



## PEOPLE AND PLACES

The unfinished story of the Kong Mengs of Kerap, Ponkeen Creek Road, Tarcombe (as told to Peg by Olwen Fenton)

On 29-03-1884, Lowe Kong Meng paid to the District Surveyor at Seymour, the sum of 1 pound to apply for a lease on 320 acres. The annual lease payment for this block was 10 pounds. Another block was settled first and called "PERAK", the province in Malaya where Lowe Kong Meng was born. In 1896, fire razed the home and the family re-located across the road, the name was changed to KAREP. The land was pegged by Arthur Kong Meng by placing conspicuous cairns of stones or posts at each corner and placing a notice thereon.

Lowe Kong Meng was an eminent early citizen of Melbourne. He was born a British citizen in Penang. He was natural leader and very generous to all people and causes. He was widely respected. He was also deemed to be exceptionally wealthy, and helped many people. Kong Meng apparently died in poor circumstances, perhaps due to the failure of banks. At one stage, he owned 6 ships. He married Annie (Prussia) from Tasmania and they had 14 children, 9 of whom worked and lived in the Longwood – Tarcombe area. Men travelling from Longwood to Tarcombe commented on the fine fences, weed free paddocks, fine gardens, and the commodious home. The brothers built a 4-roomed dwelling from rocks they collected - 2 rooms survived for the Fentons. On this land 4 brothers tried to create a living by milking cows and trapping rabbits. Only 1 of them married – to Ellen Della. Of the girls Agnes married George Martin, and her father gave her a mansion in Brighton as a wedding present. Beatrice taught needlework at the Ruffy school and married George Hogarth, a miner. Sadly, five days after giving birth to a daughter, both mother and child died. Clara was born in 1865 and buried in Euroa in 1955. She kept house for George and was said to be a very gentle person. (Olwen wonders if she planted the water lilies that float on the dam?) Local identities talk of a hill and creek called Kong Meng, but I cannot find them on any maps, and the name is not registered in Nigel Sinnott's "Place Names of Alexandra and Eildon areas. Olwen Fenton is working meticulously, learning about the previous owners of Karep. What fascinating history to be uncovering, more to come!

## NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL



### STUDENT of the WEEK

Lachie Wischer :For a great effort with his weekly homework! Well done Lachie.

### READING AWARDS

Congratulations to the following Super Readers! WOW! 150 nights!  
James, Alex, Daniel

### BER & NSP Funding

The outdoor area looks fantastic thanks to Webby & Michael's hard work. The windows have been enlarged to let in more light, the lattice has been replaced by a small fence and the seats have been relocated to the oval and sandpit area. New outdoor furniture will be ordered in the next week. The new building works were due to start in the holidays although I haven't heard from the project manager so watch this space!

### WELCOME

We welcome Tracey Ukosich to the staff at Highlands Primary School. Tracey will teach the juniors each Thursday to allow Meagan some time for administration work. Tracey has terrific teaching skills and has special talents in IT and Drama. The students will benefit from having Tracey working at Highlands PS. Some budding actors are seen below!



## WELCOME TO ISSUE 21

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

Thank you to Ron Fenton and grand children for spraying the Spanish Broom on Ponkeen Creek Road. Without caring landowners doing their community bit our environment would be in real strife.

NOTE: DRINKS ON THE DECK - CHANGE OF DATE FOR AUGUST.

## RUFFARTZ PRESENTS THE KAVISHA MAZZELLA TRIO

The Kavisha Mazzella Trio will be performing in the Ruffy Hall on Saturday 8th August as part of a 2009 Victorian tour to 9 regional centres across the state. The tour is produced by Multicultural Arts Victoria in partnership with Regional Arts Victoria.

The trio play an energetic fusion of Italian folk and country music as well as Kavisha's original music and lyrics. Rich in humour and audience participation, the show is comprised of music and storytelling that expresses Kavisha's experience of migration - joyful and painful - and one's place in Australia spiritually and physically.

The members of the trio - Kavisha Mazzella (vocals, guitar), Irini Vela (bouzouki) and Peter Vadiveloo (percussion) share a passion for Flamenco, Greek and Italian folk sounds. They find these rich modal and rhythmic styles help them express the experience of having migrant roots and living in Australia.

Trio leader, Kavisha Mazzella, has been writing and singing her own music for 20 years. She has been performing at folk festivals in Australia and internationally and has won various awards including the 1998 ARIA for Best World Music Album for Fisherman's Daughter and the Italia Nel Mondo Award from the Italian Government in 2000 for her contribution to Italian Culture in Australia. Kavisha sings with the voice of a heartbroken angel. Victoria Laurie, The Australian  
Mazzella's voice has a wonderful purity of tone and can lift over a melodic line with bell-like, weightless grace. But she can also stride through a rousing folk anthem, or - with some vibrant, percussive guitar - make the audience sing along. Jess Nicholas ~ The Age

Community What's On Calendar—July/August 2009	
Fortnight beg 20th July	Terip Terip mowing roster      Alan and Betty Renfree      Brian and Gail Van Rooyen Around Clubhouse and all 4 courts
July 12th- August 2nd	CUTTINGS - An exhibition of art photography by Jeff Moorfoot at Rocky Passes Estate [1590 Highlands Rd, Whiteheads Creek. PH 57969366]. Saturdays and Sundays [or by appointment] from July 12th to August 2nd.
19 July -25 July	WHITEHEADS CREEK- TARCOMBE RURAL FIRE BRIGADE TRUCK ROSTER Glenn Watson      Darren Brock      Barry Roworth      John Dalziel
Sat 25th July	You are invited to attend: Goulburn Options Inc. Christmas in July 2009 Fundraiser for the Tri-State Games Where: Senior Citizens Hall Anzac Ave Seymour Cost:\$25.00 (inc 2 Course Meal & Entertainment by Lee & Lemmon duo) Time:6.00pm meal served at 6.30 R.S.V.P 20th July 57923192 'Get in Quick Tickets are Limited' Games, Trivia and Raffles on the night to help support the Go-Getters to make it to Stawell this year Beer & Wine available on the night no BYO
26 July - 1 Aug	WHITEHEADS CREEK- TARCOMBE RURAL FIRE BRIGADE TRUCK ROSTER Mark Stokes      Candi Westney      Rob Hayes      M Greer
30th July	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. Chloe can come now her ears are better.
Saturday 1st August	Black Market: 10:00-12:00 at Rocky Passes [1590 Highlands Rd]. It's a very casual, local food exchange. Any questions, call 57969366.
2 Aug - 8 Aug	WHITEHEADS CREEK- TARCOMBE RURAL FIRE BRIGADE TRUCK ROSTER B Bortalazzo      Rob Wales      John Wood      Ralph Provan
2nd August	Grey-crowned Babbler Tree Planting Join the Friends of the Grey-crowned Babbler for a day's tree planting in the Nagambie district to help link crucial parts of the habitat of this threatened bird. Enjoy the provided lunch and learn about the current status of this threatened bird across Victoria. For more information, please contact Doug Robinson 0408 512 441 dougr@tfn.org.au
Tuesday 4th August	The Melting Pot forum will be held at the Salvation Army Hall, Victoria Street Seymour on at 2.00PM Speaker for the U3A Melting Pot Series in August will be Barry Croke, former Principal of Dookie College, and full time farmer, who has gained a reputation for forward thinking and thought provoking ideas. He understands the importance of water in our food chain. He will speak on the numerous issues such as factors influencing on-farm water use efficiency, then factors impacting on water harvesting and water delivery. Policies on how we allocate water and determine where water is used will create interest. Barry will offer insights into the future of food production in our region, given hotter and drier conditions we now see as the norm.
THURSDAY AUGUST 6TH 2009	DIRECT SEEDING NATIVE VEGETATION Ray and Shirley would like to share a success story of revegetation by direct seeding. Come along and learn more about the whole direct seeding process and listen to guest speakers Jim Begley (DPI), Janet Hagen (contractor) and Liz Evan (Indigenous Seedbank), ...and join us for Devonshire Tea. 10AM—11:30AM WHERE: RAY MALCOLM & SHIRLEY GOODMAN 295 KILFEERA ROAD, BENALLA RSVP: Phone: 57622879 ( Ray or Shirley) Phone: 57611663 ( Helen) E-mail: helen.repacholi@dpi.vic.gov.au
Friday 7th Au- gust	'Drinks on the Deck' at Highlands Community Hall from 6.30pm. Bring food to share for a meal together and catch up with friends old and new. Gold coin donation to cover power. Please note that the August date for Drinks on the Deck had to change.
Saturday 8th August	Free Singing Workshop facilitated by Kavisha Mazzella Ruffy Hall 3 - 5pm Afternoon tea provided. Kavisha is renowned for her work with the Italian Women's Choir and this is a rare opportunity to participate in one of her fantastic workshops in rural Victoria. The workshop is free and funded through the Regional Arts Fund with assistance from Regional Arts Victoria. It is hoped that this will inspire regular community singing events in the Ruffy Hall. Bookings essential Contact Glen 5790 4318
Saturday 8th August	RuffArtZ presents the Kavisha Mazzella Trio 8 pm BYO drinks and nibbles. Bookings contact Glen 5790 4318
Thursday 27th August	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. Come and meet Chloe who should be allowed out by then.



Rocky  
Passes



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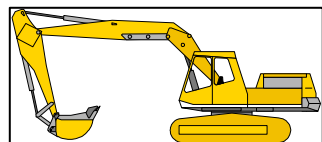
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