



# THE GRANITE NEWS

23RD NOVEMBER  
VOLUME 3  
ISSUE 36

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

## PEOPLE AND PLACES

MEAGAN CALLANDER

Meagan has been the head teacher at Highlands Primary for the past 12 months. She was brought up in Yea, and attended kindergarten, Primary and Secondary schools there. She has one brother who runs the Yea Post Office. Meagan moved to Melbourne where she did Teacher Training at the Burwood Campus of Deakin University. Her first job involved emergency teaching in Yea, then to Kinglake West, and then back to Yea for about 15 years. A move to the Regional Office in Benalla for 2 years followed, as Literacy Specialist. This involved a lot of travelling to schools from Wallan to Shepparton, the positive results were lots of contacts made at many different levels.

Meagan is very pleased now, to be involved in the refurbishment of the Highlands School, with new buildings being expected this Christmas holidays. There were 5 preps this year and 6 for next year, which will make an enrolment of 24.

The staff includes Miranda Yorston for the seniors, and Peter Roberts who teaches sport and science. This is made possible by the parents who do the regular cleaning, thus freeing up money for an extra salary.

Neil Lemon comes from Yea to give private music lessons, Sandra Jolley teaches Art, and Libby Ahern library.

A good many community members and parents help as volunteers at the school and the children really love that.

Meagan believes that a small school suits some kids more than a bigger, town-based school and the varied community support here helps broaden the children's horizons.

She often talks about "Life-Long Learning" and how important these early years are. Certainly, at Highlands, the children are given every opportunity to develop many skills and personalities. There are many excursions and recently the Juniors went to a 4 day camp at Rubicon and the Seniors had a packed few days at Bendigo.

The school is one of the hubs of the Community so aren't we lucky to have Meagan as Principal, as well as the other dedicated staff and volunteers.

## NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL



### Student of the Week

Jessica Bennett : For being an excellent role model and making the new preps feel so welcome. Well done Jess!

### Bushfire At-Risk Register

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development have released a Bushfire At-Risk Register of all schools that are considered to be at high risk of fire danger. Highlands Primary School has been placed on that list and that means when the Bureau of Metrology issues a Code Red Fire Danger Rating warning for our weather district the school will be closed. The bus will not run on these days either. Where possible the DEECD will provide up to 3 days notice of the planned closure. The final decision to close the school will be confirmed no later than 12 noon the day before the planned closure. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any additional questions in regards to the register and school closures.

### Aussie of the Month

Congratulations to Zac Deglaitis who was voted October's Aussie of the Month for the improvement in his playground behaviour and making a huge effort with his maths. Great job Zac, keep it up!

### Jewellery Making

What a hit! Everyone in Years 2-6 really enjoyed the jewellery making last week with Marisa and are looking forward to today's session. Thank you to Marisa for giving up her time! Marisa has pieces of jewellery for sale in the office with a percentage of sales going towards to school. Come in and have a look!

## WELCOME TO ISSUE 36

Please send all articles etc to [Miranda@omnipotent.com.au](mailto:Miranda@omnipotent.com.au) I have printed a letter from Stuart Reid on page 3 about bottled water. If there are differing views in the community we will print them too, if requested.

## FIRE RESTRICTIONS COME INTO FORCE

Fire restrictions come into force in the Shires of Mitchell and Murrindindi on the 30th November 2009 at 1am.

The Community Information maps within the Township Protection Plans (TPPs) for the 52 high risk bushfire towns have been uploaded on the CFA web site and are now available to the public. The direct link is <http://cfaonline.cfa.vic.gov.au/mycfa/Show?pagelid=publicTownshipProtectionPlans> The page can also be navigated to via the CFA home page.

All maps are draft unless otherwise listed. As TPPs are approved by councils and Neighbourhood Safer Places are designated over time, the maps will be amended to final versions.

## ADVERTISING ON THE BACK OF THE GRANITE NEWS IN 2010

Please get a move on so you don't miss out. The ads will be smaller and therefore the cost has been reduced from \$250 a spot to \$200 (includes GST).

If you would like a spot you first need to contact Miranda by email or phone 57969261 and the spaces will be allocated on a first in, best dressed basis. Twelve spots have already been allocated, seven of these are new. If you are on this year you still need to contact me for next year.



Imogen and Kassie displaying their jewellery

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

Week beg 23rd November	Terip Terip mowing roster Helen McKenzie George and Trish Uden Around Clubhouse and all 4 courts
22nd- 28th Nov	WHITEHEADS CREEK- TARCOMBE RFB TRUCK ROSTER Tim Hayes Lindsay Heffer HIGHLANDS CAVEAT RFB TRUCK ROSTER Crew B Peter Roberts DRIVER ROSTER Pauline Roberts RUFFY RFB TRUCK ROSTER George Noye's crew
28th November	Whiteheads Creek Tarcombe RFB are having a send off for Brian and Marge Tolley at the Whiteheads Creek Hall. Brian has been with the CFA for 34 years, 29 with Tarcombe and Whiteheads Creek and Marge served with Tarcombe. The night will be catered please advise numbers Peter Wales 57921088
29th November	CFA FIRE READY VICTORIA TRAWOOL Community Meeting (public) 10.00AM-11.30AM Trawool Fire Station - Goulburn Valley Hwy, TRAWOOL
29th November	The Highlands CFA is holding their annual Reconnaissance on starting at the CFA Shed at 10am, we will be driving through the Habbies Valley to Tarcombe, along Hughes Creek Rd to Bungle Bori & then up to Blue Top Rd. This trip is for 4WD only and please bring along a picnic lunch to have beside Hughes Creek. This will be a great trip and we hope everyone (not just CFA) can attend. See you there. If you require any further details ring Andrew 03 57904297
Sunday 29 November	Royal Botanical Gardens Cranbourne Eco Living Education Committee are organizing a bus tour to Cranbourne to see the Australian garden and especially the low water gardens Cost \$20 per person Includes bus trip, morning tea, entry & tour of the garden! Limited tickets. When the bus is full, no more tickets, so bookings are essentials Meet at Community Complex, leaving 8.00am returning approx. 5.30pm BYO lunch or there is a nice cafe at the gardens Bookings: Robin Landvogt: 57981735 email rplandvogt@gmail.com Sue Paton: 57981435 email sue.paton@gmail.com
29th Nov– 5th December	WHITEHEADS CREEK- TARCOMBE RFB TRUCK ROSTER David Freeman John D'Alziel HIGHLANDS CAVEAT RFB TRUCK ROSTER Crew C Callum Lawson DRIVER ROSTER Frits Pompe RUFFY RFB TRUCK ROSTER Travis Tilton's crew
4th December	Ruffy Community Action Group - End of Year meeting - Ruffy Hall 7.00 pm. A short meeting followed by a BBQ - everybody welcome!
6th December	Highlands Ramblers last walk for the year. 10am Highlands Hall. Afternoon tea at Peg Lade's place
6th December	Tallarook Farmers Market 9-1pm Any enquires Ellise Rickard Market Manager 0427801633
6th December to February 2010	"Journeys near and far" - an exhibition of paintings and sculpture by Leone Gabrielle at Rocky Passes Estate 1590 Highlands Rd Whiteheads Creek 57969366
Friday 11th December	Community Break Up 6pm BYO BBQ & salad to share Students will perform a skit and songs Awards presented Visit from Santa! Let's celebrate together with a barbecue followed by a concert with skits from each of our local organisations. Start preparing now....
11th December	Tallarook Christmas Craft Market Friday Night 6-9pm Any enquires Ellise Rickard Market Manager 0427801633
12th December	White Hart Hotel Longwood T: 03-5798-5203 E: white.hart@bigpond.com 7.45pm - Potty's Disco - spinning us some great tunes, old and new
20th December	White Hart Hotel Longwood T: 03-5798-5203 E: white.hart@bigpond.com 4.30pm - The Hairy Lassoo's - the dirty old towners are here to have some fun
24th December	Community Christmas Service A community Christmas Service will be held at 5pm. on Christmas Eve at the Caveat Church. All welcome
Tuesday 26th January 2010	Seymour Australian Day Ceremony and Market from 8.00am - 1.00 am held at High Street Seymour - middle road reserve (behind Police Station). Free community breakfast begins a 0800, Local Entertainers, Children's Activities and Market Stalls  Australia Day Ambassador Fabian Dattner, attending the Ceremony is well known to many Australians. She is a regular commentator in the media on corporate ethics, organisational alignment and leadership issued.

## Classifieds & Community Notices

### ATTENTION ALL ARTISTS

The HiArts Exhibition will be on 27th and 28th February. Artists wanting to register can do so on line [www.hiarts.org](http://www.hiarts.org). You can also register by mail. Photographers, don't forget the special exhibition of "Highlands Exposed". Contact 5796 9358 for registration forms or other enquiries.

### FOR SALE

Quick Fill Pump 6.5 Hp. Honda Copy.  
Brand New -Still in Box. \$256.  
Contact J.Hagen 57904268,  
(M) 0428 524 473

### KAYLAM'S ANTI LITTER SQUAD LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS

Has anyone else noticed how much rubbish is being thrown out car windows along the Highlands Seymour and Kobyboyn Roads? It's disgusting. What are we going to do? It isn't a rubbish bag breaking, it is people having take away in Seymour and just chucking it out the window as they finish, charming, plastic bottles, west coast coolers, please stop. whoever you are. If you see anyone doing the wrong thing please ring 1800352555 and report them.

John Kirkham

PS Highlands Primary School Junior School Council has discussed this problem and decided to have a Clean Up Australia day working bee in 2010. Hopefully lots of community members will help them

### FOR SALE

2.7 M long solid red gum table and 4 bench seats  
PH Jan Hayes 57904319

### SCHOOLS SAVE OVER 200,000 PLASTIC BAGS FROM LANDFILL

In total, 229,712 plastic bags were rounded up as part of the Coles Plastic Bag Challenge. Amazingly, 93% of these were collected by schools! Well done! The winning school, St Paul Apostle North Primary (VIC), collected 9,778 bags - Narrowly pipping Ben Venue Public School (Armidale, NSW) and Smithton Primary School (TAS), who also had over 9,000 bags! The individual winner was 8 year old Tyler Richardson of Ravenswood, Tasmania, with 1,455 bags.

### BITS OF BOTANY AND BIRDS

CHOCOLATE LILY- (*Arthropodium strictum*) is flowering now in some profusion on roadsides and in the bush. It grows to about 1 m. tall, as a tufted, chocolate-scented perennial. The flowers are solitary in bract axils and are deep pink or mauve. The root tubers are up to 2 cms long.



### MURRINDINDI SHIRE COUNCIL PREPARING FOR FIRE SEASON

As part of its fire prevention strategies, Murrindindi Shire Council has been playing its part in helping everyone prepare and plan for the coming 2009/2010 bushfire season.

co-ordinated a mail out to all absentee land owners this season to alert them of the need to prepare for this fire season.

carrying out annual property inspections across the shire to identify fire hazards. Where work is needed to reduce the risk of fire, notices are issued to land owners with stringent timelines for any required work to be carried out.

Failure to comply with a 'fire notice' will see Council completing the works at the land owner's expense.

Residents with concerns over neighbouring properties are encouraged to contact council, to ensure any potential hazards are inspected as quickly as possible.

More comprehensive information on preparing for the bushfire season can be found at [www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au](http://www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au), Victorian Bushfire Information Line 1800 240 667.

### OUR GROUNDWATER THAT GOES INTO BOTTLED WATER!

Never mind the North South pipeline, what about the litres of water that have been and continues to be extracted from the Highlands/Caveat groundwater and used for bottled water.

It is clear from anecdotal evidence from land owners around the district that creeks have less volume than 10 years ago, some springs have dried up and bores need to go deeper. Rainfall records taken over the last 10 to 15 years also indicate that the average annual rainfall in this area has fallen. Already this year, unless we received a much higher than average rainfall in the next few months, we could be facing yet another dry year. We also know that some landowners already have to buy in water during the summer months. The signs of less available water are all about us, as we watch mature trees suddenly die in the forest and by the roadside.

This district in the past, so well endowed with good rainfall and available ground and surface water, is now facing a serious water problem. A situation that is liable to get worse rather than better.

Despite all this around 80,000 litres (varying according to seasonal demand) of groundwater is extracted from the Caveat bore every week and transported to a distant factory and turned into bottled water under the brand 'Split Rock'.

The Highlands/Caveat groundwater is being exploited for the sake of a commercial fad, not to mention the environmental tragedy created by the plastic bottles.

What we can do about this as a community?

The owners of the property and the bore pay appropriately for the water rights and it is true that theirs is a legitimate commercial enterprise. The question is whether it is a moral enterprise given the pressure it places on the district's groundwater in a time of reducing water availability. In our day and age is it right that one person or company has the right to exploit resources to the detriment of legitimate and basic community needs. Many would claim with good reason that bottled water is unnecessary and wasteful of resources.

Please contact me with your views  
Stuart Reid 5796 9358  
[kadumbbla@mac.com](mailto:kadumbbla@mac.com)





**Tastings & "blackboard menu" lunch**  
Sundays  
11am - 5pm

**Tapas bar**  
last Friday of the month from 6pm

Bookings 57969366

1590 Highlands Rd, Whiteheads Creek

## Ruffy Produce Store

Breakfast & Lunch  
Saturdays, Sundays & Public Holidays from 8am

Lunch Fridays from 11.30am

**Need to book, call Helen or Doug**

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**Phone Ian on**

**: 0408990487**

**: 57904328**

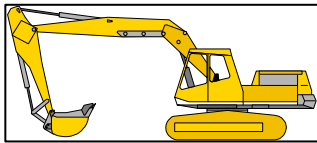
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