



PEOPLE AND PLACES

HIGHLANDS HISTORY 1

As it is now impossible to buy copies of "Highlands - 1882 to 1982", by Helen McCall, I hope it will be interesting to reproduce some parts of it in this column. Material was collected by a committee, consisting of Neill Lade, Ewen and Joyce Waddell, Steve, Janet, and Doug McAlpin, Norma Shaw, Nick Gardiner and Doug Lade. The Highlands Primary School children also contributed some of their thoughts. Some wonderful old photographs are reproduced in the book, some of these now hang in the Highlands Hall. Steve's grandmother kept a diary, which was invaluable.

Starting from page 1, - in 1824 Hume and Hovell passed along the Eastern edge of Highlands, describing the country as the most agreeable and interesting they had seen since leaving home. Major Mitchell passed further West in 1836 and was followed 2 years 2 years later by the first squatters.

Graziers were allowed to take up as much land as they could stock, for an annual payment of 10 pounds. Legal boundaries did not exist, and there were many disputes. Mr Henry Kent Hughes's Avenel station extended well into the Highlands area. Mr Kent Hughes was said to "give" Dropmore Station to Mr John Webster in 1841, and Messrs George Taylor and Gideon Stewart staked their claims to the Habbies Howe valley. In 1858 Mr Gideon Stewart purchased "Rocky Passes" from Mr Buckland and "Abadulla" (Glen Lyon) in 1858. Lease holders were also able to annexe "outstations", areas within a 3 mile radius of boundary riders huts.

Most of the land was open forested hills with very little bracken fern.

Then pressure from would-be land owners resulted in a succession of Land Acts, and rural areas were surveyed into roughly 320 acre allotments and made available for selection.

It was not until the early 1880s that Kobyboyn, Dropmore and Switzerland were surveyed, but parts of Rocky Passes and Ghin Ghin were selected as early as 1870 by the Chisholm family. Their property became known as "Fernside". The homestead areas were 640 acres on a freehold basis, all remaining selections were initially leasehold. The squatters' homestead areas were the Pre-emptive rights and can be identified on land title maps, ie Parish Plans.

NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL



The students who participated in the Boite Choir were lucky enough to work with some very talented musicians last Saturday in preparation for the big show at Dallas Brooks Hall on Thursday 13th August.

FUNDRAISING GROUP

This exciting new group is inviting parents, friends and community members to the first social gathering on Thursday 30th July at 9am, at the school. Please spread the word and come along and help us, the more the merrier! We need to raise money for some very important areas of the students' learning and we need your help.

STUDENT of the WEEK

John Bennett : For reflecting on his learning and looking for ways to improve. Well done John.

HAPPY HOME LEARNING AWARDS

Congratulations to the following:
Seniors: Imogen & John
Juniors: Emillie

HANDWASHING for HEALTH

Handwashing has been high on the agenda recently with the Government and health agencies promoting frequent washing of hands as a key way to reduce the spread of swine flu. According to the United States Centres of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), "Handwashing is the single most important means of preventing the spread of infection." Washing with soap and warm water is the best way to clean your hands.

Source: Better Health Channel – www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/

WELCOME TO ISSUE 22

Please send all articles and community and personal notices to miranda@omnipotent.com.au

HIGHLANDS PUBLIC HALL RESERVE

Notice is given of a PUBLIC MEETING to be held at Highlands Hall on Tuesday 4 August 2009 commencing at 7.30pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to nominate no less than three (3) or more than nine (9) persons as the Committee of Management for the Highlands Public Hall Reserve for a term of three years. The current committee's term will expire on 23 August 2009. All positions will be declared open and nominations will be accepted prior to or on the night. Further information, nomination forms and nominee declaration forms may be obtained by contacting your local Department of Sustainability and Environment office or at the meeting. For further enquiries please contact the Secretary, Sue Peterson on 5797 6395.

RUFFY COMMUNITY PLAN

The Ruffy Community Action Group will have its second meeting on Thursday 6th August, 7.30 pm at the Ruffy Hall. The main purpose of the meeting is for the Focus Groups to report on progress towards establishing Action Plans for the four selected community initiatives:

Developing the Tablelands Community Centre (at the Ruffy School site) as a hub for community activities in the centre of Ruffy, including the provision of public toilets.

Upgrading the Ruffy Recreation Reserve to support a range of recreational and sporting activities, including provision for dressage events.

Promoting Ruffy and district by developing information material, a new resident's kit and a website.

Facilitating and supporting, as necessary, a range of existing and newly proposed recreational and cultural events for the Ruffy community.

The meeting will be an opportunity for the nominated representatives of the various community groups to provide inputs to the further development of these initiatives; it will be open for members of the Ruffy community. For further information please contact the President of the Action Group, Erwin Weinmann, Tel. 5790 4309, email alpli@bigpond.com.

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.
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 doug@tfn.org.au
2nd August	Tallarook Farmer's Market Tallarook Mechanics Institute Main Road, Tallarook. For more information contact Ellise Rikards elliselouise@gmail.com
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 , 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
Thursday 6 August	Ruffy Community Action Plan - Meeting of community group representatives to discuss draft of Community Action Plan at Ruffy Hall 7.30 pm.
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 August date 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
Friday 14th & Saturday 15th August	The Mad Hatters present THE EXHIBITION A light hearted look at the art world "Trust me darling!" Highlands Hall 7.30pm Tickets \$8.00 adult/\$5.00 child/ \$20.00 family For bookings contact Pauline 57969301 BYO Drinks & nibbles Tables available light refreshments provided
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.
Saturday 29th August	"Welcome Strangers" 8 pm BYO drinks and nibbles. "Four consummate musicians present a show featuring tenderly collected versions of all but lost authentic traditional rural Australian fiddle tunes. Also some precious songs sung in sweet harmonies that permeated our culture via early immigration and some that were written right here on Aussie soil." Bookings with Glen 5790 4318.

Classifieds & Community Notices

Some facts about ... CATS

All cats, even well-fed pet cats, can kill wildlife. In Victoria, on average, each pet can kill 25 creatures every year; this adds up to 12.5 million creatures every year. At the same time, feral cats eat the equivalent of seven native rosellas each week, over 70 million creatures each year.

Most wildlife killed by roaming pet cats is often caught just outside the back door. All cats, including your pet cat, hunt by instinct.

Often a captured bird or possum will appear undamaged but, almost certainly, it will die within 36 hours from shock or infection. Cats' mouths are hot-beds of bacteria. One bite to a native animal leads to rapid spread of infection against which it has little resistance. Cats carry Toxoplasmosis, a disease which can devastate wildlife populations.

Be a responsible pet owner:

Register your cat and ensure it wears the council tag when it is off your premises, as required by law.

Desex your cat - neutered cats make better, more contented pets.

Confine your cat to your property, this may be a requirement of your council.

Keep your cat in at night - cats kept indoors won't be hurt in fights, won't be hit by cars and won't harm wildlife

Put bells on your cat's collar.

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
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Dr Stapper began a career in science and agriculture forty years ago, has international experiences on four continents and is a former senior scientist with CSIRO.

He is an expert across a wide spectrum of agricultural areas including wheat agronomy, farming systems, participatory research and agricultural information technology. Dr Stapper says biological farming is not just about soil health through improved biology and carbon – it is also about profitable farming by lowering inputs and associated costs, making plants, animals and land more resilient in variable climate, and utilising natural resources for increased productivity – and is thus ecosystem based. His focus is on biological farming that helps farmers improve the profitability of their operations by harnessing the power of natural soil processes with practices creating healthy soils while reducing heavy reliance on fertilisers and chemicals.

Dates and time September 3,
10:00am - 3:00pm - Nagambie
Carl Reeve Ph: 0412 144 936

HIGHLANDS/CAVEAT CFA

Last Friday night a group of reps from Highlands/Caveat CFA were invited to a "Thankyou" dinner at the Yea Shire Hall run by the Rotary Club of Yea. The night was organised to thank all the volunteer groups, contractors, Shire, hospital, wildlife and many other groups, for their fantastic efforts on and after Black Saturday. HCRFB members were served a great meal and many drinks, a live play and fabulous company. HCRFB was presented with a laminated "Thank you" certificate, which is now proudly displayed in the Highlands CFA Shed for all to appreciate.

The Rotary Club of Yea would like to send this thank you to ALL the CFA members and any community members who were involved with these fires and with the cleanup after.

BITS OF BOTANY AND BIRDS

DOGWOOD - *Cassinia aculeata* is a common shrub, especially after disturbance. The leaves are dark green, slightly rough and sticky, with rolled under margins. The flower heads are whitish, crowded, with the buds often pink. The flowers may cause dermatitis in some people. This plant establishes well when direct seeded, and could be useful for quick low-level cover in windbreaks. It is fast growing but short lived and will colonise bare ground.



EUROA ARBORETUM NOTICE

Saturday 1st August will be the Euroa Arboretum working bee and our 'feature' for the day will be a planting day for the Grey-crowned Babbler at Balmattum Reserve, Old Euroa Rd approx 5kms south from the Violet Town-Murch Rd/ or 10kms from Euroa on Lomers Road (turns into Old Euroa Road). The site will be sign posted for those wishing to join us there from 9am. Morning tea supplied with lots of goods company. (CFA Map ref: Map 293, 43N 77E)

This means we won't be at the Arboretum, although you are more than welcome to visit!

Call Sam (0429 127 399) or Shirl (952 500) if you have any queries. Please pass this message onto anyone who you think might like to help us. Hope to see you there! PS Other planting days we will be doing for the Babbler will be Wednesday 19th August and Sunday 23rd August on private properties near Molka that have been covenanted under the Trust For Nature. We are hoping to have more help from anyone free to join us on these days too. BYO Lunch, refreshments provided.

Rocky
Passes



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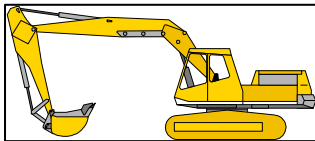
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