 'take-back' and recycling scheme for e-waste.

Visit www.reborn.org.au and tell Peter Garrett you support e-waste recycling.

Fraser Brindley

Production and Consumption Campaigner, Environment Victoria

Kidney Health Week 24-30 May 2009

1 in 7 Australians, the equivalent of the entire population of Sydney, have at least one clinical sign of existing Kidney Disease such as reduced kidney function and the presence of protein or blood in their urine, according to Kidney Health Australia.

Anne Wilson, CEO of Kidney Health Australia launching the 2009 Kidney Health Week campaign under the banner of 'Making a Noise About the Silent Killer' said protein is found in the urine of 2.4 % of the Australian population and is an indication of the kidneys not functioning correctly.

"It is four times higher in people with diabetes and five times higher in those people with high blood pressure which affects 1 in 4 Australians. 50% do not have blood pressure managed to target levels.

"High blood pressure is found in 80% of patients with failed kidneys, and is a major contributor to Chronic Kidney Disease which kills 40 people a day in Australia.

Kidney Health Week this year will focus on the critical issue of controlling blood pressure and also target obesity which is a major risk factor for kidney disease. More than 2.6 million adult Australians are considered to be obese.

The major part of the battle against Kidney Disease is awareness as people can lose up to 90% of their kidney function before experiencing any symptoms and within a few days can find they are on dialysis, hence the name 'The Silent Killer'.

(Information from Kidney Health Australia)

KICK START FOR CAMPAIGN TO BUY LOCAL

THE State Government will help businesses in Murrindindi Shire recovering from February's devastating bushfires with a grant to kick off a Provincial Victoria Buy Locally campaign.

Announcing the grant of \$13,350, the Member for Seymour said businesses in Murrindindi Shire urgently needed a boost to help them get back on their feet.

"Two-thirds of the shire has been burnt, many lives have been lost, more than 1000 homes have been destroyed and infrastructure worth more than \$10 million is gone.

Rocky
Passes



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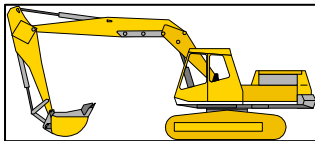
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