



# THE GRANITE NEWS

19TH OCTOBER  
VOLUME 3  
ISSUE 32

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

## PEOPLE AND PLACES

### A BIT OF GEOLOGY

Our granite plateau is known as the Strathbogie batholith, and extends from East of Whitehead's Creek nearly to the Broken River. In the past, many millions of years ago, the surface of this earth was several kilometers above the present surface and was all under sea.

The granite was extruded from great depth, and came up in a porridgy mass through the marine sediments.

As it solidified it cooked the surrounding sedimentary layers (sandstone and mudstone) and made them very hard, locally known as "ironstone", but geologically is "hornfels" – a metamorphic rock.

Because this is so hard it has been retained as high ridges on the edge of the granite, e.g. the Switzerland Range between Highlands and Yea. As the sedimentary rocks were eroded away, some bits fell in to the molten mass. I once found a granite boulder on the top of Wattle Hill, with a very recognizable bit of sedimentary sandstone still in it.

Granite is composed of 3 minerals - quartz, feldspar and mica and other accessory minerals such as tourmaline. Here it is black, but can be transparent red or green, in which case it is of gem quality.

As the granite cooled, it crystallized and very good quartz crystals can sometimes be found. Mostly these are opaque, due to trapped air particles, but if clear, they again are gem quality. If radioactivity is present, quartz crystals can be quite black and then are known as "Morion".

"Citrine" is another variety which is a brownish-yellow, and makes very attractive jewellery. Topaz is another gemstone found in association with granite. Sometimes, during the cooling process, vertical "pipes" formed underground, and crystals could grow on the walls.

The most notable that I know of, are at the Crystal King Mine at Strathbogie. Now, these shafts have been fenced off, but about 50 years ago, you could gaze down them and actually see the crystals.

## NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL



### STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Kaylam Kirkham: For doing a fantastic job with tree planting. Well done Kaylam!

### PREP TRANSITION

On Monday we welcomed Emily, Angus, Oliver, William and Lucia to Highlands Primary School. They had a lovely morning joining in with students from both the Junior and Senior room. We made delicious chocolate crackles and illustrated a book about our cooking. We look forward to their next visit on Monday 26th October.

### ABORIGINAL STUDIES

Each Wednesday Philip Wischer has been sharing his amazing knowledge with the Seniors. Thank you to Philip for giving up his time.

### END OF YEAR CONCERT

Thank you to Susan Bennett who has started working with students on their plays, poems and dances for the End of Year Concert. Remember to mark 4th December in your diaries. Rick and Marg McAlpin, you do get quite a mention in one of Susan's poems!



Congratulations to John, Imogen and Laura who all received certificates in the University of NSW Maths competition.

## WELCOME TO ISSUE 32

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

There will be no Granite News next week as I am on school camp, apologies for any inconvenience.

I have included two inserts this week, both related to fire, presenting different viewpoints for you to consider. As it is such a hot topic, I thought it was worth trying to gather a broad range of opinions. Dr Rod Bird has received an OA for his work in services to the environment through farm forestry and revegetation programs. He argues that the thing that makes for an extreme fire danger is weather conditions during summer, almost regardless of any other factor, including "fuel" levels or the presence of trees.

It's important to hear all sides of the argument in order to make informed decisions, even if it is seen by some as controversial. It's always useful to have different opinions to facilitate more in depth discussions. I suspect we are going to be bombarded with information in the coming months.

## RUFFY COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

The bi-monthly meeting of the Ruffy Community Action Group welcomed the newly elected councillor for the Hughes Creek Ward, Malcolm Little, and the Acting CEO of the Shire of Strathbogie, Steven Crawcour. The Council will meet with the Ruffy Community Action Group from 5.30 to 6.00 pm, on Tuesday 17 November at the Ruffy Hall, prior to the Council Meeting, which will be open to everybody in the Ruffy community.

Council has increased the Group's funding allocation for 2009/10 to \$10,600. The Recreation Reserve Focus Group, assisted by facilitator Neil Noelker, were also successful in getting Council's endorsement and pledge of a \$10,000. Enquiries Terry George (5790 4318).

Progress with the acquisition by the Shire of the Ruffy School site for the proposed Tablelands Community Centre has been held up. Enquiries Don Cook (5790 4007).

The next meeting of the Ruffy Community Action Group - 4/12/09 - a short formal meeting to plan activities for 2010, followed by a BBQ, Everybody is welcome. Erwin Weinmann (Tel. 5790 4309, email [alpli@bigpond.com](mailto:alpli@bigpond.com)).

## Community What's On Calendar—October/November 2009

Week beg 19th October	Terip Terip mowing roster Tim and Cindy Hayes Ian and Cynthia Crawford Both sides of Springs Road and all 4 courts
18th-24th October	<b>WHITEHEADS CREEK- TARCOTBE RURAL FIRE BRIGADE TRUCK ROSTER</b> Debbie Cerda Glenn Christensen David Freeman James Matters
24th October	Whitehead's Creek will be running a Bush Dance at 7.30pm. This will be held at the Hall. We have booked the same wonderful band as last year. Bring a plate and come and enjoy some dancing, singing or just catching up with the wonderful people in our area. A donation at the door to assist in paying for the band would be great.
Saturday 24 October	WOMINDJEKA DAY: Yea Wetlands, Experience, enjoy and understand nature in the Yea Wetlands. Celebrations for Womindjeka (welcome) Day will begin at 4pm at the Police Paddock with a free barbeque complete with damper and billy tea. Walks, talks, songs and stars, sure to be a great night. Call Glenda Woods (Waterwatch): 0428 321 545
Sunday 25th October.	Creightons Creek Landcare will conduct an inspection of Fenced and Revegetated creek areas. Meet at Shoveltons 746 Creightons Creek road at 9.30am, finish 12 noon Any enquiries contact Barrie Noye 5790 3223
25th October	Highlands Ramblers Join Andrew again for more Spring delights in the highlands area. Meet as usual at the Highlands Hall at 10.30 am
25th– 31st October	<b>WHITEHEADS CREEK- TARCOTBE RURAL FIRE BRIGADE TRUCK ROSTER</b> Barry Roworth Ralph Provan Rob Hayes Candi Westney
31ST October	HIGHLANDS IS HOSTING A CANCER COUNCIL "GIRLS NIGHT IN" WE AIM TO PROMOTE WOMEN'S HEALTH AND RAISE CANCER AWARENESS WHILE HAVING A FUN, SOCIAL AND INFORMATIVE GIRLS NIGHT OUT. Contact SHARYN SHAW ON (03) 5790 4297 Mob: 0437 281072 Email: asshaw@activ8.net.au or MARISA GORRY ON (03) 5796 9360 Mob: 0417 133409
1st –7th November	<b>WHITEHEADS CREEK- TARCOTBE RURAL FIRE BRIGADE TRUCK ROSTER</b> John Wood John Dalziel Russell Chapman S Clarke
1st November	next Tallarook Farmers Market, it is on 9am till 1pm.
5th November	Lions Club of Seymour Goulburn Inc and Cancer Council Victoria - Seymour Unit invites you to our Annual Oaks Day Luncheon at the Seymour Race Club on Thursday 5th Nov 2009 commencing at 11 a.m. Admission \$22.00 per person. Drinks available at the bar (NO B.Y.O.) Mystery prizes, door prizes, Best Dressed , Best Hat, Best Shoes and raffles. Tickets available from Leading Edge Jewellery Shop 1 The Mall, Seymour. Phone 57990773. NO tickets available at door.
6th November	By popular demand - the return of the 1st Friday BBQ - Need to book - Ruffy Store 5790 4387
8th November	Whitehead's Creek will be running a day to reiterate the importance of tree planting. This will be at the hall at 10.30am on Janet Hagen will be there in the morning with her trailer and we will do seed planting and she will give a talk on Seed raising , propagating and on planting and the importance of species choosing in fire prone areas. We will then serve a tasty, free lunch and this will be followed by a talk by David Laurie on the importance of trees in our landscape. We will then have a large selection of tube trees to give away.
8th November	YEA FIRE BRIGADE GROUP TRAINING DAY Strath Creek (ANZ Training Complex) RV 09:30 AM Brigades requested to supply a tanker with crew of five. Other members also welcome. Refreshments and lunch provided. Contact: Brigade Captain or Ross Williamson [03.5797.2205]
11th November	The last Ruffy Bookclub meeting for the year. We are discussing 'Mao's Last Dancer' at Lu Craven's place at 8pm. Ring Lu if you need directions on how to get there PH 57904011. Email Jackie if you would like a list of questions to stimulate your brain while you are reading the novel :baroa@bigpond.com.au Another book we are planning to read next February (so organised!) is 'The Diamond Anchor' by Jennifer Mills, one of the books Sari Wawn has recommended.
13th November	'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.
Saturday 14th November	10am -12noon Black Market - a low kilometre food exchange. All welcome. This month it will be at the home of Beatrice Neilsen and Michael Greer. 215 Ghin Ghin Road, Whiteheads Creek. 0409 413 768
Tuesday 17 November	STRATHBOGIE SHIRE COUNCIL MEETING IN RUFFY HALL! The Council will meet with the Ruffy Community Action Group at 5.30 pm, followed by the Council Meeting at 6.00. The meeting is open to everyone.
21st November	Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative AGM and a farewell to Marj and Brian Tolley. It will be held somewhere in Ruffy More information coming but mark it in your diaries.

# Classifieds & Community Notices

## Medical Specialist Services Available Locally

Murrindindi Shire residents now have a range of medical specialist services right here in the shire, making trips to Melbourne to see specialists less necessary.

Several specialists visit Alexandra District Hospital and/or Yea and District Memorial Hospital on a regular basis. A referral from your GP is required to consult a specialist and appointments are necessary.

At Alexandra Hospital, outpatient consultations can be made with a General Surgeon, Gynaecologist, Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon, Orthopaedic Surgeon, Gastroenterologist, Urologist, Ophthalmologist (eye specialist), Cardiologist, Paediatrician, Audiologist, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist. Some of these services are also available at Yea Hospital. Check with your doctor.

A Specialist Anaesthetist supports the surgical specialists at Alexandra Hospital, making some surgical procedures possible locally. Ear, Nose and Throat surgery includes tonsillectomy, adenoidectomy, insertion of ear tubes, and sinus surgery. Endoscopy surgery includes gastroscopy and colonoscopy. Eye surgery includes removal of cataracts and eyelid surgery. General surgery includes hernia repairs, carpal tunnel surgery and removal of skin lesions. Gynaecology surgery includes hysterectomy (abdominal and vaginal), vaginal repairs, laparoscopy, hysteroscopy, colposcopy and tubal ligation. Orthopaedic surgery includes arthroscopy. Urology surgery includes cystoscopy and minor prostate surgery.

Xray, Ultrasound, Podiatry and Pathology services are available at both Yea and Alexandra.

And a reminder that a comprehensive range of Community Health services are also available from the hospitals and from Mitchell Community Health. You can make an appointment, without a doctor's referral, to see a dietitian, occupational therapist, psychologist, social worker, diabetes nurse, asthma nurse, women's health nurse, and more. Ring one of the numbers below for more information or to make an appointment. Both hospitals also provide a District Nursing service covering the whole Murrindindi Shire.

Community Health at Yea Hospital – phone 5736 0400 and at Alexandra Hospital – phone 5772 0800  
"Your Health and Well-Being" articles are available on [www.yeahospital.org.au](http://www.yeahospital.org.au).

## Murrindindi Council Announces Rates for 2009/10

At the last Council meeting, councillors voted to release a draft Budget and Council Plan for public comment, including the suggested fees and charges for the 2009-2010 financial year.

The bushfires have placed an enormous pressure on council finances both in the extra costs incurred as a result of the fires and a huge loss in rate income. Council estimates rates and charges income will be nearly \$1.5 million down on last year.

Murrindindi Council Acting CEO, Rob Croxford, said council had to make difficult decisions to deliver a balanced budget to achieve its long term financial plan during a period of unprecedented circumstances.

Council has asked the State Government for assistance in meeting budget shortfalls for the next four financial years. "With a \$1.5 million dollar hole in our budget there is an obvious and significant impact on our bottom line" says Rob. "However Council is expected to demonstrate they are being financially responsible and have suggested a 6% rise in rates over last year."

"The suggested 6% rate rise only goes a small way to meeting the actual cost increases to council. The EBA with staff and unions and the costs of road construction and heavy plant operation means the council costs are significantly higher than CPI."

As the budget planning was delayed, a revised instalment payment schedule has been developed. The first instalment will now be payable by 30 November 2009, the second on the 29 January, the third on 31 March and the fourth by 31 May 2010.

For those who choose to pay in one lump sum the date is unchanged and must be paid by 15 February 2010 to avoid interest fees.

Says Rob, "We will also approach the government for a Rates Assistance Package along the lines of the Drought Assistance Programs for people in our community who may have difficulty with rate payments. Further, alternative payment instalment plans can be arranged once the rate notices have been prepared and sent out." Full details on Council's Budget and rates for 2009/2010 are available on the Council website [murrindindi.vic.gov.au](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au) and a fact sheet will be sent out with the rate notice.

## Stroll or roll!

'Bring your prams, strollers, trikes, bikes and yourselves along to our annual Children's Week Pram Strolls', said Janet Aldous from council's Maternal and Child Health service.

'Everyone with a pre-school child in their lives is welcome – parents, grandparents, aunties, uncles, friends, carers. We would like you all to come along and have a morning of fun, exercise, good food, music and great giveaways with us.

'Strolls will be happening at Yea on Monday 26 October and Eildon on Wednesday 28 October. Both days will start at 10am: Yea at the Old Railway Station shelter and Eildon at the Lions Shelter at the Pondage. We will be there hail rain or shine! For any further information please contact Janet on 5772 1183

## Strathbogie Shire Council Rural Land rebate Programme

The rural Land Rebate program adopted by Strathbogie Shire Council rewards landholders with a reduction in their rates for undertaking effective control of pest plants and animals on their land. The Land management Officer, who implements the programme, visits properties to carry out audits and to offer advice to landholders in meeting their obligations. Occasionally land holders may be having difficulty in meeting their obligations due to ill health, financial difficulties, time constraints etc. The local Landcare group may be able to provide support. Ring Miranda 57969261

## SWAP

20+ assorted leadlighting windows & doors, assorted sizes. Take your pick. Happy to swap for the cost of replacing the glass or complete window. Peter and Susan 5796 9192 or [fencing@skymesh.com.au](mailto:fencing@skymesh.com.au)

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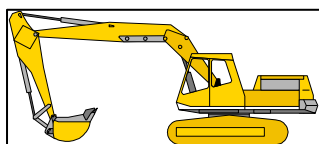
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