



PEOPLE AND PLACES

48 Hours

Mount Wombat Fire Tower called it as a fire on Buntings Hill Rd, Ruffy (16:35)

The CFA pager said:

* Dropmore/Gums Rd (16:42),

* Highlands/Dropmore Intersection (16:51)

* Looking Glass (17:01),

* Caveat Dropmore (17:03)

and so began the confusion that was the Caveat/Looking Glass/Dropmore fire.

Somehow in the next 2 hours the CFA and its volunteers mustered 50 trucks, 3 Dozers, 2 excavators, 1 grader and 3 choppers.

There were 2 water points, it was sectored into east and west (when we didn't know our north from our south) in inaccessible country where you didn't know your up from your down.

There were 2 fire ground channels (23 & 90) plus UHF on 18 and 13.

It's easy to criticise the organisation of a fire particularly in the early stages - it is utter chaos as to where it is, where it's going and how to get to it, in terrain unfamiliar to all but a few locals. Slowly the chaos becomes confusion, then organised confusion then to an organised standstill.

It's mind boggling to watch and listen to an "Incident Controller" who 30 minutes before was possibly at work or asleep, or in bed with their wife (*or maybe someone else's wife*) handle channels 19, 23, 90, UHF 18 & 13 plus a personal mobile phone (**no I don't want to change my electricity account to somewhere in Mumbai - unless you own a dozen water bombing helicopters-hang up**).

You have to feel sympathy when they are expected to act clearly and concisely when it's all smoke and haze on information (not all correct) that comes in by the second from fire-fighters, who in their excitement say east when it's west or right when it's left, you wonder when and how it will end.

I would have bet money there would not be a break around the front of the fire before dark (20:35) or a back burn would be finished by (23.30), especially as the country the dozers traversed wouldn't have seen a human for years. By midnight when 46 trucks went home you could drive that fire break in a slip-on and the next day you could traverse the whole fire.

By the end of Friday the 3 strike teams that appeared as well as a number of slip-ons had mopped up a potential catastrophe with the help of 2 choppers. The contribution of water bombing helicopters and their pilots plastering breaks or drowning burning tree chimneys can't be overestimated.

Standing at the top of the Lookout this Saturday morning surveying the now calm black with the odd smoker here and there it's hard to believe how quickly it got to this because after all it hasn't been 48 hours.

By Scott McKay

HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY FIRE-READY MEETING

On Saturday January 26th, Highlands & district community members will have the opportunity to listen to a trained CFA representative talk about the current fire season and what changes have occurred since the Black Saturday Royal Commission that you need to be aware of.

The CFA will be talking about your surrounding risk, warnings & advice and how they work, understanding fire danger ratings & how they work, what you need to do to stay safe and what it means leaving early or the dangers surrounding "wait and see" and leaving late.

If anyone has any concerns they will also have the opportunity to ask questions.

Date: Saturday Jan 26th 10-1130am Venue: Highlands Hall

For further details see attached brochure or contact Paul Verbeek, CFA's Community Education Coordinator on 5833 2415.

By Paul Verbeek



Hughes Creek
Catchment Collaborative

WELCOME to ISSUE 2 2013

Thanks to Janet Hagen & Phil Brown for installing the TGN drop-boxes last week.



Highlands Hall



Whiteheads Creek Hall



Caveat Church Drop Box approved by John Sporry !

TGN Drop-Boxes are also located at

- Terip Terip Rec Reserve
- Tablelands Community Centre (Old Ruffy School)
- Pick-up at the Ruffy Store

COMMUNITY WHAT'S ON CALENDAR - JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2013



CFA ROSTERS
W/C Jan 20th

- Whiteheads Creek/Tarcombe..... Driver: Glenn Watson Assistant: Carol Wood
- Ruffy 1st Lieutenant Travis Tilton's Team
- Terip Terip..... 2nd Lieutenant Ken Richards' Team

Wednesday 23rd January 6:00pm	MURRINDINDI SHIRE COUNCIL Monthly Council Meeting Eildon Primary School (Multi Purpose Room)
Thursday 24th January 8:00pm	HCCC LANDCARE NETWORK Executive meeting at Whiteheads Creek Hall We'll be planning our 2013 activities and events. Anyone interested in Landcare is welcome to attend.
Friday 25th January 6:00pm	ROCKY PASSES TAPAS NIGHT The popular Tapas nights are back for 2013. Bookings a must. Ph: 57969366 or Email: contact@rockypasses.com.au
Friday 25th January 6:00pm Saturday 26th 8:00pm Sunday 27th 4:00pm	EUROA COMMUNITY CINEMA "Frankenweenie" <i>Our first Friday family fun night for the year .</i> <i>Doors open at 6pm on Friday for those wishing to bring dinner and enjoy a night out</i> 90 mins (PG) Animated/Science Fiction 3 stars A heart-warming tale about a boy and his dog. From the genius of Tim Burton, the movie is animated, and in black and white!
Saturday 26th January 7:00pm for 7:30pm	RUFFY PRODUCE STORE Australia Day Shared Table Dinner Canapes, Main Course & Dessert—\$45per person + drinks Bookings Essential Ph: 5790 4387 or Email: store@ruffy.com.au
Sunday 27th January 6:30pm	MANNAFEST CAFÉ and SHOWROOM Cameron Semmens, Passionate-About-Words Poet and Performer, will make you laugh, cry and ponder over dinner. \$45 for 2 course Indian Dinner & Show. Part proceeds to Tasmania Fire relief (ref attached flyer) 34-36 High St., Yea Bookings Ph: 5797 3222 or Email: info@gallery34.com.au
Wednesday 30th January	HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL Term One Commences for 2013
Thursday 31st January 5:30pm	SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS Old Caveat Church, Caveat-Dropmore Rd, Caveat Come along and have a casual chat with other local blokes. BYO Refreshments.
Friday 1st February	RUFFY PRODUCE STORE-Closed Helen and Doug are taking a break . The Store will be closed from Friday Feb 1st and will re-open for Lunch & Dinner on Friday Feb 15th
Friday 8th February 6:30pm	DRINKS ON THE DECK Highlands Community Hall All Welcome, especially new faces Bring food to share. Catch up with Friends old & new Gold coin donation to cover power
Monday 11th February 8:00pm	TABLELANDS COMMUNITY CENTRE @ RUFFY Old Ruffy School, Nolans Road Ruffy Monthly Committee Meeting Everyone Welcome
Saturday 16th February 2pm—5pm	HILLCREST GALLERY 33 Old Highlands Rd, Highlands A special preview of 'Angels' an exhibition of paintings by Denis Spiteri. RSVP by 11th February. Phone 57969373 or Email denisspiteri@activ8.net.au
Friday 1st March Saturday 2nd & Sunday 3rd	HI ARTS EXHIBITION Highlands Hall, Highlands Artists wishing to exhibit can download applications from the web www.hiarts.org . or contact Stuart 5796 9358
Saturday 2nd March Showtime 8:00pm	RUFFARTZ Ruffy Hall, Nolans Road Ruffy. The evening presents a double bill Ventriloquist Sarah Jones performs her own work "Sarah Doesn't Play Well with Others" followed by Denis Coard with his sequel "The Umpire Strikes Back.....May the Farce Be With You" BYO Drinks. Coffee & Cake available at interval. Contact Glen George on 5790 4318

Classifieds & Community Notices

LOCAL GOINGS ON

DINNER, FUN & FUNDRAISER at MANNAFEST CAFE —YEA

Mannafest Cafe & Showroom, adjacent to Gallery 34 at Yea presents Cameron Semmens in a night of food, fun and fundraising on Sunday January 27th.

Part proceeds are going to the Tasmania bushfire victims, administered through the Scottsdale Rotary Club.

Scottsdale Rotary donated many truckloads of hay to this area after the Black Saturday fires.

Check TGN "What's On" or the attached flyer for further details.

By Jo Miller

HIARTS EXHIBITION

1st to 3rd March 2013.

The HiArts Exhibition and Festival is an annual public exhibition that supports artistic experimentation and the presentation of new work. The main visual arts component brings together rural and urban artists from across all forms of artistic media to create a dialogue about contemporary art practice.

On display in the midst of the high country, HiArts enlivens the imaginative rural heritage of the area. As part of a diverse network linking local schools, studio artists, curators and writers, HiArts offers another possibility for individuals with an interest in artistic practice to become involved and connected with the arts in a rural setting. During the weekend food, wine, music, and children's activities are enjoyed by visitors and contribute to an authentic and positive cultural experience for viewers.

The HiArts Exhibition and Festival is held annually on the first weekend of March at the Highlands Community Hall, corner of Ghin Ghin & Highlands Roads, Highlands.

By Shanley McBurney Exhibition Curator 2012/13

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Do you have Scrapbooking Skills and a couple of spare hours each week?

Highlands Primary School is seeking someone who has good scrapbooking skills to teach a group of enthusiastic students the art of scrapbooking.

If you live locally and you'd like to get involved then please call Meagan Callander, Principal HPS 57969208

BITS OF BIRDS AND BOTANY



RETURN of the GOSHAWK

Our Brown Goshawk must have read last week's GN and been miffed at my suggestion that she'd abandoned her nest due to the heat !! She turned up on our front verandah Monday morning just to let us know that she actually is a responsible Mum. Brilliant !

By Don

NEST BOXES for BIODIVERSITY in BUSHFIRE AFFECTED LANDSCAPES

Australian wildlife has the highest rate of hollow-nest dependency in the world and it can take upwards of 300 years for natural hollows to form to accommodate some of the larger possums and birds that use them as nests.

To this end, installing nest boxes in existing trees helps to encourage greater numbers of many types of possums, bats, and birds.

Many of these animals (as well as increasing biodiversity) pose as one part of the control of mistletoe.

Chris Coburn— Fire Recovery Landcare Coordinator (with help from many volunteer sources) has been providing & installing boxes on bushfire affected properties within the Murrindindi Shire.

He also monitors them to see who occupies them and he reports that already he is seeing small populations of sugar gliders, ringtail possums, phascogale possums and many species of hollow-nesting native birds.

By Judy Brookes

HCCC SPRAY UNITS

Tarcombe— Rob Hayes (450 Lt)
Caveat—Michael Kopanica (600Lt)
Habbies Howe— Scott McKay (900 Lt)
Ruffy— Don Cook (1000Lt)

TRADING PLACES

Good stuff for private sale or wanted by friendly locals

If you're a member of the TGN community with 'good stuff' to sell, swap or buy; The Granite News will run your advert in "Trading Places" for two editions.

For adverts in this column contact Don editor@tgn.org.au or 5790 4007

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 at 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. Stalls of new items also welcome.

For more details or to register interest, call **Leanne Pleash 5796 9200**

FOR SALE

- * 4W motor bike - Yamaha "Big Bear" electric start - new battery \$2500 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

Please call **Helen 5790 4211**

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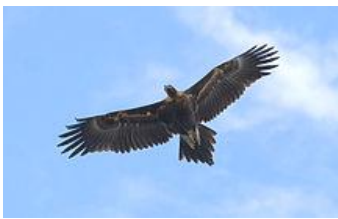
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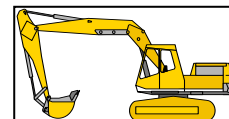
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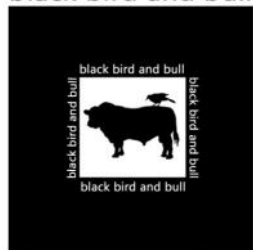


Tastings &
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Tapas bar
last Friday of
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from 6pm

Bookings 57969366
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black bird and bull



picture framing
and studio gallery in Terip Terip
57904167 or 0419131650

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