



## PEOPLE AND PLACES

### Councillor Comment

Cr Sally Abbott Smith, Cheviot Ward

With this perfect weather for growth, come the exotic weeds. We all need to be vigilant in taking action to identify and eradicate noxious weeds across the shire.

**Paterson's Curse:** While it looks beautiful as a mass of purple flowers across the hill tops in spring and early summer, Paterson's Curse is a noxious weed that is poisonous to grazing animals and reduces pasture productivity.

In particular we can all be on the lookout for individual plants that appear along the roadside stop and remove them for everyone's benefit.

**Chilean needle grass:** One of Australia's worst noxious weeds, Chilean needle grass has been identified in the Cheviot Ward.

This is a weed of national significance and I would urge landholders to be on the lookout for the weed and take immediate action to have it removed.

Chilean needle grass is similar in appearance to the native spear grasses. It can be identified by the corona at the join of the seed body and the awn. It also has a distinctive tuft of hairs at the junction of the leaf blade and the leaf sheath. Our native spear grasses lack these features.

Chilean needle grass can severely reduce pasture productivity, contaminate crops and hay and its needle like seeds can injure stock or pets. Seeds can burrow into fleece and skin of sheep and cause wool and carcass downgrading. If you find either of these weeds on your property or on a roadside please contact Sue McNair at Murrindindi Shire Council on 5772 0333. This will help to map known areas of infestation and we can work towards containment and ultimately eradication of this emerging weed. Further identification and management information is available at [www.dpi.vic.gov.au](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au).



## WELCOME TO ISSUE 35

Please send articles to  
[miranda@omnipotent.com.au](mailto:miranda@omnipotent.com.au)  
or ring on 57969261

Thank you to Joy for sending us the notes on what to do if you find an injured, sick or orphaned wildlife.

I've had some interesting feedback on the story last week about the panther. I'm sure I saw it a few years ago near the sharp bend below Lade Road. Scotty assures me I saw a large tabby cat but I don't agree!

Thanks again for the Community Education Grant from the **Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority**, which makes The Granite News possible, we really appreciate their support.

## FREAKY STORM

We were coming back from Yarck on Sunday afternoon and took the back way, the Old Yarck Road, The 'really back way' and encountered a serious storm with lots of hail and rain and flooded roads. It took us 2 hours 15 minutes to travel from Yarck to Highlands, what a journey!

By Jono Rumbold



Burgess Road



Hewletts Road



## WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND INJURED, SICK OR ORPHANED WILDLIFE

Telephone for help  
WILDLIFE VICTORIA  
24 hour emergency number  
13000 WILDLIFE (13 000 94535)  
HELP FOR WILDLIFE 0417 380687  
LOCAL VET  
Longwood East Wildlife Shelter  
57 985288

### WILDLIFE HANDLING TIPS

Stress is a major killer of injured animals and birds so keep handling and disturbance to a minimum. A quiet animal is an animal in shock.

Approach the animal quietly (no talking) and carefully cover it with a towel or blanket to calm it and contain it.

If it is small enough place it in a pillowcase or on a towel in the bottom of a well ventilated box and cover securely. Birds should never be placed in a cage. Place box in a warm, dark and quiet area (no radio).

Keep domestic animals and children well away.

Do not attempt to feed or force it to drink.

Wildlife need specialist care and attention and without this will deteriorate very quickly, so for the sake of the animal get it to a licensed wildlife carer or vet ASAP. Please remember that all native wildlife is protected by law and a Government permit is required to hold any wildlife. You must be authorized by the DSE as a wildlife shelter operator or be a registered foster carer to keep native wildlife in care in Victoria.

If it is a larger animal or you are unsure, call for help. If possible remain with the animal until help arrives, staying at a safe distance so as not to distress it further. If you cannot remain with the animal note distinct landmarks and mark the location with crossed sticks plastic bags tied to a tree (or in some other readily identifiable fashion) so the rescuer can find it easily.

If the animal is dead, check it for a pouch to see if it has a young joey still alive. Never pull a joey from a teat, but rather cut the teat, or leave in pouch for the rescuer to remove. Pouch joeys are very fragile, so handle carefully, place into a pillowcase and keep warm, dark and quiet. Also check the surrounding area for young that may be hiding nearby. A koala may have had a joey on her back. A kangaroo or wallaby may 'throw' a joey from her pouch when injured.

Finally, keep a rescue kit in your car containing towel, pillowcase, blanket and scissors.

## Community What's On Calendar - November 2010

Fortnight beg 15th Novem-	<b>Terip Terip mowing roster</b> Brian and GailVan Rooyen Both sides of Springs Road and all 4 courts
Week beg 14th Novem-	<b>WHITEHEADS CREEK- TARCOMBE RFB TRUCK</b> Debbie Cerda-Pavia Mauro Del Frate
Thursday 11th November	<b>Terip Terip Tennis Club BBQ.</b> @ 6pm All welcome for a BBQ tea and hit of tennis from 6pm. Please RSVP to Cindy 5790 4226 or Sue 5790 4277
Thursday 11th November	Alexandra library an essential part of your community! 5772 0349 Murrindindi Writers – all aspiring writers welcome 10 am
Friday 12th November	<b>'Drinks on the Deck'</b> at Highlands Community Hall from 6.30pm. Bring food to share for a meal together and catch up with friends old and new. All welcome - especially new faces. Gold coin donation to cover power.
12th Novem- ber to 3rd January 2011	<b>Exhibition of Artworks &amp; Sculptures by Wild4Art</b> @ Ruffy Group exhibition. Featured artists Janet Matthews, Vida Pearson, Rodger Scott and Darren Gilbert. Opening Night. 12th November, Drinks & canapés from 5.30pm to 7.00pm, Dinner from 7.30pm (bookings required). at Ruffy Produce Store 26 Nolans Road. Ruffy. Victoria. 3666 Open. Fridays from 11.30am, Weekends and public holidays 8.30am to 6.00pm
Friday 12th November	<b>Gallery 34</b> , Yea. Our next Exhibition is by Ben Simpson titled "Bull & Horse" opening 12th November at 6pm. A photographic exhibition, Ben captures the nature of horses and cattle through his work. Ben is an internationally recognised photographer and operates a successful marketing company based in regional NSW. His works have been used in campaigns around the world. For a preview refer to our website <a href="http://www.gallery34.com.au">www.gallery34.com.au</a> and for past, present and future exhibition detail.
Saturday 13th November	<b>Highlands Community Hall Working Bee.</b> Please come along & join the hall committee for a working bee at 9am. Jobs to be done include putting the final coat of paint on the back wall of the hall, some patching inside the hall, and general weeding, pruning, brushcutting etc. A BBQ lunch will be provided.
Saturday 13th November	<b>Black Market</b> 10am - 12pm: Swap & sell your home produce at this local food exchange and "open garden". This month it's being hosted by Mauro and Debbie del Frate (home of Palmanova olives and olive oil), 305 Blue Top Rd. Contact Paul Macgregor on 5797 0229, <a href="mailto:diversity@diversity.org.au">diversity@diversity.org.au</a> , or the del Frates on 5796 9363
Saturday 13th November	<b>GROW YOUR OWN NATIVE PLANTS</b> Euroa Arboretum Learn how to collect seed and grow your own plants for free. Local native plants are perfectly adapted to local conditions, are drought tolerant so you use less water, and don't mind a flood either. Topics: Seed collection: When and how to collect, extract and store seed. Propagation: How to grow your own plants from seed or cuttings Planting; What to plant, where and what animals you are likely to attract with your local plants. Time: 10 - 2pm Lunch Provided Where: Euroa Arboretum Old Hume Highway For more information contact: Cathy 0429 127 399
Sunday 14th	<b>Terip/Ruffy Uniting Church</b> Holy Communion Service 11.15am
Monday 15th November	<b>Alexandra library</b> an essential part of your community! 5772 0349 Vintage Readers – Grey power reading group 2 – 4pm
Monday 15th.	<b>HIGHLANDS SPINNING CLUB</b> Jan Sporry - 5790 4361
Tuesday 16th	<b>Alexandra library</b> an essential part of your community! 5772 0349 Tuesday Show – Inspiring Indonesia 1-2pm
Tuesday 16 November	Ruffy Community Action Group – Ruffy Hall, 8.00 pm. We will give an update on progress with our projects and discuss our Action Plan for next year. As this is the last meeting for the year, it will be followed by a light supper and drinks. Anybody interested in community planning for Ruffy is invited to the meeting!
Saturday 20th Nov	<b>White Hart Hotel</b> 7.45pm - Barb Waters & the Mother of Pearl - Their songs are country smooth, sweet as honey T: 03-5798-5203 E: <a href="mailto:white.hart@bigpond.com">white.hart@bigpond.com</a> Barb Waters hails from Mt Buffalo and will be bringing her four piece band to Longwood for a night of smooth country music. Entry is \$\$\$ Free.
Saturday 20th November	You are invited to the Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative AGM 1pm Lunch Rocky Passes Winery 1590 Highlands Rd Whiteheads Creek Guest speaker : Charlie Sexton , Regional Landcare Facilitator Topic: Pasture Cropping RSVP Janet Hagen 57 904268 <a href="mailto:jhagen@harboursat.com.au">jhagen@harboursat.com.au</a> ( meal provided , buy your our drinks)
Saturday 27th November	Alternative Transport – Bikes, Scooters and Feet workshop Euroa This event is timed to co-incide with the Great Victorian Bike Ride which visits Euroa on the Sunday. Speakers will include local cyclist Gary Newvine who will talk about how to maintain a bike and how he became involved in top level cycling. The lucky door prize is a Family Rail Pass to travel any where in Victoria, valued at \$180, compliments of V/Line. Time: 1pm – 4pm Venue: The Euroa Butter Factory Bookings: Cathy Koning 5734 6357 or email <a href="mailto:cathyk@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au">cathyk@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au</a>
Saturday 27th November	There will be a training day for HCRFB members at the Wangaratta CFA Complex. It will involve such scenarios as a car fire with a gas tank, a house fire, a gas cylinder fire and a two hose attack on a gas fire. All activities will be hands on. A bus will leave the fire shed at 8.30 am and lunch will be provided. For this to work we will need a strong commitment by at least 12 members by the 15th of November, so if you are available please contact Peter on 57969301 ASAP.

# Classifieds & Community Notices

## A MESSAGE FROM JANET

Hi Everyone ,

Have you checked out this new local natural history BLOG site ?

<http://strathbogierangesnaturalhistory.blogspot.com/>

Please join in by adding comments and submitting posts. Bertram Lobert & Janet Hagen started this blog a few months ago to raise awareness of biodiversity in the Strathbogie Ranges.

I hope you are still following our BLOG site to see the excellent job landcare is doing with corporate volunteers in the bushfire areas .

<http://landcarefirerecovery.blogspot.com/>

This is also a call to all members of the biodiversity crowd . You are invite to a gathering on Friday 5th November at Maygars Hill Winery , Longwood East . 6.30pm .

There will be an excellent guest speaker about Frogs of the Strathbogie Ranges and simple ways we can help them plus the formation meeting of the Strathbogie Ranges Conservation Management Network . Find out what it is , who are the potential members , what can it do , how you can be part of it .

Janet Hagen  
Landcare Coordinator  
Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative

## WANTED

Person to do 5 to 10 hours per week  
General farm/garden/handyperson duties  
Small flock sheep mgmt/chainsawing/fencing/gardening etc etc  
Location is North East Ruffy  
Please phone Roger 0437 771 580



Thanks to David & Maxine Garner for this photo of two Gang Gangs; " they are exploring the log for breeding which is great to see, our place is in the Trawool Valley,"

## BITS OF BOTANY AND BIRDS

### Native Violets

There are two common species of native violet found around Highlands and both are in flower at the moment. Viola hederacea (ivy-leaved or native violet) has small flowers with a purple centre but white outer, and circular leaves. Viola betonicifolia (showy or mountain violet) has larger, all purple flowers and longer pointed leaves, more like a garden violet. Both grow mainly in shaded forest floors though I have seen betonicifolia in the middle of a lawn.

By Louise Currie



## GOULBURN RIVER VALLEY TOURISM SEEKING FEEDBACK

The 2011 – 2015 Tourism Development Strategy and Marketing and Communications Strategy are available to download and at [www.goulburnrivervalley.com.au](http://www.goulburnrivervalley.com.au)

Comments and feedback can be submitted via the [info@goulburnrivervalley.com.au](mailto:info@goulburnrivervalley.com.au) email address or in writing to:  
Goulburn River Valley Tourism  
C/O Greater Shepparton City Council  
Locked Bag 1000  
Shepparton VIC 3632  
Feedback on the 2011 – 2015 Tourism Development Strategy and Marketing and Communications Strategy closes at 5.00pm on Friday 19 November 2010.

## WORK WANTED

I am looking for farm work of any kind from the 12th to the 21st November. I am happy to work with animals, fencing, tractor work etc  
Please phone Oliver Yorston on 57969261

## SOIL WORKSHOP

Anyone is welcome to a soil test interpretation workshop that Yea River Catchment Landcare group is holding on MONDAY, 29 NOVEMBER.

Cath Botta - soil scientist, educator and facilitator - will be leading the workshop. If you have not yet heard Cath speak on the subject, then don't miss this opportunity. She explains soil biology and chemistry clearly and succinctly and will solve the mystery of your soil tests.

Bring along a soil test - hopefully any test-specific queries will be answered by the end of the day, but if not, we hope to have time towards the end of the session to clarify such queries.

WHERE: Yea Shire Offices, The Semi-circle, Yea (next to the library)

TIME: 9.30 am (sharp) - 3.30 pm  
WHAT TO BRING: notepad and pen; lunch. Morning tea will be provided.  
COST: Free  
RSVP: JUDY BROOKES by 24 NOVEMBER

## PANTHER STORY NO.2

Thanks to Judi Hanlon for this response to the panther article

"I concur with Roger's sighting.

Some eleven years ago, for some unknown reason, I went out onto my front verandah at around 1.00am. It was a full moon, which as you know lights up the countryside almost like daylight. As I walked to the end of the verandah I was able to very clearly see, about three metres away, a large black, sleek animal, about the size of a large Labrador dog. However this was neither cat nor a dog as the shoulders and head were something to behold and the coat was shiny – nothing like a feral cat.

It slowly walked away and disappeared into the night. At that stage I didn't have a fence around the house and so the "Panther" for the lack of a better name, was obviously checking the place out.

It was some time before I confessed to the sighting and copped a fair amount of flack about drinking / a full moon / seeing things in the night / being creative with my imagination / and it was surely just a feral cat! However, during the years a number of people have responded with similar sightings, many with multiple sightings, and in a variety of locations within the Strathbogie Ranges . So they are out there! What doesn't help are the people who create false film footage of these things which happened shortly after my sighting, as this generates cynicism in the general community. "

Rocky Passes



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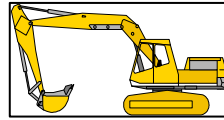
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