



BOTANY, BIRDS & CREATURES

NEST BOXES for WILDLIFE

A wonderful new project, "Nest Boxes for Wildlife" is about to get under way in Whitehead's Creek.

For the past three years the Landcare Group has worked to establish a link for wildlife along Lambing Gully Road. The new project will see 50 nest boxes installed in strategic areas of the catchment to enhance the survival of two species, the gorgeous Squirrel Glider and the feisty Phascogale.

Both these animals are considered threatened in our region.



In the Whitehead's Creek area much of the habitat is now confined to roadsides, and over the years the Landcare Group has seen the need to improve the survival hopes for our native wildlife. Landcare president Carolyn Braun said "I hope this exciting and rewarding project will act as a catalyst for our community to come together and help our wildlife survive into the future."

The Whiteheads Creek Landcare Group will be holding its AGM on Friday 19th July at 7.30PM, at the Hall on Kobyboyn Road, Whitehead's Creek.

Guest speaker is outstanding field naturalist **David Wakefield** from Strath Creek who will talk on a recent project he has been involved with, "Focus on Fauna".

His project saw nest boxes installed in bushfire areas of Strath Creek with great success.

This AGM will be a great chance to get together and talk about how much we have accomplished in the past 30 years, and to commence a very rewarding new venture. It is hoped that past members will also share some of their experiences over the years.

RSVP 5792 4212

NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Student of the Week *Gabby*



*For fantastic writing;
forming a sentence and
listening to sounds.
Well done!*

Wanted: Scrap hardwood that could be used for shelving in the aquaponics project.

Graham, Rick, Luke and Lachie are doing a great job being the aquaponics unit.

Thanks to Rick and Jack Hodge who came along and helped out last Friday.

End of term: Another term over! How time flies when you are having fun. We've had a very productive term and I wish to thank all students, staff and families for their hard work and commitment throughout term 2. I hope everyone has an enjoyable and relaxing holiday and I look forward to seeing everyone in term 3.

By Meagan Callander-Principal HPS

RABBIT RIPPING SUBSIDY AVAILABLE NOW FROM THE HCCC LANDCARE GROUP



The DPI has recently completed a Rabbit Control Survey within the district and many Landholders have been issued with a Directions Notice. A 50% subsidy may be available to you for warren ripping.

Contact **Simone 5790 4146**
hughes.creek1@gmail.com



Hughes Creek
Catchment Collaborative

WELCOME to ISSUE 23 2013

Contact editor@tgn.org.au 5790 4007

LANDCARE NEWS

Locals Score at Regional Landcare Awards

At the recent Annual Landcare Awards, **Avenel Primary School** were winners of the Community Education Award.

Their project is along the Hughes Creek walking trail in Stewart Park at Avenel.

It features riparian plantings and two beautifully designed information boards telling the story of the indigenous history of the Hughes Creek area, the arrival of Europeans and land settlers, the clearing of the forests and the introduction of sheep and cattle as well as foreign pests such as rabbits, foxes and blackberries.



Children from Avenel & Highlands on a Hughes Creek Field Trip

This project was driven by parent Anna Clabburn, with support from staff, students and Landcare members. Sandy McKenzie & Cath Olive.

The boards were designed by Richard Telford and constructed by parent Dylan Thornton.

Funding was received from Darly Horse Stud, GBCMA and Be Natural Foods.

Report by Janet Hagen

SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS

It has been overheard that the Secret Men's Business group that meets at the Caveat Church on the last Thursday of each month has decided not to do whatever it is they do in July & August.

Normal secrecy will resume at 5:30pm, Thursday 26th September

FINDING 'FOXY'

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COMMUNITY “WHAT’S ON” CALENDAR JULY 2013

<p>Thursday 4th July 10:30—12:30pm</p>	<p>RUFFY PLAYGROUP Tablelands Community Centre (Old Ruffy School) Nolans Rd., Ruffy This Month it's Cut & Paste/Colouring Cost: \$3:00 per Family. Bring a small plate of food to share. Contact Sally 5790 4335</p>
<p>Saturday 6th July 9:00am-2:00pm</p>	<p>YEA COUNTRY MARKET Yea Railway Park, Station Street, Yea Showcasing local producers, growers and makers offering an array of stalls, the best in fresh local produce, arts and crafts, children's activities, play ground and skate park. Gold coin donation entry</p>
<p>Saturday 6th 8:00pm Sunday 7th June 4:00pm</p>	<p>EUROA CINEMA “The Company You Keep” 122 mins (M) Thriller **** 4 stars A beautifully crafted thriller, directed by and starring Robert Redford. It brings to life a time when terrorists in America didn't mean foreigners but were home grown, dedicated opponents of the government. Redford plays the part of small town lawyer who has successfully hidden his past membership of an underground group of radicals. A young journalist is investigating this group from the 60' - as is the FBI. An cast that includes Julie Christie, Susan Sarandon, Shia Labeouf, Anna Kendrick & Nick Nolte.</p>
<p>Sunday 7th July 10:am-12pm</p>	<p>RUFFY WEEKEND WALKERS Monthly ramble to High Points of Interest around the district We're on a Mission to walk to all of the district's Piniger cairns. Meet at Ruffy Community Hall at 9:45am Contact Neil Doran 0457 253875</p>
<p>Monday 8th July 7:30pm</p>	<p>TABLELANDS COMMUNITY CENTRE@RUFFY Nolans Rd., Ruffy (Old Ruffy School) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. Election of Chairperson and Secretary following recent resignations. All tablelands residents are encouraged and welcome. Supper will be provided. Contact Kerry 5790 4392</p>
<p>Friday 12th July 6:30pm</p>	<p>'DRINKS ON THE DECK' at Highlands Community Hall 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. Contact Judy Cameron 5796 9247</p>
<p>Friday 19th July 7:30pm</p>	<p>WHITEHEADS CREEK LANDCARE GROUP Whiteheads Creek Hall, Kobyboyn Road Annual General Meeting with Guest Speaker David Wakefield This AGM will be a great chance to get together and talk about how much we have accomplished in the past 30 years. It is hoped that past members will also share some of their experiences over the years. Contact 5792 4212</p>
<p>Friday 19th July 7pm</p>	<p>RUFFY HAPPY HOUR (or TWO!) Ruffy Community Hall, Nolans Road “Come along and catch up with friends or meet someone new, everyone welcome!” BBQ provided BYO meat/drinks and a salad or sweet to share Contact Henry 5790 4246</p>
<p>Saturday 20th July 9am-1pm</p>	<p>EUROA VILLAGE FARMERS MARKET Rotary Park, Kirkland Ave., Euroa “Meet, Greet, Eat & Shop” A wonderful range of farm fresh produce from “local” producers. Contact Leah Jones 5795 1886 or hunaleah@mcmmedia.com.au</p>

Classifieds & Community Notices

PEOPLE AND PLACES

SCARY MOMENT by Justus Hagen

The lump in the carpet had bugged me for days. I had tried to straighten the mat by pulling on it, we moved the lounge chair around it in annoyance trying to get the best view of the TV. It was time to do something.

That morning we had to go to Euroa. While Janet was getting ready I thought I'd earn some brownie points and do a quick vacuum, and clean up.

Time to investigate the lump. Maybe there was an old sock under there.

I moved the chair on its squeaky little wheels off the mat ready to attack the cobwebs and last night's supper remnants.

The mat was a great dust trap. I was vacuuming merrily when I remembered my mother's voice, "Always clean under the mat, Justus".

I approached the corner of the mat lifting the corner ready to attack the dust underneath. It took only a micro second to realise my lump was a writhing, uncoiling, menacing looking black snake. And very annoyed at being disturbed! It took only another micro second for me to quickly drop the carpet back and cover him up.

Janet came racing up at my shout. A quick plan was made. A barrier of cardboard on one side, an open door and a broom plus the rifle with rat shot and we were ready! Janet was in charge of the weapon, I had the broom in hand and began to pull on the mat. Nothing happened. Another tug. An evil little head emerged. Its body followed. We were ready-the snake was going to slither obediently out the door, I was going to shut the door and chase him down the drive.

I had always heard about the tiny cracks snakes could squeeze into. Now I could witness it in full. Instead of sliding nicely out of the door and onto freedom this little reptile had other ideas. Our barrier was absolutely no obstacle. The tiniest, minutest crack was all it needed to gracefully glide under and...into the video cabinet.

And that's where the story ends. Almost. Because we haven't spotted him (or her) since. No amount of poking with sticks in the TV cupboard, moving of lounge chairs and couch, has brought our snake to light. Disappeared into thin air!

It was an uncomfortable feeling-knowing that we were sharing our house with a venomous reptile. I didn't sit in the lounge room for days. No TV either. But now we're getting more blasé. The couch is in full use, I've gone through the DVD shelves with impunity and I've stopped flinching at bunched up carpet squares.

And I have this vision that one cold winter's night my wife and I will be relaxing in front of the fire, the dog at our feet, and to complete the tableau-our reptilian visitor also quietly sharing the warmth, stretched out in bliss.



The Red-bellied Black Snake (*Pseudechis porphyriacus*) is a species of elapid snake native to eastern Australia.

Though its venom is capable of causing significant morbidity, a bite from it is not generally fatal and less venomous than other deadly Australian snakes. It is common in woodlands, forests and swamplands of eastern Australia. It is one of Australia's best-known snakes, as it is common in urban areas along the eastern coast of Australia. It has an average total length of 1.5 to 2 metres.

Source— Wikipedia

LOCAL GOINGS ON

BEEF SCHOOL

Local Beef Producers have the opportunity to participate in the third North-East Beef School at Dookie.

This event provides specialist speakers, information and resources aimed at building skills and knowledge to manage difficult seasonal and market conditions.

The Beef School is open to all beef producers.

The one-day activity, which is preceded by a dinner, combines relevant topics and leading industry speakers in a programme that includes practical activities in cattle yards and concurrent sessions allowing participants to select the topics most relevant to their businesses.

Amongst a number of presenters, Tim McRae (MLA), Paul Cusack (Australian Livestock Production Services), Brian Cumming (Brian Cumming Agriculture), Claire Geri (Department of Environment and Primary Industries) will cover topics from the market situation, nutritional management techniques to obtain good production in ruminants, bull structure through to how the rumen functions.

Darren Hickey, DEPI 'BetterBeef' Project Manager, said that due to the successes of last year's events and, more recently, the Gippsland Beef School in May, where close to 100 participants attended, we are again conducting the school in partnership with Goulburn Ovens TAFE this year.

"Commercial cattle producers tell us that they value the hands-on and practical nature of the beef schools. The live animal assessment exercises in the yards are always very popular as is the hands-on nature of other sessions.

Breaking into smaller groups and having closer interaction with the technical experts is highly valued by participants," Mr Hickey said.

WHEN: 6th--7th August

WHERE: Dookie Ag College

**CONTACT: Alison Desmond,
0409 424 274
or Leigh Kildey 0457 543 622**

INTERESTING BUT USELESS FACT

LED BULBS are set to dominate the world market as incandescent bulbs are banned in at least 20 countries – yet the basic LED effect was discovered way back in 1907.
The Institution of Mechanical Engineers

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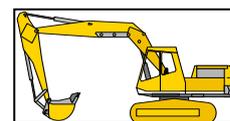
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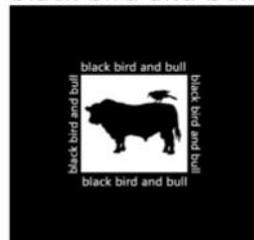
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