



FUNDS for the HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY HALL & CFA SHED

We have funds through the Murrindindi Shire to do some work at the Highlands Hall & CFA shed.

The power lines from the pole to both the CFA shed & the hall will be put underground for safety & there are funds to remove some of the cypress pines in Ghin Ghin Rd along the tennis court fence.

We originally thought about six of the trees should go while we all get used to the idea, but it may be sensible to take them all out at once if the funding will cover that. I'm sure we will all miss the shade, but in terms of being a fire hazard they should go.

Some people think a callistemon hedge would be good replacement, while others think non natives would be best (eg. Photinias).

Send your ideas to Judy Reid on 5796 9358 or kadumbbla@mac.com

CONFESSIONS FROM RUFFY

Dear Editor,

Difficult for me to admit but I may have been too quick to pooh, pooh the panther propaganda.

Four guests, returning to Shepparton, sighted the moggy on the side of the road along the Ardroy Cutting near Doug White's entrance on the weekend of the open gardens.

They said it was glossy black, and would have been knee high or border collie height. It had crossed the road and was in the table drain on the left hand side about 10 or 12 metres ahead of them.

None of them were aware of any previous panther stories although one did jokingly suggest that it might have been the Strathbogie Panther her grandfather had talked about when she was a kid.

A skeptic no more.

Helen McDougall

ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME HOTLINE

To report wildlife, forestry and exotic animal crime or any suspicious activity to DSE's compliance team phone – **13 6186**.

NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY

STUDENT OF THE WEEK



Jessica Bennett:

For terrific reading and understanding of chapter books. Well done!

Community Art Project:

On Friday HPS students were involved in a community Christmas art project initiated by Bridget Clarke. We decorated cards by cutting out shapes and then painted paper bags with water colours. When it is all assembled and a rechargeable tea light candle placed in the bag they become very impressive Christmas lanterns. The lanterns will be on display in the shop windows in Yea from 1st December. Thank you to Bridget, Maree and Gaylene who came along and helped us out on Friday.

Thank you:

The grounds continue to be maintained by families at HPS. Thank you to Judy and Stuart Reid who mowed the grounds on the weekend and also to David and James for weeding and collecting the balls off the roof. John Kirkham spent 2 hours at school on Tuesday rectifying the vegie garden. There are lots of positive comments about our school grounds from visitors.

Cyber Bullying:

Just a reminder that this session with Susan McLean will be held on Tuesday 30th November from 7.30-9pm in Yea. If you're interested in attending please let me know and I'll RSVP. 57969208

Excursion to Yea:

Next Friday, 3rd December, the Great Victorian Bike Ride will stop overnight in Yea. Leanne Pleash has asked Highlands' students to be involved in providing some entertainment for the 1500 junior riders on the ride and senior students have worked hard to come up with a variety of ideas, including busking, egg and spoon race, sack race, 3 legged race and fun involving chopsticks and smarties! This is a great opportunity for students to be involved in some fundraising for HPS.

WELCOME TO ISSUE 38

Please send articles to miranda@omnipotent.com.au or ring on 57969261

ADVERTISING IN THE GRANITE NEWS IN 2011

If you would like to secure a spot on the back of The Granite News you need to act now.

Please send a cheque for \$250 made out to the HCCC (Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative) and post it, with your email details to:

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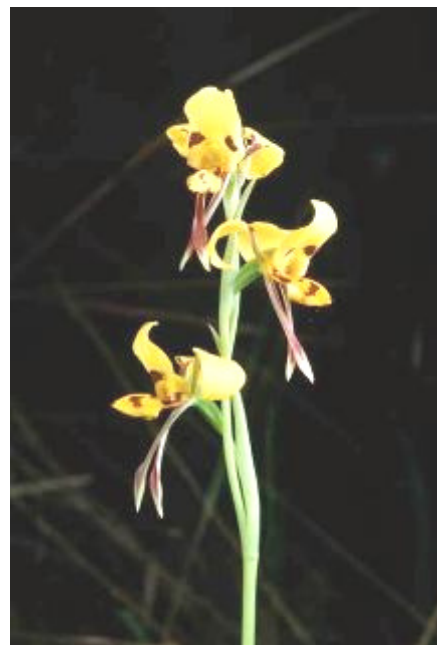
as soon as possible. Whoever gets their cheque in first secures a spot.

A huge thank you to all the people who have already replied and sent a cheque, we can't produce The Granite News without you.


BITS OF BOTANY AND BIRDS

Tiger orchid - *Diuris sulphurea*

Colonies of this orchid are in flower at the bottom end of Old Highlands road at the moment. Its stem is up to 50 cm tall and carries several large yellow flowers with dark brown markings. There are various other species of yellow *Diuris* orchids, mostly with animal names – donkey, leopard, snake, moth, all with different marking and mostly flowering at the start of Spring, not the end.



Community What's On Calendar - November /December/January 2010

Fortnight beg 29th Nov	Terip Terip mowing roster Merv Penny Max & Joan Eddy Car park and all 4 courts
Week beg 12th Dec	WHITEHEADS CREEK- TARCOMBE RFB TRUCK David Freeman Rob Wales
Tuesday 30th November	Susan McLean Australia's foremost expert in cybersafety. Susan has worked in this field since 1994, training in the UK & USA advising schools, elite sporting bodies and state and federal governments. kEePiNg SaFe iN cYbErSpAcE:- Come along and find out how to assist the children in your care to stay safe online. An informative and enlightening session for . Lots of time for questions, useful handouts and direction for reliable further information. Gain confidence in setting rules and boundaries around internet use in the home. Time: 7.30pm—9.00pm, light supper provided Venue: Yea Council Chambers (entry via Yea Library) RSVP: Jane Finlay—Berry Street—Yea 57 972 092 jfinlay@berrystreet.org.au It's FREE—so bring a partner or friend
Saturday 3rd December	YEA COMMUNITY MARKET 9am to 2pm (1st Saturday of each month, except January, 2nd Saturday) Yea Railway Park, Station Street, Yea. Contact: 0409 130 587 or yeamarket@gmail.com The Yea Country Market offers a delicious array of stalls, the best in fresh local produce, arts and crafts, children's activities, playground and skate park. Accompanied by a backdrop of live music, relax and enjoy a latte while taking in the ambiance and fun at a beautiful historic site. The Yea Country Market showcases local producers, growers and makers and is a community event with a gold coin donation entry - funds from entry are donated to local charities .
Friday 3rd December.	Ruffy Store First Friday BBQ with Habbies Howe Beef next Friday. A good chance to catch up before Christmas to compare rainfall and cattle prices, boast about bale numbers and get together to celebrate a sensational spring. Bookings are a good idea. 57904387
Friday 10th December	HIGHLANDS CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY BREAK UP Where: Highlands hall Time: 6PM BYO everything BBQ Acts start at 7pm Presents from Santa can be left at Highlands Primary School contact Elly Fischer tahlima@hotmail.com or Meagan Callander PH 57969208
Friday 10th December	AFFORDABLE ART FAIR AT GALLERY 34 YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR DRINKS WITH THE ARTISTS Christmas Show 6 o'clock at 34 High Street Yea RSVP info@gallery34.com.au Ph 03 57 973 222 • Original unframed Artworks by Peter Hook, Karen Pirie, Corinne Border, Tony Flint • Sculpture • Jewellery • Ceramic tableware • Handmade Christmas Cards Christmas Trading Hours Thursday 9th December 9-4 Friday 10th December 9-4 Saturday 11th December 9-4 Sunday 12th December 10-4 Monday 13th – Sunday 19th December 9-4 CLOSED FROM 20th DECEMBER www.gallery34.com.au
Saturday 11th December Black Market	Black Market 10am - 12pm: Swap & sell your home produce at this local food exchange and "open garden". This month it's being hosted by Megan Hollick (home of metier aromatherapy), 10 Collas St, Seymour. Megan has a delightful herb and flower garden, and will talk about the uses of various plants which she grows and uses in her aromatherapy and massage treatments. Contact Paul Macgregor on 5797 0229, diversity@diversity.org.au , or Megan on 5799 0284 for more information.
Sunday 12th December	Terip/Ruffy Uniting Church meets at 2.00pm. Songs, music and stories of Christmas followed by afternoon tea.
Monday, 13th December	Invitation—AgFutures Forum, Molesworth AgFutures assists farmers and farming communities make sense of the changes that will affect agriculture in the future and enables better long term decision making Cath Botta – Soil Scientist • Improved understanding of components of a healthy soil and farming systems to promote good soil health Jeff Hirth – Pasture Agronomist • Components of alternative fertilisers and how they work • Preliminary results of an alternative fertilizers field trial at Holbrook, NSW Robyn Bell – AgFutures Project Officer • Using evidence as a basis of making decisions Workshop and discussion sessions to be facilitated by John Mulvany, OnFarm Consulting. This event has been developed with input from farmers in the local community around Molesworth 10:00am to 3:30pm Molesworth Hotel, 4364 Goulburn Valley Hwy Molesworth Please register with Shae Patterson on Tel: (03) 5573 0701 shae.patterson@dpi.vic.gov.au
Saturday 19th December	 <p style="text-align: center;">LIVE AT THE WHITE HART HOTEL The HAIRY LASSO'S back from another sell out world tour. 4.30pm. Return taxis– price per person \$10 Euroa/Avenel/ Longwood East \$15 Nagambie \$20 Seymour./Violet Town Bookings are essential 63 Hill Street, Longwood PH 57985203 white.hart@bigpond.com</p>
Saturday 8th January 2011	TERIP TERIP ANNUAL SOCIAL TOURNAMENT - Come along and enjoy a relaxed family day of tennis. Sections 1 & 2 and Juniors. Entry includes approx 4 sets tennis, morning and afternoon tea. Light lunch, BBQ tea and cold drinks all available. 10.00 start

Classifieds & Community Notices

WATER SAFETY WEEK

27 November – 5 December 2010

With warmer weather just around the corner and more opportunities for a cool swim in the local dam, river or at the beach it is important to stay safe around water this summer.

The Royal Life Saving 2010 National Drowning Report was launched on 22 September and it held some alarming statistics. Between July 1st 2009 and June 30th 2010 there were 314 drowning deaths in Australian waterways. This figure is the highest it's been at any time in the last seven years and is a reversal of the long-term downward trend in drowning deaths. The biggest increase in drowning (on the five year average) has occurred in lakes, dams and lagoons and more than 50 per cent of drowning deaths have happened outside major cities in regional areas.

Two high risk groups in the drowning statistics are children under the aged of five and people in the over 55s age group.

As younger children become more mobile they require greater supervision around water, both at home and when the family is out. Drowning in people over 55 now represents a third of all drowning deaths and people in this group need increased knowledge of the impact of health and medication on drowning, and the need to renew life-saving skills.

The main things to remember about water safety: **Know the environment** – There are different safety rules for beaches, rivers, lakes and swimming pools. Beware of local water conditions and weather before going swimming. **Behave Safely** – Obey all water safety signs, make sure someone is looking out for you and don't mix alcohol and swimming.

Learn to swim – Being able to swim is an essential skill for water safety. Everybody, especially school aged children, should be taught to swim and how to stay afloat.

More information on water safety can be found on the following websites:

www.watersafety.vic.gov.au (including the 2010/11 Victorian Water Safety Guide) www.royallifesaving.com.au

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ROAD CLOSURES TO SUPPORT GREAT VICTORIAN BIKE RIDE

Supporting the Great Victorian Bike Ride as it winds its way through the Murrindindi Shire, will see Murrindindi Shire Council close a number of roads to assist the event.

"With more than 5000 riders and 500 support staff taking part in this year's event, it is a wonderful opportunity to promote our shire," Ms Abbey said.

"There will be changed road conditions across the shire from Friday December 3 through to Sunday December 5." Any inquiries regarding the road closures can be directed to Council's Local Laws department on 5772 0333.

MYSTERY PHOTO

This photo was taken on the side of the road between Ruffy and Tarcombe. (Steve still isn't prepared to tell you what it is but Julia McKay did guess, did you?)

From Steve McAlpin

THE ATLAS OF LIVING AUSTRALIA WEBSITE

The Atlas of Living Australia website has gone live to the public. Visit the website at <http://www.ala.org.au>

While the site is still a work in progress, it already provides access to a variety of information about Australian biodiversity - animals, plants, fungi and microorganisms, including:

- * species pages
- * species names list
- * ID information
- * more than 23 million occurrence and distribution records
- * information on key Australian biological collections
- * mapping tools
- * citizen science tools. Through the Atlas, users can discover information on species in a particular area, in their neighbourhood or around their school.

HABBIES HOWE BEEF SAUSAGES

We have been able to enlist Scott from Avenel to make some delicious sausages with our beef. They are available in the fridges at the Ruffy Store, and they are great for Christmas BBQs. They have been made with natural skins and are gluten free. Comment heard from a very fussy sausage eater

"These are seriously good!!"

NEW WORKPLACE LEARNING PROGRAMME FOR MITCHELL & MURRINDINDI SHIRES

The Workplace Learning Coordinators Program (WLCP) is a Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) initiative and is in response to the Commonwealth Governments National Partnership of Youth Attainment and Transitions.

Working with the School to expand and supplement what already exists, the program will open up more opportunities for students aged 15 – 19 years of age to improve their skills and workplace knowledge through 'on the job' experience be it via Work Experience, Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) or School Based Apprenticeships/ Traineeships (SBATS). The program will also promote to industry the benefits of providing workplace learning opportunities to students within their business.

CVGT will be delivering the Workplace Coordinators Program within the Central Ranges LLEN geographical area which incorporates three LGA's, Murrindindi Shire Council, Mitchell Shire Council and Macedon Ranges.

Carmen Fifield is the appointed Workplace Learning Coordinator for Mitchell & Murrindindi Shires covering 9 secondary schools within the region based at Seymour. Carmen says "my role as WLC is to

- increase the number of young people aged 15 to 19 years undertaking workplace learning placements in places of employment, especially within industries that provide strong vocational outcomes for young people;
- increase the alignment between training provision and local industry needs;
- increase the number of Koori young people undertaking workplace learning placements and;
- generate and identify new workplace learning placement opportunities within the region

I will be working closely with schools, TAFEs, Adult Community Education Centres, Registered Training Organisations, industry and employer groups, and community groups to strengthen existing relationships and develop new partnerships to support workplace learning for our youth.

For more information contact:

Carmen Fifield – CVGT Seymour
Shop 5-6 The Mall
78 Station Street, Seymour Vic 3660
Ph: 03 58 233 480 M: 0447 100 723 or cfifield@cvgt.com.au

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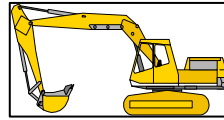
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