



SOIL HEALTH and STEEP HILLS FARM TOUR

Saturday 31st March , 10am—5pm

"Kulaba", Whiteheads Creek

4,000ac, Whitehead's Creek Valley rising to steep ironstone hills, joins public land, 600mm average rainfall 11,000 DSE (85% sheep), high labour efficiency/DSE, 23 years of farm planning and strategic fencing, soil liming and fertilizers, introduced and native pasture regeneration, weed and rabbit control, restoration of saline areas and huge revegetation program (100,000 trees and understory). Drought experiences

"Habbies Howe", Highlands

Renown Highlands property, settled 1840's when it was up to 13,000 ac with 4,000 sheep. Now 6,000ac, cool climate, 820mm average rainfall, wide creek valleys & wetlands rising to rugged, steep granite crests 15,000 DSE including 1,000 Angus breeders. 14 years of soil and pasture renovation (2,000ac completed or in progress), major weed (eg Patto, bracken) and rabbit control programs land class fencing and revegetation. Information from Burnt Creek Landcare newsletter For more information contact Rhiannon Apted 5736 0108 rhiannona@gbcma.vic.gov.au

Brought to you by the Goulburn Broken CMA Beyond SoilCare project, Burnt Creek Landcare Group and Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative, with funding from Caring for Our Country

CELEBRATE OUR ENVIRONMENT

I thought you may be interested in joining us at Violet Town on Friday 30th March, as we celebrate some of our local environmental success stories.

This day is to celebrate on-ground works, listen to some seriously interesting people like Greg Moore (talking about trees and their values), Snow Barlow (talking about climate change) or just have a laugh as Helen Keighery lets her ideas loose on the local school kids who will perform her much talked about and hugely popular "puppet extravaganza" !

A free lunch (pizzas and other Strathbogie specialties) served with local wines will give everyone a chance to check out the stalls and find out what other good things are happening right here in our own backyards. Ring me if you think you'll come along – Shirley (0427-246900)

RABBIT & MUSHROOM TIME OF YEAR

Given the time of year and the number of rabbits running freely I thought it was appropriate to bring out Jenny Murphy's Winning RABBIT recipe from the LANDCARE AMG a few years ago.

LAPIN au Vin Ruffy Style

50 g butter
2 medium sized Ruffy rabbits cut into pieces.
12 shallots
1 garlic clove, finely chopped 300g fresh Ruffy field mushrooms.
1 cup of Antcliffe Chase's Cab sav.
½ cup of chicken stock
Salt & Pepper
Fresh thyme sprigs
2 fresh bay leaves
Melt butter, heat oil on a medium heat in a heavy based frypan. Add rabbit pieces and brown on each side. When browned, place in a casserole dish with a lid. Place shallots in frying pan and fry until lightly coloured.
Add mushrooms and garlic, cook for 5 minutes stirring constantly with a wooden spoon.
Add to casserole dish. Pour red wine and chicken stock into pan with bay leaves and thyme sprigs, season with salt & pepper. Bring to boil. Pour the red wine mixture over rabbit pieces. Cover and place in wood stove to simmer for 6 hours.
Serve with mashed potatoes & zucchini's .

BON APPETIT

WELCOME TO ISSUE 7

Please send any news to me at mirandayorston@bigpond.com or ring 57969261.

If you would like to receive The Granite News by email please go to www.highlands.org.au and just subscribe, it is as easy as that! I hope everyone is enjoying this wonderful season.

CHANGES TO ANIMAL LAWS

The Strathbogie Shire is advising its residents of recent changes made to Victorian Animal Laws, in a State Government initiative to curb illegal activities such as puppy farming and breeding of dangerous dogs. In what is now a uniform approach across Victoria, these laws will enforce tighter controls on the breeding and sale of cats and dogs.

The Domestic Animals Act 1994, now requires that all dogs and cats over the age of three months living in the Strathbogie Shire need to be both micro chipped and registered.

"This small annual cost is also a far cry from what residents would have to pay if their unregistered dog or cat was found to be at large. Registrations are an annual charge, that must be renewed by the 10th of April each year." he said. For more information ring Customer Service Staff on 1800 065 993." Alternatively you can visit the Department of Primary Industries frequently asked questions page at: <http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/pets/dog-care/microchip-details-now-needed-in-catdog-sale-advertisements>

BAITING TIME

This is a reminder that the month of March is baiting time. It's important time to bait foxes because it is targeting the young dispersing from their dens, as well as the adults.

Foxbait (FoxOff) and the corflute warning signs are available at Rodwells. FoxOff (all GST incl.) (10): \$19 (20): \$32.50 (40) \$60; (100): \$130 (200) \$245 Corflute signs: \$4.50 Pindone (2.5 kg) \$46; (5 kg): \$82; (10 kg): \$128

Remember that you must present your ACUP (1080-endorsed) permit to be able to purchase the bait. Please alert neighbours on your immediate boundaries and post signs on any gates on a public road.

SAVE THE DATE

Highlands Primary School
Major Fund Raiser


WOOLSHED DANCE AT HABBIES HOWE, DROPMORE ROAD, HIGHLANDS

Saturday 21st April 6.30pm
We would love all the community to be there for a really fun night.
There will be a BBQ dinner and live music. Bring some friends and book a table. Contact Robyn Richards 57904303 to make your booking.

\$50 Family, \$20 Adult, \$10 Child

THANKS TO THE GOULBURN BROKEN CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY FOR HELPING TO FUND THIS NEWSLETTER

COMMUNITY WHAT'S ON CALENDAR - MARCH /APRIL 2012

Week beg 1st April	WHITEHEADS CREEK- TARCOT RFB TRUCK Michel Becks Jarrod Coysh
Week beg 2nd April	RUFFY FIRE BRIGADE ROSTER 2nd Lieutenant John Furlanetto (Ph) 57 953 435 (Mob) 0427 344 956
Week beg 1st April	<i>Terip Terip Recreation Reserve Mowing Roster</i> Tim & Cindy Hayes Marcus Hill
3rd March- 1st April	 <p>GALLERY 34 PRESENTS CHARLES BLACKMAN'S WONDERLAND</p> <p>Thursday- Saturday 9am to 4pm Sundays and Public Holidays 10am-4pm Jo Miller PH 57973222 www.gallery34.com.au</p>
March 6th - April 1st	All New Art Exhibition by Yea artist Meg Heres @ Mitchelton Winery Cellar Door Gallery Nagambie Open 7 Days 10am -5pm Free admittance 03 5736 2221 Artist 04 0034 0279
Wednesday 21st March	The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD), Hume region invites you to attend a workshop with Dr Rosemary Roberts . Her particular interests include babies and young children's learning and developing well-being from birth to school, the impact of self-esteem on early learning, and ways to support families with the youngest children. 10.00 am – 12.00 noon, Yea Council Chambers, The Semicircle, RSVP: Lauren Soyer soyer.lauren.l@edumail.vic.gov.au Ph: 03 5761 2140
Saturday 24th March	SUSTAINABLE SMALL FARM TOUR Tracy and Anthony have built their house in a location to maximise the sun and they have built a lovely garden. They have a fabulous chook pen – the ultimate for chooks! Tracey and Anthony run beef cattle on their property. They have been very thoughtful in every aspect of their property planning, including protection of a lovely swamp. Come and be inspired and while you're at it, learn about managing your own chooks from John Hunt – President of the Alexandra Poultry Club! A light lunch will be provided. Meet: 255 Buxton-Marysville Rd, Buxton Time: 10am – 1pm Guest Speaker – John Hunt – President, Alexandra Poultry Club RSVP: Judy Watts 57360105, or uglandcare@gbcma.vic.gov.au
Sunday 25th March	Highlands Ramblers are off again. Come along to the first walk for the year. Contact Andrew Shaw PH 0427969297
24th and 25th March	Euroa Community Cinema "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" – this is also up for awards! The original movie was shown at Euroa which was possibly the only place it was screened in the area. We had an amazing response as people came from Shepparton and all places to see it. This version is excellent – possibly better than the first from what I have heard!
Thursday 29th March	Secret Men's Business will be held again at the caveat Church. Everyone in the district is welcome to attend a BBQ which is supplied. BYO drinks and enjoy.
Saturday 31st March	Creighton's Creek Picnic at the Creighton's Creek Reserve Events Include: Stepping the chain, Sheaf tossing 50 yard dash – many categories, Horseshoe tossing, Sack race, Skittles, Farm skills competitions, Inaugural "Let's Elope" Hobby Horse Stakes, 3 legged race – and many more. Displays: Penny farthing and historical bicycle display, Clydesdale horses and Horse drawn carriages, Historical firefighting equipment., Experience a day out in the 1890s, Bring a picnic lunch and picnic chairs, Devonshire afternoon tea provided. Events start at 1:00, Cost \$10 per adult, children free.
March 31 and April 1	Euroa Community Cinema – "Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy" Set in 1973, this dramatic thriller is about the inner workings of Britain's Secret Intelligence Service. Adapted from the novel by John Le Carre (which no doubt everyone has read) the movie has received rave reviews and should please those die-hards who have such high expectations.
Sunday 1st April	Yea Wetlands Committee invites you to a fabulous family and friends fun function. Focus of the day is freshwater fishing, fun as you throw a frisbee, frolic in the fields of the Wetlands or feed your face with food. Whilst feeding your famished stomach with fresh french bread, succulent roasts followed by flapjacks topped with fresh fruit and frozen froyo. The fare for the festive fishing and feasting will set you back a fee of sixty dollars per family or funds of twenty dollars per person. First rate fermentation of the grape variety will be available at a fiver per glass. Pre-purchase your tickets from Yea & District Community Bank branch 66 High St., Yea Commences: Four Thirty PM at the Flat Plat, Cummins Reserve.
GOOD FRI- DAY LUNCH 6TH APRIL	RUFFY CFA GOOD FRIDAY LUNCH All welcome to come along to the annual Ruffy CFA Good Friday Lunch. Raffles, collections for the Royal Melbourne Hospital Good Friday Appeal and a visit from the Easter Bunny. Lunch served between 12:30 and 2pm, \$12 Adult, \$5 for Kids. All proceeds to the Ruffy CFA. For enquiries please call: Sally Kubiel 0407904335 John Furlanetto 0427344956 Ros Goodwin 0437004006
Thursday 12th April	Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative Executive meeting 7.30pm, Highlands Hall, all welcome

Classifieds & Community Notices

CRICKET ANYONE?

The Wilderness Cricket Club (combined Ruffy Highlands team) is playing the Riverine Club at Beechworth this Saturday. This is the 3rd time we have played them for the Sunshine Cup (so called because the first game was played when 15 mls of rain fell!) and we are hoping for a positive result. Previously we have played at Stanley but the game has moved to the Oval in the very picturesque grounds at Latrobe. After the game both teams with numerous WAGS will be going to the Green Shed for a celebratory/ commiseration dinner. Beechworth is a great place to visit, on Sunday the Yackandandah Festival is also on. If you would like to join us ring Scott McKay 57969259.

WANTED TO BUY

Trailer, 6 x 4 to 7 x 5 - Must be in good condition. Please contact Stuart - 0412805872

FREE TO A GOOD HOME

We have a working Hoover washing machine if anyone wants to collect it from 200 Springs Rd Terip Terip 57904251

CHILDCARE NEEDED

Child Care needed for 8 yr old boy. Care involves school pick up from Highlands PS - transport to Yea and after school care in the child's home. Some 'light' household duties also. Must be responsible and reliable and enjoy fun activities. Must be flexible and available on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3pm-6pm. Wages negotiable. must have references and own transport. to start asap. please call Marisa :0417 133 409 or 5797 3295 or email mlgo@deakin.edu.au.

LOST A CAT IN TERIP TERIP?

Found in Terip Terip: one female domestic medium hair cat. Approximately 1-2 years old, grey/tortoiseshell. Now residing at the Greater Shepparton Animal Shelter. For more information call Andrew or Tim on 57904080, or the Shepparton Animal Shelter or 58329794 as soon as possible as they only keep them for 8 days. www.greatershepparton.com.au/lost_animals.asp

BITS OF BOTANY AND BIRDS

Nankeen Kestrel *Falco cenchroides*

This is our smallest bird of prey. They used to be common but numbers dropped during the drought years. I've seen a few lately so they may be making a comeback. They eat mice, insects, small birds and lizards and are commonly seen perched on telegraph poles. When hunting they hover on the spot while flapping their wings madly, something only the smaller birds of prey can do. They have a pale front and rufous back with dark wingtips.



GALLERY 34 UPDATE

Thank you for your ongoing support of Gallery34. We are excited to announce that we are extending the Charles Blackman exhibition till Monday 30th April. There will be several new etchings, lithographs and original drawings exhibited, totaling over 50 works!

On Saturday 31st March we will be hosting an 'Afternoon tea in Wonderland' from 2pm onwards with guest speaker Walter Granek, art consultant and Charles Blackman Authority. It will be a wonderful event, with an in depth look into different themes throughout the artists career. Walter will also be available for valuations and consultations on appointment. Feel welcome to contact us if you would like further information.

Gallery34 is now serving light breakfasts, lunches and homemade cakes. The new owners Russell and Jo Miller grow fruit and vegies for the meals and we try to source as much local produce as we can!

We look forward to seeing you soon!
Kind Regards, Grace Leslie
Gallery34, 34 High Street YEA,
P 03 5797 3222
www.gallery34.com.au

MANAGING OUR NOCTURNAL NEIGHBOURS

Melbourne University on the 11th April

In our rapidly urbanising world, how we manage both our flying-fox and micro-bat populations in metropolitan and surrounding areas is becoming increasingly important.

The Australasian Bat Society would like to invite you to this community forum which aims to explore the range of interactions that people have with our native bats.

The forum will not only explore their incredible diversity and role in Victoria's ecosystems, but also delve into on-ground management issues and provide solutions.

The forum will display a range of expert presentations on topics from urban planning, on ground management, tree pruning, use of bat boxes and community engagement.

A set of comprehensive fact sheets filled with practical information for on ground managers and educators will also be available at the forum.

Time: 1 pm - 5.30 pm

Cost: \$50 incl. GST

Location: The University of Melbourne

Registration: Closing 16 March 2012

Website: www.ausbats.org.au

FOX ON THE RUN- \$500 PRIZE UP FOR GRABS

The "Fox on the run" competition is due to commence on June 1st 2012. The competition will run for the month of June only, and submitted evidence of foxes shot will be required.

Details of what evidence will be required will be given to those who register their teams no sooner than 1 week prior to the competition start. Foxes will be tallied and the winners will receive a trophy and grand prize of a \$500 voucher.

Teams must register their interest before June 1st to be eligible to compete. Teams must consist of between 4 -6 people maximum.

Teams must be residents within the Hughes Creek Catchment OR have permission to shoot on properties within the catchment. (Ruffy, Highlands, Caveat, Terrip Terrip, Whiteheads Creek)

Hunters must have appropriate license and permission to shoot on properties if applicable.

To register your team please email Simone on hughes.creek1@gmail.com prior to June 1st.

If any landholders wish to be involved by having a "fox drive" on their property, you can also forward details to Simone on the above email address.



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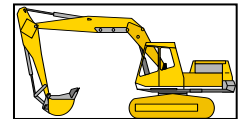
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