



PEOPLE AND PLACES

“Rabbit free landscapes are rich, diverse ecosystems.”

“Rabbits cause ecological damage as well as loss in agricultural production. Rabbits compete with native mammals for habitat. They also introduce weeds when soil is disturbed around warrens. They selectively graze on native plants and destroy regenerating native trees, shrubs and grasses. Rabbits can change a landscape, but once an area is free of rabbits, ecological balance is achieved.”

We all know rabbits are undesirable but how do we control them without further degrading the environment we wish to protect ?

The standard method of rabbit control in our area is ripping up the warrens with large excavators. Warrens need to be ripped to a depth of at least one metre and the area surrounding the warren needs to be ripped out to three metres beyond the actual rabbit holes. All rocks and logs need to be pushed aside to allow machinery access to the warrens. This creates a massive amount of soil disturbance and native animal habitat destruction but it has proved to be the most effective way of permanently getting rid of rabbits. In the past we integrated 1080 poison carrot campaigns with the ripping programs but that does not happen now.

One landholder in Gooram was recently under notice from DPI to control rabbit population on his steep rocky ridge line. Ninety hours of excavator work was subsequently done on his property. The hill tops were already infested with Paterson's curse, horehound and thistle which would have been spread further by the machinery. The bare loose soil was laid open to erosion and weed colonization. Remnant native vegetation was crushed. He has subsequently put the property on the market - a new landholder will inherit this major management problem.

I would like to pose a few questions. Is anyone monitoring whether this short-term damage is worth the long-term gain? Is warren ripping truly the best method of rabbit control in areas of high biodiversity value? What are the alternatives? Landcare coordinators and DPI compliance staff check sites before ripping commences to map rabbit hot spots and after ripping has been done to make sure all warrens have been treated. What about some long term monitoring of the landscapes ability to repair itself after such disturbance? By Janet Hagen

NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY

STUDENT OF THE WEEK



Luke:

For working hard and making improvements in all areas. Well done!

Tree Removal:

During a safety audit conducted by the Department of Education earlier in the year numerous trees were identified as a safety issue. The Department then commissioned a tree removal company to remove the trees to provide a safer area for staff, students and community members on the grounds of HPS.

The school will receive a \$5000 landscaping grant to assist with replacement of trees. Students and school council have discussed the matter and are looking forward to being involved in the planning and replanting.

Tree removal starts on Monday 28th November. During this time there will be some limited access to the car park.

Community Break up:

A number of people have contacted us about the role of Santa at the Community Break up and the overwhelming consensus is that Santa should visit us again this year. Please drop your gifts (maximum of \$5) to the school prior to the break up on Friday 9th.



Thanks to the three senior girls for helping Meagan set up the school's display for the Yea Show.

WELCOME TO ISSUE 35

Please send any news to me at miranda@rumston.net or ring 57969261.

ADVERTISING IN TGN IN 2012 ONLY 13 SPOTS LEFT

I am now accepting requests for advertising space in TGN for 2012. There are 26 spaces and 13 spaces have already been taken. Spaces can also be used in memory of people or as a donation to the newsletter. The cost is the same as this year, \$250 for approximately 40 editions going to 202 households in hard copy and 336 email addresses. A huge thank you to the two generous donations we have received this week. Such community support ensures the continuation of our community newsletter.

FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR FENCING STEEP HILL COUNTRY IN THE STRATHBOGIE RANGES

The Department of Primary Industries is offering landholders an incentive of \$4.00 per metre for land class fencing of steep hill country to improve soil health by reducing erosion and salinity, and increasing grass cover. If you are interested in learning more about the scheme, please contact Susan Sleigh on 57904031 or email susan.sleigh@dpi.vic.gov.au.

Susan can visit your property and explain the finer details of the Soil Health Project including the incentive of \$4.00 per metre for land class fencing, Native Grasses Management Plan and Soil Health Plan. This scheme has been very well received.

CHILEAN NEEDLE GRASS

An excellent brochure is available on Chilean needle grass, a devastating agricultural weed. An important difference between Chilean needle grass and the spear grass *Austrostipa densiflora*, Foxtail (prominent in the Ruffy area this year) is the seed head. If you pull out a group of seeds they look like tiny spears with a point at one end and a long tail or awn at the other end - Chilean needle grass has a corona or crown in the seed head and you may need a hand lens to see this. There are excellent diagrams and detailed information for identification in the brochure on this particularly nasty weed. susan.sleigh@dpi.vic.gov.au

COMMUNITY WHAT'S ON CALENDAR - DECEMBER 2011/JANUARY 2012

Week beg 5th December	Terip Terip Recreation Reserve Mowing Roster Sue Martin Andrew Holloway & Tim Andrews
Saturday 3rd December	You are invited to the Official Opening of the Tablelands Community Centre & The Ruffy Primary School time capsule opening , from 6pm at the old Ruffy Primary School - Official handover of the old Ruffy Primary School to the community of the Tablelands , Opening of the TIME CAPSULE that was laid down by the school children, teachers & community in 1986 (bring a note/photo to place in the new capsule to be opened in 2036) A free Family BBQ Dinner (please bring a salad to share) A Decorated Christmas Tree, a visit from SANTA, (for those who wish for Santa to give a small gift please give to a CFA member on arrival) All present & past community, past students & teachers as well as visitors are invited to this historic event. Enquires: John 0427 344 956 Email: furlanetto@activ8.net.au
Saturday 3rd December	Yea Country Market – 9am to 2pm at Yea Railway Park, Station Street, Yea. It will be a special Christmas market, with a the fabulous array of stalls on offer by local producers, growers and makers, as well as eclectic trash and treasure stalls, all enhanced by local entertainers and delicious food and snacks.
December 3 and 4	EUROA COMMUNITY CINEMA “The Eye of the Storm” – (3.5 stars) This is one movie that people are talking about and several have requested. It was difficult getting a date before Christmas! So don't rush off to see it elsewhere.....The first of Patrick White's novels to be adapted to the screen, it is a diverse Australian film that although the characters could be seen as rather bleak it is a movie not to be missed. Charlotte Rampling plays the mother who is dying, while her two children (Andrew Shaw is back to lead the last Highland Ramblers walk for the year. It'll be from Caveat to Peg and Doug Lade's, avoiding all the big hills and taking in the 'cactus hut'.
Sunday 4th December	Strathbogie Ranges Conservation Management Network AGM 11.30am Euroa Arboretum 12.30pm BBQ and salads lunch supplied A relaxing Sunday afternoon beside the big dam at the beautiful Euroa Arboretum RSVP Janet Hagen jhagen@harboursat.com.au
Saturday 5th December	WHITE HART HOTEL White Goat, they'll be belting out all your favourite rock and pop classics, with a fair splash of their own material too. Join us on from 8.30pm. A: 63 Hill St, Longwood, VIC 3665 T: 03-5798-5203 E: info@whiteharthotel.com.au www.whiteharthotel.com.au
Friday 9th December	Highlands Community Christmas Gathering , Highlands Hall, 6pm onwards. BYO everything, BBQ provided. There will be no formal part to the evening, just come along, catch up with neighbours and enjoy yourself. Last year was a terrific evening with about 50 locals so let's see if we can encourage even more out of the woodwork this year. See you there. will be in place of 'Drinks on the Deck' at Highlands Community Hall. BYO everything - food for a BBQ, salad to share, chairs to sit on, etc. All welcome.
Saturday 10th December	WHITE HART HOTEL AGAIN! First up....in music news, we're all excited to confirm the long awaited return of Nick Barker, playing with his band The Reptiles. They're appearing with the evening kicking off at 8.00pm with a tbc support act. A: 63 Hill St, Longwood, VIC 3665 T: 03-5798-5203 E: info@whiteharthotel.com.au
December 10 and 11	EUROA COMMUNITY CINEMA The Cup” (3 stars) This movie was released to coincide with the Spring Racing Carnival – I doubt those who attend the myriad of social activities surrounding this event would have time to go and see the movie! However that leaves the rest of us to enjoy another Australian movie based on the story of Damien Oliver's 2002 Melbourne Cup ride and what unfolded following the death of his brother Jason.
Saturday 10th December	TERIP TERIP RECREATION RESERVE CHRISTMAS BBQ All are welcome to join us at the Rec Reserve for a free Christmas BBQ from 6pm. Please BYO meat and drinks, and a salad or dessert to share. The BBQ will follow the last home matches for the year for the Terip Terip Tennis Club, so come along earlier if you would like to watch a few sets! For any enquiries, please contact Andrew Holloway (Rec Reserve Secretary) on 57904080.
Saturday 10th December	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. Contact Paul Macgregor on 5797 0229, diversity@diversity.org.au , or Megan on 5799 0284 for more information.
Friday 16th December	Rocky Passes would like to introduce Birdie Aiken... a talented local singer, song-writer who will be performing to celebrate the last tapas night for the year. From 6pm \$10 cover charge (half to Birdie, half to Graceworks Myanmar) Tapas and wine as usual. To book, please call 57969366 or contact@rockypasses.com.au
December 17 and 18	EUROA COMMUNITY CINEMA “The Hunter” (4 stars) Martin David (Willem Dafoe), a modern day soldier of fortune, is hired by a mysterious man in Paris to find a Tasmanian Tiger. Set in a remote part of Tasmania, Martin moves into a room in the home of Lucy (Frances O'Connor) who, along with her two small children, is grieving over her husband who went missing some time ago. A compelling storyline which could almost be classed as a thriller, features cinematography showing some of the most beautiful parts of Tasmania.
Sunday 18th December	White Hart Hotel 4.30pm -Hairy Lassoo's - Look out Nick Barker, Longwood's got talent too !!!! Last shin-dig for 2011. A: 63 Hill St, Longwood, VIC 3665 T: 03-5798-5203 E: info@whiteharthotel.com.au
Saturday night 24th December	Christmas Eve Service At Christmas eve service will be held in the Caveat Church at 5pm. All welcome. It will include the Christmas story and carols. I would welcome a musician who could accompany the carol singing. Contact Stuart 5796 9358
Thursday 27th January	Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative meeting 7.30pm Terip Terip tennis Courts, all welcome.

Classifieds & Community Notices

YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

Christmas Rhyme and Story Time
10.30am-11.30am FREE and no bookings required. Come along and join in Christmas songs, play instruments, listen to a Christmas story and make Christmas bells.
Thursday 1 Dec at Violet Town Library
Friday 9 December Euroa Library

Join in the Summer Reading Club called The Amazing Read Starts 1 December 2011 and ends 1 February 2012.
Register at your library and collect your Reading Kit. Just by registering you go in the draw to Win an ipod, Choose a Preschool, Primary or Secondary Kit, Collect Reading Rewards along the way
Enter our colouring competition.
Look out in January for our Amazing Read events: Where the wild things are reader theatre and craft, Gruffalo reader theatre and craft.
For more information please contact Anne Tomietto 5832 1622 or email annet@gvrlc.vic.gov.au

PESTIVIRUS AND INFERTILITY

Q & A Session
Beef cattle fertility overview:
Causes of infertility in cattle including Pestivirus - Vibriosis- plus practical on-farm biosecurity and disease prevention.
Tuesday, December 13, 2011
Time: 8.30 am - 10.30 am
Venue: Tablelands Community Centre, old Ruffy School, Ruffy.
Cost: Free. Morning tea provided.
RSVP: Thursday, December 8, 2011 to DPI District Veterinary Officer Lee Manning on (03) 5761 1507 or lee.manning@dpi.vic.gov.au

ROADSIDE WEED CONTROL

Landcare is in the process of organising roadside weed spraying and we are looking for any areas of concern that may need some attention. If your roadside is getting out of control or if you know of another area that needs attention within the HCCC area please contact Simone Ulstrup on 03 57904146 or email through the details to hughes.creek1@gmail.com.

HIGHLANDS CAVEAT FIRE BRIGADE NOTICES

Training: Tue 29th Nov, Tue 6th Dec, Tue 20th Dec at the Highlands Fire Shed 7pm, queries Les Lawson 57 969 265 Peter Roberts 57 969 301
Pre-Season Meeting: Tue 13th Dec 7:30pm at the Highlands Fire Shed

BITS OF BOTANY AND BIRDS

Bronze cuckoos

Spring is the season for cuckoos arriving from the north and calling loudly – the species differ but many calls are variations of a loud, descending repeated whistle. Looking for a particularly persistent caller the other day I found it was a bronze cuckoo. These are the smallest of the Australian cuckoos – only about 17cm long - and like all true cuckoos, leave their eggs in other birds' nests. They mate down here then most head north to spend the winter months in Qld, New Guinea or Indonesia. There are two species – Horsfield's bronze cuckoo and Shining bronze cuckoo. They're quite similar, with a barred front and iridescent green on the wings but the Shining is a brighter green and the Horsfield's has an eye stripe. By Louise Currie



BOOK REVIEW

My sword hand is singing – Marcus Sedgwick

An intriguing novel for young adult readers about vampires. Set in the 17th century in a remote and forbidding winter landscape Tomas and his son Peter are woodcutters continually on the move in order to escape Tomas' past – a past that is tracking him down with deadly intent. Sedgwick has written a novel inspired by the original vampire folklore of Eastern Europe that draws the reader into a world of half dead corpses, gypsies and myth.

By Pauline Roberts

FOR SALE

Trampoline - large netted family size, hardly used \$300 Digital answering machine, never used \$20
Portable DVD player for the computer (Buffalo) \$40 Leone's D-cluttering my home sale 5796 9290

HELP WANTED

Someone with a ride on mower to occasionally mow around a house on Gum Road for approximately 2 hours.
Ring Helen 0429855101

CHERRY TREE WIND FARM COMMUNITY INFORMATION DAY

Infigen Energy is hosting local information sessions to answer questions about its proposed Cherry Tree Wind Farm located between Whiteheads Creek and Trawool near Seymour.

The Development Application for an installed capacity of 50 MW comprising 13 wind turbines is expected to be lodged with the Mitchell Shire early next year.

The information sessions will take place at the following times and locations:

Sunday, 4 December 2011

Whiteheads Creek Hall on Kobyboyn Road from 10am to 4pm

Monday, 5 December 2011

Trawool Valley Resort from 11am to 8pm Infigen looks forward to meeting the local residents.

www.infigenenergy.com

NATIVE GRASS & WEED IDENTIFICATION EVENING

Early December will give landholders an opportunity to get a better grasp on the native grass species we see on properties with Peter Mitchell offering expert advice on the identification, feed value and management techniques. The idea is to have a paddock walk starting at 5:00pm giving participants a chance to get a close up look at the native grasses as Peter discusses them. Also if you have any plants/weeds you would like ID please bring along to the hall (in sealed container).The walks will be followed by a BBQ and further presentation. Also Susan Sleigh from DPI will talk on Land Health Program, Erosion, Native perennial pastures and Remnant vegetation fencing. (cost share funding may be available for on ground works)
Thursday 1 December, 5pm start in paddock & back to hall for talk & dinner. No charge and all welcome.
Location: Barry Noye's property, site opposite gate 9588 Creighton Creek Rd (Landcare signs will be on the road and gate way) Creighton's Creek. 9.58km from the highway. Please contact Kerri Robson on 55763 2465 M: 041814 0710
landcare2@iinet.net.au

LOOKING FOR THAT SPECIAL CHRISTMAS GIFT?

Want something that is uniquely Australian? We have a range of Opal jewellery direct from the family mines in QLD starting from \$25 Contact Simone Ulstrup on 03 5790 4146 or email willarid@bigpond.com.

Rocky Passes



Tastings & "blackboard menu" lunch
Sundays 11am - 5pm
Tapas bar last Friday of the month from 6pm

Bookings 57969366
1590 Highlands Rd
www.rockypasses.com.au



Proudly serving the Hills/Ranges Community
Join us for a meal or look out for our events inside Granite News

63 Hill Street, Longwood
Tel. 03-5798-5203
white.hart@bigpond.com

metier aromatherapy
therapeutic massage
relaxation massage
french clay facials
hand & foot massage | gift vouchers available
phone megan 5799 0284
www.metier-a.com.au

HABBIES HOWE BEEF
Mature, well hung & available. Prahran, Yarck, Ruffy or Habbies
5796 9260
www.habbieshowe.com.au

KOPANICA PASTORAL EXCAVATIONS



PH. 0357 904 235
MOB. 0429 804 235

RABBIT RIPPING, DAMS, DRIVEWAYS
GENERAL EARTHWORKS & MACHINERY HIRE

TRADESMEN
Specialising in renovations, alterations, and repairs. Shed erections, concrete floors, paths, paving etc.
Contact Ken on 5797 6255 or Michael on 5795 1109

FRANZ KLOFT MECHANICAL REPAIRS
Repairs & service of vehicles
Tyres, Windscreens, Batteries, Brakes, Exhausts, Wheel alignment, Automatic transmission
Phone 57952910
38 Railway Street, Euroa
FREE QUOTES

yeswebsites
Simply Great Websites
For a free quote, email jr@yeswebsites.com.au or call Jono: 5796 9399
yeswebsites.com.au
Shopping Carts a specialty

EZY ELECTRICAL SERVICES
Phone Ian on
: 0408990487
: 57904328
Registered Electrical Contractor:
License No. 16959

black bird and bull

picture framing and studio gallery in Terip Terip
57904167 or 0419131650

WALE'S RURAL
Let the land produce
38 Emily Street Seymour
Ph. 5792 1088

The Shed Cafe/ Restaurant
Thursday Dinner to Sunday Lunch
Weekend Breakfast from 9.00 am.
Groups by arrangement
2 Fully Self Contained Cottages
Lindy 0402 001 522
Cafe 5799 1595
www.trawoolshed.com.au
8447 Goulburn Valley Highway

ALTSON MORRIS LIFESTYLE GARDENS
Garden Designs for City and Country Spaces
* Water-wise
* Low maintenance
* Attractive all year around
Contact Miranda
0408 969 261
miranda@omnipotent.com.au
altsonmorris.com.au

AG Fencing & Contracting Services
All fence constructions, Equipment maintenance & Pump repairs, Blasting Service,
"Not sure if we do it?"
Give us a call 0407 028 122

ruffy
produce store
www.ruffy.com.au
open lunch fridays
wood fired pizzas every friday night
weekends & holidays
breakfast from 8.30am
lunch from 12 noon
bookings a good idea
phone 5790 4387

VICMILL
NATURAL FERTILIZERS
Ph (03) 5865 5125
info@vicmill.com
www.vicmill.com

A.J. & S.L. SHAW EXCAVATIONS

GENERAL EARTHWORKS
0427969297

HOUSEMART DESIGN
Christine McKenzie
Building Designer & Thermal Performance Assessor
Sustainable Building Designs
Town & Regional Planning
Energy Rating Reports
Bushfire Attack level Reports
Ph/Fax 03 58001194
housemar@shepparton.net.au

AUSURE
INSURANCE BROKERS
Teish Andrea
Ausure Insurance Brokers Seymour
Ph: 03 57 991 882
Fax: 03 57 991 885
"Vervo Chambers" in The Mall
Authorised Representative of Ausure Pty Ltd T/As Ausure Insurance Brokers

MOBILE BUTCHERING
RUSSELL BARNES
0407523420
On Farm Slaughtering & Butchering
Beef, Lamb, Pork, Slaughterer, Butcher
Coolroom supplied
Cut to order
Sausage, corned beef, mince

4UPSKILLING
TRAINING FOR YOUR FUTURE
Specializing in:
Certificate IV in Training & Assessment
Facilitation and training skills
Public speaking skills
Equine health training
Agriculture training
www.4upskilling.com.au
(03) 57904303 (0407) 358191

Bookings 0423 006 667
bookings@mafekingroverpark.com
www.mafekingroverpark.com
Site phone 5797 6351

BAILEY'S FUNERAL SERVICES P/L
27 Highlands Rd, Seymour
Offering a caring and professional service
Prices starting from \$3500
Cremation, \$4500 Burial plus cemetery fees.
Contact Garnet on 57992007 24 Hours.

RING SHORTY FOR ALL TRACTOR & BULLDOZER WORK
PLOUGHING
MULCHING
BUCKET
DOES IT ALL
PH: 57904001