



THE CROSSBRED

There is another kind of sheep in Australia, as great a curse in his own way as the merino – namely, the cross-bred, or half-merino-half-Leicester animal. The cross-bred will get through, under, or over any fence you like to put in front of him. He is never satisfied with his owner's run, but always thinks other people's runs must be better, so he sets off to explore. He will strike a course, say, south-east, and so long as the fit takes him he will keep going south-east through all obstacles – rivers, fences, growing crops, anything. The merino relies on passive resistance for his success; the cross-bred carries the war into the enemy's camp, and becomes a living curse to his owner day and night.

Once there was a man who was induced in a weak moment to buy twenty cross-bred rams. From that hour the hand of fate was upon him. They got into all the paddocks they shouldn't have been in. They scattered themselves over the run promiscuously. They visited the cultivation paddock and the vegetable-garden at their own sweet will. And then they took to roving. In a body they visited the neighbouring stations, and played havoc with the sheep all over the district.

The wretched owner was constantly getting fiery letters from his neighbours: "Your blanky rams are here. Come and take them away at once," and he would have to go nine or ten miles to drive them home. Any man who has tried to drive rams on a hot day knows what purgatory is. He was threatened every week with actions for trespass.

He tried shutting them up in the sheep-yard. They got out and went back to the garden. Then he gaol'd them in the calf-pen. Out again and into a growing crop. Then he set a boy to watch them; but the boy went to sleep, and they were four miles away across country before he got on to their tracks.

At length, when they happened accidentally to be at home on their owner's run, there came a big flood. His sheep, mostly merinos, had plenty of time to get on to high ground and save their lives; but, of course, they didn't, and were almost all drowned. The owner sat on a rise above the waste of waters and watched the dead animals go by. He was a ruined man. But he said, "Thank God, those cross-bred rams are drowned, anyhow." Just as he spoke there was a splashing in the water, and the twenty rams solemnly swam ashore and ranged themselves in front of him..

They were the only survivors of his twenty thousand sheep. He broke down, and was taken to an asylum for insane paupers. The cross-breds had fulfilled their destiny.

Conclusion

The cross-bred drives his owner out of his mind, but the merino ruins his man with greater celerity. Nothing on earth will kill cross-breds; nothing will keep merinos alive. If they are put on dry salt-bush country they die of drought. If they are put on damp, well-watered country they die of worms, fluke, and foot-rot. They die in the wet seasons and they die in the dry ones.

The hard, resentful look on the faces of all bushmen comes from a long course of dealing with merino sheep. The merino dominates the bush, and gives to Australian literature its melancholy tinge, its despairing pathos. The poems about dying boundary-riders, and lonely graves under mournful she-oaks, are the direct outcome of the poet's too close association with that soul-destroying animal. A man who could write anything cheerful after a day in the drafting-yards would be a freak of nature.

NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY

Junior Athletics Fun Day

This event was popular again this year. The grounds were packed with students, staff, parents and grand parents from Highlands and surrounding schools. All P-2 students participated in the track and field activities. The feedback I received about them was very complimentary and they should be very proud, I know I am!

Gardening Afternoon

WOW! What a massive turnout. It was terrific to see so many families represented throughout the afternoon. A lot was achieved and the grounds look fantastic. It is so lovely to see students taking pride in their school.



WELCOME TO ISSUE 27

That's the last in our Banjo Paterson series on the beauty of sheep, thanks Scotty for reminding us of their challenges!

If you would like to receive The Granite News by email go to www.highlands.org.au and just subscribe, it is as easy as that!

We now have 390 subscribers to The Granite News. Remember that we won't be producing a paper copy in 2013 for the Highlands area .

If any other candidates for the Murrindindi Shire elections would like to send in 350 words about themselves, we will be happy to publish them.

There will be no Granite News during the school holidays.



COLLINGWOOD DISASTER

Terip Terip resident "Barb Wheaton" and Ruffy resident "Ned Ginnivan" both in recovery process after mishaps. Both good Collingwood supporters who have been subbed out with injury in red. Unfortunately will not recover in time for Finals campaign where we need every fit man, woman & dog. Regards Gerry



Cinderella calling?

COMMUNITY WHAT'S ON CALENDAR - SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2012

Week 23rd September	TERIP TERIP RECREATION RESERVE Mowing Roster Alec & Marion Rowan Brad Kellett & Kate Wright
Week 23rd September	WHITEHEADS CREEK -TARCOMBE RURAL FIRE BRIGADE TRUCK ROSTER Chris Head Michel Becks
7th September to 1st October	EXHIBITION by Darren Gilbert and Janet Matthews. This exhibition will include, 7 artworks (pen and ink), and 17 sculptures of Darren's. Janet Matthews, a noted Wildlife Artist, works mainly with coloured pencils and graphite, will have a large selection of her finely detail artwork. Gallery 34 Opening, 6 to 8pm, Friday 7th September 2012 34 High Street Yea VIC. 3717 03) 5797 3222 www.gallery34.com.au
Tuesday 18th September	MYTHS & LEGENDS night at Alexandra Library 7-8 pm You and your family are invited to attend an evening storytelling with professional storyteller Gael Cresp. Myths and legends were an attempt to explain nature and the wonders and dangers of the world. Enduring themes of betrayal, lust, greed, discovery, fear and quests are as central to ancient myths as they are to the modern world. These stories give an insight into some of the foundations of our cultural heritage, as well as an understanding of the naming of the planets and exploration missions in modern times. They may also help you solve a crossword or two. Heroic supper afterwards in the library. Bookings 5772 0349
Friday 21st September	HAPPY HOUR at the Ruffy Hall from 6.30pm onwards. Bring along a casserole or a sweet to share and of course BYO drinks. After dinner, sit back and enjoy watching on the big screen photos of the George's travel on their 'Long Boat Parrindi' through some of the beautiful channels in England. For inquires contact Henry on 5790 4246.
22 and 23 September	EUROA COMMUNITY CINEMA "The Dark Knight Rises" - 162 mins Drama (M) 3.5 stars Despite his tarnished reputation, eight years on Batman is compelled to come out of self-imposed exile and return to protect Gotham City from a new terrorist threat, Bane, a metal-muzzled menace who will provoke fear and fascination in everyone. Those who love this kind of movie will not be disappointed. An unbeatable cast : Christian Bale, Tom Hardy, Anne Hathaway, Michael Caine and Morgan Freeman.
Saturday 22nd September	SEYMOUR BUSHLAND PARK WILDLIFE WALK , Take a walk on the wild side Telegraph Road entrance. from 5.00PM-8.00PM Annual discovery walk led by Peter Mitchell and Barbara Moss Bookings essential. Phone 0407 871 603, or 57921848
Sunday 23rd September	"DRAWN TO NATURE" Kate Ferguson @ Old Post Office Seymour You and your friends are invited to attend the Opening 11am to 4pm www.artseymour.com.au The Gallery is open Wednesday to Sunday 11am to 4pm & Wednesday to Saturday eves from 6pm until late. Entry is free at all times and browsing is welcome.
Wednesday 26 September	TERIP TERIP RECREATION RESERVE AGM and election meeting 7.30pm at the Terip Terip Recreation Reserve. All welcome please put this important date in your diary.
Wednesday 26th Sept & Friday 5 Oct	EUROA LIBRARY 2.30pm-3.30pm with Anne FREE events at our libraries during the September/October school holidays. Join in Sculptorary! Do you like making things with play dough? Come along and race the clock! Vote for your favourite sculpture! For more information contact 1300374765
Sunday 30th September	STEEP HILL COUNTRY – FARM WALK Yea River Catchment Landcare Group 10.00 am – 12 pm Coolongolook, 141 Monkey Creek Road LIMESTONE Judy Brookes (juncball@bigpond.com or 57 972 563
Sunday 30th September	HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS 10.30 at Highlands hall. For more info contact Andrew 0427 96 9297.
Sunday 30TH SEPT	HIGHLANDS/CAVEAT CFA MEMBERS - IMPORTANT TRAINING SESSION ALL CFA FIREFIGHTERS MUST ATTEND A TRAINING SESSION FOR THE TRUCK CREW SAFETY NEW RETRO FITOUT 9AM AT THE CFA SHED, ANY QUERIES CALL SHARYN 0437281072 OR LES 57969265, PLEASE NOTE: ALL MEMBERS MUST DO THIS TRAINING BEFORE ANY TURNOUT IN THE COMING SEASON, IF YOU CAN NOT ATTEND PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LIEUTENANT OR CAPTAIN TO ARRANGE ALTERNATE DATES AS THIS TRAINING IS DONE FROM OUTSIDE OUR BRIGADE.
Saturday 6th October	THE SEYMOUR SHOW Community Display Sites Available Organisations will be provided with 2 adult passes Set up must be completed by 9:00 am on 6th October A variety of indoor and outdoor sites available. Limited tables are available. Cost: FREE (In lieu of payment, we would request any support to clean up the show grounds on the 7th October 2012, where possible) Just like your group, the Seymour Agricultural and Pastoral Society is a non-profit which relies heavily on our volunteers. Please contact Sarah Barnbrook, Secretary, at secretary@seymouragshow.org.au for more information.
Sunday 7th October	WORKING BEE Terip Terip Recreation Reserve commencing 10am followed by a sausage sizzle lunch. Please come along and contribute to the ongoing maintenance on this important community facility.
20th & 21st October	SEYMOUR QUILT AND EMBROIDERY SHOW – The 3rd Seymour Anglican, Quilt, embroidery, knitting, crochet, spinning and weaving Fair is coming in October. Calling all craft lovers and those who create wonderful craft items. The Fair is open to many fields and locals and those from afar are invited to display their wares. Quilters, embroiderers, knitters, crochet folk, spinners and weavers, are invited to display their items at the Fair. Entry forms are obtainable from Anne Foote 5796 2447, Betty Catchlove 5792 1220, Fabric's 'n' More shop, Station Street, Seymour and from Diane Grant. 5794 1720 or email: stardust2011@bigpond.com

Classifieds & Community Notices

TERIP TENNIS NEEDS HELP

The Terip Terip Recreation Reserve Committee together with the Terip Terip Tennis Club are again applying for a Community Facility Funding Program Grant to resurface our tennis Courts (we were unsuccessful last time round) We are seeking letters of support from local community members to supplement our application and would appreciate as many supporting letters as possible. Letters should be addressed to the: Terip Terip Recreation Reserve Committee and can be mailed to 169 Moores Road, Terip Terip, 3719 or emailed to hamishd42@gmail.com Your support for our application will be greatly appreciated.

Jim Davidson, President, Terip Terip Recreation Reserve Committee.

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BOOK REVIEW

.Black water – David Metzenthen

If one is familiar with Queenscliff and Swan Is. then this novel is set in familiar territory. Mr Metzenthen is adept at putting teenage boys into circumstances that challenge their boundaries and force them to dig deep into their innermost resources. Black Water is no exception.

Farren Fox not only has to contend with the death of his mother, but also the disappearance of his father at sea and an absent older brother fighting the Turks on the Gallipoli Peninsula. Despite all these trials in Farren's life he still manages to come across as a curious, teenager with a zest for life and a bunch of friends who he can rely on as he makes his way in the world.

By Pauline Roberts

HELP NEW YEA & DISTRICT CHILDREN'S CENTRE

For the next four weeks (ending 13/10) Elders Yea branch will be donating 100% of proceeds from the sale of Uncle Albers 22kg Working Dog Food and 20kg Buckets of Ocean Blue washing powder.

So come on down to the branch and purchase these products to help start up the Yea & District Children's Centre. The Centre will provide the Yea community with much needed permanent child care facilities for the 1,100 residents who currently rely on family and friends for childcare.

JOHN KENNEDY STANDING

With five of the seven Murrindindi Shire Councillors retiring there is an opportunity for some new representation on Council at the October election.

Yea resident John Kennedy is proposing to stand for election in Cheviot Ward which takes in Yea and west to Highlands, Strath Creek and Flowerdale.

John moved to Yea after the Black Saturday bushfire caused the loss of his house and hobby farm at Buxton and he says "very nearly myself".

He adds "I've always liked Yea as a destination so I bought a residential property in the town.

"I work as a publicist and journalist on behalf of a diverse range of small, medium and large businesses.

"I have a special interest in rural and regional communities, tourism and the growth of businesses and of course picnic racing.

"I have been Vice-President and Treasurer of the local Racing Club which is in a good financial position.

"I am also a member of the Yea River Catchment Landcare Group and handle the publicity for the Alexandra Truck Ute & Rod Show and I am currently helping Kellock Lodge launch their major new fundraising project in Alexandra.

"I think the Murrindindi region has enormous potential especially the Rail Trail which should deliver substantially to the local towns and businesses and needs some active promotion.

John has attended most of the Council's master plan and financial briefings and the recent Shire Visioning Day.

"I think the outgoing Councillors have done a good job and I fully respect their work in setting a financial survival plan in place and it deserves to be implemented and worked upon.

"Community expectations are rising and the Shire's rates revenue base is limited so there is a lot of work to be done in terms of best practices, efficiency and costs.

"It is very important to retain the essentially rural character and support our farmers.

"I hope to be an effective lobbyist for Council at State Government levels and I'd want to see the community involved in decision making.

John can be contacted on 0417 549 137 or by email to jkprmel@gmail.com

BITS OF BOTANY AND BIRDS

Straw necked ibis *Threskiornis spinicollis*

There have been large flocks of these birds around recently, not only in wetlands but also standing in paddocks or on dead trees. In wetlands they eat frogs, fish and freshwater crays but they also feed on grasshoppers and beetles in dry paddocks. The Straw-necked Ibis has been called the Farmer's Friend, because it eats crop pests such as grasshoppers and locusts. They return to wetlands to breed though, sometimes forming breeding colonies of tens of thousands (not around here!).

By Louise Currie



CHANGE OF VENUE FOR FILM SOCIETY'S SEASON FINALE

Murrindindi Film Society closes its 2012 season on Friday 21st September with the exuberant 1949 American musical, 'On The Town' to be shown in digital format.

The Yea Shire Chambers is unavailable and this screening will be held at Yea Neighbourhood House (entrance adjoining Yea Library). Doors open at 6.45 p.m. for drinks and nibbles and the screening will commence at 7.00 p.m.

Based on the Broadway show of the same name, the film follows the search for amorous adventure by three sailors during their 24 hours shore leave in New York City. Gene Kelly stars and also co-directs, ably supported by Frank Sinatra, Jules Minchin, Vera-Ellen and Ann Miller. The Academy Award winning musical score by Leonard Bernstein and Roger Edens includes the evergreen hit New York, New York. The great dance and musical numbers were filmed at a variety of New York City landmarks, creating a memorable tribute to the New York of that era.

Jill Dwyer, secretary, on 5797 2480 or jill.dwyer@bigpond.com.

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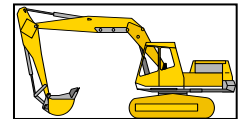
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