



## PEOPLE AND PLACES

### FOOD INDUSTRY BOOM IN STRATHBOGIE SHIRE

The Costa Exchange, mushroom category, is planning a 60 million dollar expansion to its current premises just outside of Nagambie. This expansion will see a significant economic benefit in the Strathbogie Shire, including the creation of up to 300 new jobs.

Mayor Mick Williams of the Strathbogie Shire said "under consideration, is a proposed new development which will convert the Costa Exchange mushroom category compost facility from a phase 1 into a phase 3 facility. This will result in all composting being undertaken into bunkers that are fully enclosed, utilising recycled air exiting through state of the art straw bio-filters thus reducing any odour to minimum levels accepted by the EPA."

"In addition, Costa Exchange mushroom category is contemplating the construction of a new Greenfields mushroom farm on the land directly opposite the compost facility, which is also owned by the business. The farm would have an initial 60 tonnes per week capacity expanding to 120 tonnes per week."

"The Strathbogie Shire is extremely supportive of this development. In current days where many municipalities are seeing a decline in food production, we are seeing an unprecedented rate of investment and interest of business expansion in our local communities. As part of the Food Bowl of Victoria this is an important step in securing the future of the region"

Strathbogie Chief Executive, Steve Crawcour, said "We hope the State Government can also support this expansion and new jobs into Victoria. This is an example of what can happen when you work closely with major investors / companies. The Strathbogie Shire has the ability to fly in and fly out fresh food through Victoria's third major airport that is based at Mangalore. Costa Logistics is a leading operator in the supply of fresh produce throughout Australia."

Costa Exchange, mushroom category currently produces 225 tonnes of mushrooms per week at its Mernda site north of Melbourne, providing work to over 600 workers, and the expansion at Nagambie will cement the Strathbogie Shire as one of Victoria's leading producers of food.

## HORSE POWER

If you read the Weekly Times or any of the technical farming magazines you will quickly realise that tractors are becoming much larger in horsepower as each year or model change passes.

Today they also offer a choice of wheeled or tracked contact with the ground while their cabins and controls are starting to look like the flight deck of the latest Boeing aircraft.

Notwithstanding these advances there are still a few farmers who still see merit in using the traditional horse-power, usually the giant Clydesdale or Shire draught horses that are specially bred as motive power.

One of France's most acclaimed biodynamic wine makers uses draught horses for his inter-row cultivation in the vineyard for weed control, to mitigate soil compaction and because they are a good fit with his farming objectives.

There is another farmer in the north west of Tasmania who still persists firstly in breeding working draught horses and using them to plant and harvest crops the old-fashioned way on his 40 hectare property near Wynyard where he grows potatoes, peas and oats.

The farmer says that he prefers horses because they are environmentally friendly. He also thinks they do a better job. In fact he takes the old fashioned farming ways the full distance. His oats are bound into sheaves and then used to make chaff for the horses.

The farmer Warren Purton, who is past the nominal retirement age, was first introduced to draught horses when his father used them to snig sawmill logs from the bush. And he has kept up breeding them having four generations of line breeding in the pedigree of his mares. While he works his horses throughout the year he still breeds and sells few foals each year.

Warren starts breaking them in to harness at between fifteen months and two years of age. He says he also likes to tie them up earlier near a radio so that they get used to different noises and sounds so that seems to make them more tractable. (It's unclear whether they have a preference for the ABC or commercial radio!). But he says he can plough about an acre a day using a swing over plough drawn by two draught horses.

And unlike tractors Warren says they are more reliable – draught horses can work for years if you look after them well. By John Kennedy

## WELCOME TO ISSUE 24

Please send any news to me at [mirandayorston@bigpond.com](mailto:mirandayorston@bigpond.com) or ring 57969261.

If you would like to receive The Granite News by email go to [www.highlands.org.au](http://www.highlands.org.au) and just subscribe, it is as easy as that!

## THERE WILL BE NO GRANITE NEWS NEXT WEEK

### NATIONAL MEALS ON WHEELS DAY

The local heroes of Meals on Wheels services across Australia will step into the spotlight on Wednesday 29 August, as their enormous community contribution is celebrated on National Meals on Wheels Day.

This annual celebration recognises the work of the organization's more than 80,000 volunteers. In the course of a year, Meals on Wheels volunteers deliver over 14.8 million meals to more than 50,000 meal recipients Australia wide in cities, regional and rural areas.

Meals on Wheels is always looking for new volunteers to contribute just a few hours a fortnight. A simple visit to [www.mealsonwheels.org.au](http://www.mealsonwheels.org.au) can put people in touch with Meals on Wheels locally.

## NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY

### STUDENT OF THE WEEK



James :For excellent questions during Zac's visit and for staying on task throughout his math session on Monday. Well done!

**Boite:** Congratulations to all students involved. The Mai Fai Eh concert on Wednesday was superb. Thank you to all families for your support with learning songs, attending practices and being part of the audience on the day. Thank you also to Leone who spent time with the group learning the songs. We look forward to Boite again in 2013!

## COMMUNITY WHAT'S ON CALENDAR - AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2012

Week beg 26th August	<b>Terip Terip Recreation Reserve Mowing Roster</b> Craig & Jenny Murphy Brian & Gail Van Rooyen
Week beg 26th August	<b>WHITEHEADS CREEK -TARCOMBE RURAL FIRE BRIGADE TRUCK ROSTER</b> Ashley Waite Rob Wales
Tuesday 21st August	<b>'SHARING HERITAGE IN KULIN COUNTRY'</b> 1-2pm Alexandra Library Jim Poulter, is the author of several books on Aboriginal culture and heritage that are strongly endorsed by Aboriginal Elders. Jim's forebears settled in the Yarra Valley in 1840 and established close relationships with the Kulin people. Jim's grandfather and great uncle grew up immersed in aboriginal culture and in 1851 both boys were taken on walkabout to Hanging Rock, where they participated in the last ever male initiation ceremony at the Rock. In 'Sharing Heritage in Kulin Country' Jim explains totemic rules, the key Aboriginal concepts of Spirit, Flesh, and Skin and the sophisticated thought systems that govern Aboriginal religion and society. Join us for a stimulating talk and a chat with Jim afterwards.
25 and 26 August	<b>EUROA COMMUNITY CINEMA</b> "Ted" 140 mins (PG Comedy / Fantasy) You can't say we don't bring all the interesting movies to town. You will either love this or hate it – but come and make up your own mind. It has rated extremely well – and it is fantasy after all. The jokes are raunchy, in appalling taste, there's drug use, toilet humour, pop culture – the works( according to Margaret Pomeranz) and she still gave it 3.5 stars..... I rest my case! This is called a couple of hours of fun which could leave you laughing all the way home. We don't make them; we just screen them - for your entertainment!
Saturday 25th August	<b>RUFFARTZ</b> 'Season of Saturdays' at the Ruffy Hall. The third show for the year is a splendidly choreographed show where the audience experiences elegant illusion to the classical serenades of Mozart, Rossini and Saint-Saëns. Elio Simonetti and his wonderful assistant Eva Salleh perform all manner of magic and sleight of hand manoeuvres. They create an on stage experience that is artistic, inventive, impeccably routine and irresistibly entertaining. Doors open 7.30 pm for an 8.00 pm start. For tickets (\$25.00) ring Glen on 5790 4318.
Sunday 26th August	<b>HIGHLAND RAMBLERS</b> Join us for another of Andrew's magical mystery tours to hidden wonders of the Highlands. See two eagles or your money back. Meet at the Highlands hall 10.30 am. More details: Andrew 0427 969 297
Wednesday 29 August	<b>RUFFY COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP</b> – Meeting at Tablelands Community Centre, Nolans Road, Ruffy, 7.30 pm. Main item on the agenda is the development of a new Ruffy Community Action Plan. All welcome.
Friday 31st August	<b>ALEXANDRA LIBRARY</b> an essential part of your community! Ukulele Heaven BYO ukulele everyone welcome 6 – 8pm
Friday 31st August	<b>REDEFINING LOCAL PRODUCTIVITY:</b> 9am for 9.30 start, 3.15pm close Trawool Valley Resort 8150 Goulburn Valley Highway Trawool RSVP by 24th August This event is FREE to those who RSVP as numbers are STRICTLY LIMITED due to space To RSVP please contact Chris Burnett on 03 5736 0100 or <a href="mailto:chrisb@gbcma.vic.gov.au">chrisb@gbcma.vic.gov.au</a>  <b>Be a part of the conversation:</b>   How we can respond to the global food situation on-farm.   How the buzz word 'sustainability' actually relates to productivity at the farm gate.   How new landholders, commuters and urban residents can be part of a land management system that supports local farmers, the surrounding environment and a vibrant community. Featuring: Professor Julian Cribb The Global Food Challenge   32 awards for journalism   Editor of 2 national and one state newspapers   Head of national press bureau   8000+ published articles   Over 3000 scientific media releases   Author/editor of eight books, including The Coming Famine, published Aug 2010 Rob Fenton National Environment Centre Local context: current eco-agricultural landscape   Teacher of Permaculture, Organic Farming & Ecological Agriculture   A farmer involved in livestock, annual vegetable and grain production   Media spokesperson for Biological Farmers of Australia   Passionate about people connecting with local ethical food production systems Presentations by local biological farmers, small scale food producers and community market organisers
Sunday 2nd September	The next <b>RUFFY WEEKEND WALKERS</b> activity will be a walk along the Tarcombe Skyline. Expansive views, birds of prey and rare plants. Contact for this month's walk is Neil Doran 0415 037 731. Meet at the Ruffy Hall at 9.50 to depart at 10am.
7th & 21st September, 5th & 19th October, 5th November	<b>YEA COMMUNITY HOUSE</b> An Introduction to <b>POTTERY</b> with the Yea Pottery Group Time: 6.30-8.30pm Cost: \$50 (+ clay) Minimum 8 participants - please book now! 15 The Semi Circle Yea Phone: 03 5797 3070 Fax: 03 5797 2860 Mob: 0477 492 543 Email: <a href="mailto:info@yehouse.org.au">info@yehouse.org.au</a> Web: <a href="http://www.yea.com.au/commhouse/index.htm">www.yea.com.au/commhouse/index.htm</a>
Friday 7th September	<b>YEA RIVER CATCHMENT LANDCARE AGM</b> 6.30 pm for dinner (meeting 7.30 pm; speaker 8.15 pm) WHERE: New Gallery 34 cafe, 36 High Street (where The Chronicle used to be; not the gallery itself) COST: Two-course meal (choice of: two meat/one vegetable curries; two desserts) for \$25 (alcohol/coffee/tea are extra) RSVP: Judy Brookes by email or 57 972 563 (by Monday, 3 September) <b>SPEAKER ON BEES:</b> Bees and other pollinators are vital in the production of up to one-third of all the food we eat. The world-wide collapse of honeybee colonies has been linked to the varroa mite, the destruction of flowery habitat in which bees feed and the widespread use of pesticides in crops. Local Flowerdalian Steve Joblin will be talking a little bit about the above, a little more on native bees and quite a lot on beekeeping (touching on the complex society of bees)

# Classifieds & Community Notices

## COMMUNITY GRANTS ASSESSMENT CHANGES

Murrindindi Shire Council's community grants scheme funding applications have been brought forward so as not to clash with the Local Government elections in October.

It means the applications usually accepted from June to September and reviewed in October, will need to be submitted by 31 August with assessment taking place in early September.

Council's Community and Customer Services portfolio spokesman Cr Cris Ruhr said the grants were designed to assist locally based groups and organisations and were primarily for once-off or start-up projects or activities aimed at growing an event.

Application guidelines are available on Council's website  
[www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au](http://www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au)

## RURAL LIVING DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES REVIEW

The guidelines used to assess subdivisions and development applications on Rural Living zoned land across Murrindindi Shire have been revised and are open for public comment.

Mayor John Walsh said the review was undertaken to ensure consistency with current standards and to improve their usability for the public.

Submissions will be accepted until 6 September 2012 and can be sent to Murrindindi Shire Council, PO Box 138, Alexandra, 3714. Inquiries can be directed to Council's Planning Department on 5772 0317.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTORY- LOCAL BUSINESSES AND SERVICES SOUGHT

The Hughes Creek Catchment Landcare group is currently compiling a list of local businesses and services to be recorded in a directory specifically for the catchment area. The directory will be aimed at new landholders in particular, to give a helping hand when moving to the area with details of local services that may be available, but not so widely known.

It is free to list your business or service and all advertisers in the Granite News will automatically be included. Please email any details to Simone Ulstrup at [hughes.creek1@gmail.com](mailto:hughes.creek1@gmail.com)

## HEALTHY SOILS

Healthy Food Field Day at property of Paul Fleming on the Broadford Sugarloaf Rd, Broadford Friday 28th September 1:00 pm. The Field day will be run by SWG Landcare with the support of the GBCMA and and Caring for Our Country program It will explore a natural means of creating, healthy balanced soils.

As caretakers of the land we all want to leave our farms in a better state than when we first arrived. The challenge is to do this in a sustainable and cost effective way.

The field day will be looking at Paul Fleming's natural management of soil health to complement his rotational grazing system The presenter on the day will be Brenton Byerlee of Soil Management Systems based in Orroroo SA 5431 He will be talking about the benefits of regular testing and providing expert analysis of the soil and plant tissue testing using soil and tissue test results from Paul's paddocks. He will talk about unlocking the available nutrients in the soil and encouraging soil microbial activity to reduce or eliminate the need for chemical fertilizers and increasing the organic matter within the soil thereby improving the soils' water holding capacity and its ability to retain nutrients.

Ultimately healthier soil means healthier pasture, that grows better for longer Healthier pasture means healthier stock with the potential to increase stock carrying capacity and healthier plants and healthier stock means healthier food. Mark Cotter, Land Health Manager, 03 5736 0101

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Thanks Ray Smith

## GALLERY 34

### Gallery 34 introduces MannaFest Café Showroom...

Just across from the gallery's Sculpture Garden is another historic building, previously the home of the Yea Chronicle printing presses. Entering through the double French doors, you find yourself in a timber-lined room with the highest of ceilings, and the perfect home for Gary Male's superbly hand-crafted timber furniture.

Curl up with a latte on the red leather couch next to the wood heater, or simply celebrate the seasonal MannaFest menu with friends around the tables. MannaFest Café Showroom opens on Saturday 25th August, 11.00 am.

To continue the celebrations into the evening, we at Gallery 34 have kept our promise of extending the arts domain to include the performing arts, with a concert by multiple award winner and stunning songsmith, Jenny Biddle, and a delicious 2-course Indian dinner. Bookings essential.

MOBILE 0400568, PH 57973222

## PLAYGROUP FOR RUFFY?

A new playgroup is proposed for Ruffy, to be run from the Old Ruffy School, as part of the Tablelands Community Centre.

If you are interested in being part of this group come along on Thursday 6th September from 10.30 to 12.30pm. There will be a free morning tea and activities for the children.

For more information, contact Sally Kubeil on 57904335 or 0407904335.

## BOOK REVIEW

### A Coyote's in the house - Elmore Leonard

This is Elmore Leonard's first book for children, and it is a great little spoof about three main characters - Antwan the independent coyote, Buddy, the retired german shepherd film star and Betty, the spoilt, snooty poodle show-girl. Although wary of each other to begin with, by the end of the book they have managed to accommodate each other's curious ways. Plenty of humour keeps the story bowling along. Good fun.

By Pauline Roberts



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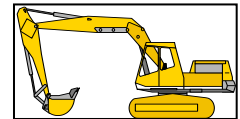
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