



PEOPLE AND PLACES

Highlands Christmas Breakup

The Highlands community held their Christmas community breakup at the Highlands hall last Friday evening.

As usual it was a fabulous turn out and lots of fun to catch up with locals who you rarely see as we all lead such busy lives.

Santa was a huge hit and entertained children and adults alike with some slightly dodgy 'double entendres'. Falling off his chair was just one of his many tricks to entertain the crowd.

Congratulations to Elly Fischer who won the raffle, a beautiful drawing of a honey eater donated by Darren Gilbert. Elly was really thrilled as she has always wanted to own one of Darren's beautiful drawings.

A huge thank you to Darren Gilbert from the Highlands Primary School, they raised over \$600 selling tickets for his drawing.

Thank you also to Marg Kirkham for taking the photos of the evening. Marg is an enthusiastic photographer and has taken some excellent records of school events which we really appreciate.

Leone led the carol singing and gave up her time to practice with the HPS students in the weeks leading up to the evening.

In the past the Community breakup has been organised by a collection of community groups, then it became the job of the primary school.

In 2013 the baton is being passed back to the community in general. I did suggest to Scotty that instead of community groups, maybe we could get together on the basis of some sort of classification system, locals (not many of you!), newcomers (I would include myself in this group as I only arrived in 1982), weekenders and miscellaneous, just a thought. Any better ideas?

From Miranda



Someone left behind a Nokia mobile phone on Friday night. Contact HPS.

NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY

STUDENT OF THE WEEK



Lachie: For being a great representative of HPS at the Final Fun Day at Luna Park. Well done!

HPS 2012 Year Book. This year's Year Book is being produced on 14th December. If any community member (other than HPS families) wishes to purchase a copy for \$5.00 please contact Meagan Callander on 5796 9208 prior to this date.

Statewide Transition: Tuesday 11th December is the Statewide Transition Day from 9-3.15pm. All Year 6 students will attend their secondary school on

Seniors' Talks: Congratulations to the seniors who completed 2 minute talks last week. The standard was very high. Lachie's talk is included below.

How to make a new friend in 11 steps

1. Introduce yourself
 2. Ask them questions like what they like eg Do you like cricket?
 3. Ask them if they wanted to come and join in with whatever you were doing
 4. While you're doing that keep asking them questions
 5. Be confident because it will make a big difference
 6. Make sure you are always kind, polite, caring and trustworthy
 7. Try and spend as much time as you can around them
 8. Help them out with things they need
 9. When chatting to them make sure you have eye contact and that you smile
 10. Listen to what they say even if it is boring to you
 11. And last always be reliable
- By Lachie Wischer

WELCOME TO ISSUE 37

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS FOR THE GRANITE NEWS EDITOR

editor@tgn.org.au

If you wish to advertise on the back of The Granite News next year email to the address above to secure your place. A little bit of history. There have been three constant sponsors of The Granite News since its inception. A very special thanks to

**THE RUFFY STORE
AJ & SL SHAW
TRADESMEN MICHAEL AND KEN**

LOCAL FIRE

Thank you to all the CFA volunteers who gave up their time on Saturday night and beyond to fight the fire caused by lightning.

It was a bit of a shock to walk outside to look at the lights of Seymour and instead be confronted with a large red glow and plenty of smoke. The strong southerly fanned the fire and 37 units were called out to contain it. Again our wonderful community spirit kicked in as locals rallied to support each other.

WARM SUMMER LIKELY FOR VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

The southeast Australian temperature outlook averaged over December 2012 to February 2013 shows that: warmer days are more likely over Victoria, Tasmania, and the southern parts of SA and NSW.

This outlook is a result of warmer than normal waters persisting in the Indian Ocean, as well as warmer than normal tropical Pacific waters.

The chances that the average summer maximum temperature will exceed the long-term median maximum temperature is between 60 and 75% across Victoria, Tasmania, southern NSW and southern SA, with the strongest odds in southeast SA and southwest Victoria.

Such odds mean that for every ten years with similar oceans patterns to those currently observed, about six or seven summers would be expected to be warmer than average over these areas, while about three or four years would be cooler.

<http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead/temp.seaus.shtml>

COMMUNITY WHAT'S ON CALENDAR - DECEMBER/ JANUARY 2012

Week 16th December	TERIP TERIP RECREATION RESERVE Mowing Roster Geoff & Jan Penny Georgina Bett
Week 16th December	WHITEHEADS CREEK -TARCOMBE RURAL FIRE BRIGADE TRUCK ROSTER Alan Coulson Cindy Duffy
Monday 10th December	RUFFY PARKING PROJECT: On-site meeting to discuss and fine-tune the Shire's plans for parking improvements near the Ruffy Produce Store and the Tablelands Community Centre - 7.00 pm in front of the TCC.
Wednesday 12th December	HPS CONCERT Students have started work on the 2012 School Concert. This year's concert is 'The Adventures of Cuthbert and Nigel' and follows the expedition of these two office clerks. Susan has again written this terrific play and comes to school a couple of times a week to take rehearsals. The concert will be held at the Highlands Hall
December 14, 15 and 16	EUROA COMMUNITY CINEMA just in time for Christmas – "Madagascar 3" 93 mins (PG) 3.5 stars Our last Friday family fun night for the year! As usual, doors open at 6pm on Friday night for those wishing to bring along dinner (...and rugs, cushions whatever makes it comfortable for you).
Saturday 15th December	FREE MULCH LOADING SERVICE While mulch is free from the Murrindindi Shire's transfer stations across the year, you normally have to fill up your trailer yourself, but on December 15, Council staff will have the loader ready to have you back on the road in minutes. The scheduled times are: Yea Transfer Station – 1:30pm to 3:30pm Council staff will assist in loading mulch into car boots, trailers, utes, trucks (no limits), however please note that the service will be provided on a first come basis.
Monday 17th December	OPEN PRESS CONFERENCE with the Strathbogie Shire Councillors and Executive Management. This will take place at the Nagambie Regatta Centre @ 4pm. This is your chance to meet our new Councillors, ask questions and find out more about the future direction of the Strathbogie Shire. Get the interviews you want! There will be plenty of opportunity to ask the BURNING QUESTIONS... and get honest answers. Please don't miss this opportunity. Send through your RSVP by the 12th of December. There will be light refreshments available afterward. Purdey Wikman Manager Communications Strathbogie Shire Council Office: 03 5795 0155 1800 065 993 purdey.wikman@strathbogie.vic.gov.au www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au
Friday 21st December	ROCKY PASSES TAPAS Last Tapas Night for the year at Rocky Passes from 6:30 pm. Why not have a night out before the Xmas busy-ness starts. To book, please call 57969366 or email contact@rockypasses.com.au
Monday 24th December	CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE A Christmas Eve Service will be held in the Caveat Church at 5pm Sing some carols and share the Christmas Narrative and the "story of the Recalcitrant Shepherd". All welcome. 5796 9358
Saturday 5th January 2013	ANNUAL TERIP TERIP SOCIAL TENNIS TOURNAMENT 10.00am start Enquiries Frances Lawrence 0427 904 262 – Cindy Hayes 5790 4226
Friday 11th January 2013	'DRINKS on the DECK' at Highlands Community Hall from 6.30pm. Bring food to share for a meal together and catch up with friends old and new. All welcome - especially new faces. Gold coin donation to cover power.
January 12 and 13	EUROA COMMUNITY CINEMA "Argo" 120 mins (M) Bio/Drama/Thriller 4 stars Argo offers an offbeat slice of history from way back in 1979 when the American Embassy in Teheran was stormed by Iranians. During the onslaught six Embassy officials escaped and took shelter in the Canadian Embassy. In this film adaption of the story, Ben Affleck plays the role of the person who is asked to come up with a way to extricate them from the country without being found out.



Oops Santa,
where is that
chair?

HIGHLANDS
CHRISTMAS
BREAK UP

A very happy
Elly plus
drawing



Classifieds & Community Notices

FOR SALE

2 small push bikes: Blue bike - suit boy 4 to 6 years - basic style - \$30 - Pink bike - suit girl 4 to 6 years in good order \$50

Computer desk on wheels - with CD holder and cupboard - \$50 (03) 57904303

FOR SALE

Westinghouse frost free vertical freezer 2005 360 litres 1710 H x 610D X700 W We paid \$1385 in November 2005. Perfect order. \$600 ONO PH Jono 57969344

FOR SALE

Futon 3 seater / fold out bed - floral design - good condition \$150 ONO

Single bed / ensemble with bed head - good condition \$200 ONO

2 swivel base lounge chairs - grey fabric with foot stools to match \$50 each ONO

4W motor bike - Yamaha "big Bear" - electric start - new battery - \$2500 ONO (03) 57904211

COMMUNITY CLEARING SALE

Do you have things that you don't use anymore, or maybe just need to clear some space?

Then why not take a stall at the Highlands Community Clearing Sale in the grounds of the Highlands Primary School over the Hi Arts weekend 2013. Stall fees are \$10 per 3 sq m site, which goes back to HPS as a fundraiser. For more details or to register interest, call Leanne Pleash on 5796 9200. Stalls of new items also welcome. Sellers assume all responsibility for staffing their stalls, and securing items if left overnight.

HIARTS EXHIBITION

1st to 3rd March 2013. In addition to art for viewing and display there will be three artists in residence; a painter, a potter and a multimedia artist.

There will also be two workshops on using digital cameras. Check times nearer the event. Of course there will be the usual good food and drinks with the gentle harp as an accompaniment. Artists wishing to exhibit can download applications from the web >www.hiarts.org. or contact Stuart 5796 9358

BITS OF BOTANY AND BIRDS

Rufous night heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*

Down by the dam, watching for platypus I was startled by a couple of large birds exploding out of a tree by the water's edge. I was surprised to see they were Rufous (or Nankeen) night herons, a species I can't remember having seen locally before. They don't look much like herons, lacking the typical long neck, and they're not often seen as they roost in dense trees during the day and come out at night to feed in shallow water. One of the two I startled flew into the top of a tall eucalypt and disappeared behind the foliage, the other alighted near the top of a tall dead tree and stayed there for a while before also flying off into the vegetation to hide. They're about 60 cm tall with wingspan of about a metre. They often roost in large colonies, though I've only ever seen solitary birds or pairs. By Louise Currie



BOOK REVIEW

Are we there yet? – Alison Lester

This is a brilliant little book. An excellent introduction to the better known tourist destinations located around Australia masquerading as a picture story book.

It tells the story of Grace's trip around Australia, for a whole term, with her family. They head clockwise from South Australia to explore such delights as Rottnest Island, Kakadu, the Daintree Rainforest and the Australian Alps.

Alison Lester's wonderful cartoon style illustrations, that leap and cavort in various sizes across the pages, compliment the simple first-person text that is Grace's story. Although it was a decade in the making, it was worth waiting for.

By Pauline Roberts

WRIGGLY FISH SWIM LESSONS

Enrolments are open for Wriggly Fish Swimming Lessons for children aged between 6 months and 5 years.

Lessons will be twice a week for four weeks from Tuesday 8 January - Thursday 31 January 2013 and will be held in locations where demand is the greatest.

Enrolment forms can be obtained from the Alexandra and Yea Council offices or by contacting Kat Du Guesclin on 5772 0397 or 0409 020 464. Enrolments close on Friday 21 December 2012.

MOBILE PHONE RECYCLING – SAVE THE GORILLAS!

With the Christmas season upon us, if you are giving or getting a new mobile phone, consider recycling the old one.

Some of the minerals used in mobile phones are mined in highly vulnerable areas such as African rainforests and the mining impacts endangered species such as gorillas, so the more phones that are re-used rather than bought new the better. Mobile phone should never be thrown in the rubbish, where they could end up in landfill as they're not biodegradable so they won't break down. Even if they aren't recycled into new phones there are still many valuable components that can be recovered.

Options include:

Re-use: give your old phone to a friend or family member who needs one

"They're Calling on You!": Zoos Victoria and the Jane Goodall Institute have developed a program where phones are refurbished and resold at low prices to disadvantaged community groups internationally. The money is used for conservation of gorillas and other primates. For more information and to send in your phone go to: <http://www.zoo.org.au/get-involved/act-for-wildlife/theyre-calling-on-you>

MobileMuster: This is the Australian mobile phone industry's official product stewardship program. Phones are broken down into their components and then recycled. The program accepts all makes and models of mobile, including handsets, batteries and mobile accessories. Just pick up a free reply paid recycling satchel from participating Australia Post outlets, or download a free reply paid mailing label at <http://www.mobilemuster.com.au/recycle-a-mobile/post-them-in/>.

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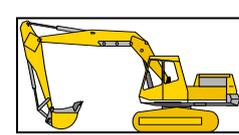
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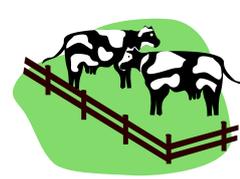
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