



PEOPLE and PLACES

THE STONE AXE GRINDING GROOVES

In January, the Ruffy Weekend Walkers were lucky enough to be given a tour of the Tarcombe Stone Axe Grinding Grooves site by the Landowner.

The Tarcombe Stone Axe Grinding Grooves are a series of oval shaped indentations in clusters of two to five across a flat, fine grained granite slab along the edge of a local creek. Aboriginal people used these axe-grinding grooves to finish partly made axes, (known as axe blanks) or to sharpen axes that were worn or chipped.

Axe blanks were harder pieces of stone that the Taungurung people chipped into basic axe shapes at their stone quarries.

Greenstone, a volcanic rock from the Cambrian age, is tough, fine-grained, shock resistant and fractures predictably, making it an ideal raw material for the manufacture of heavy duty stone axes. It was highly valued as were the axes made from it. The nearest greenstone outcrops are at Mount William near Lancefield and in the Howqua River valley where there are at least two quarry sites for greenstone which the Taungurung traded with other tribes.

Mount William was the major quarry in Victoria and a vast trading network developed from this site. (More than half the axes were carried over 100 kilometres away from the quarry and around 30% travelled more than 300 km).

The aboriginal people sharpened the stone axe blanks by rubbing the edges over the finely grained granite or sandstone. This rubbing action created the grooves. Water was sprinkled into the grooves to make them more abrasive and to reduce dust. This is why the grooves are usually found close to water.

The Tarcombe site was discovered by Taungurung clan member, Shane Monk while spraying blackberry in 2012.

Archaeologists from Aboriginal Affairs Victoria have mapped and recorded this site. Grinding grooves are rare and this newly discovered site is considered to be the third most significant in Victoria.

** Please note that this site is on private property, it is not publicly accessible and is of cultural significance to the Taungurung people.*

By Janet Hagen



Stone Axe Grinding Grooves

NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Student of the Week Will

For outstanding maths work. Well done!



2013 Yea Autumn Fest

Students will be singing at the Yea Autumn Fest again this year on Sunday 17th March. We have been enthusiastically learning the songs.



**Monday 18th &
Tuesday 19th
March at HPS**

By Meagan Callander—Principal HPS



Hughes Creek
Catchment Collaborative

CORRECTION

In last week's edition of *The Granite News*, the Highlands v Ruffy Cricket report referred to the Ruffy Captain as Gerry Ginnivan AC.

Undoubtedly, many would agree that Mr Ginnivan deserves Australia's highest civilian honour, however in this case 'AC' meant 'Accidental Captain'. The (Accidental Captain) tag was lost in the transition to PDF format.

We apologise for this unintentional misrepresentation and we especially apologise to Mr Ginnivan for the burden of community expectation that may have been placed upon him as a result of our error. *Editor TGN*

LANDCARER of the MONTH

**The Landcarer of the Month
for February is David Freeman**



David & Eileen Freeman

David has run 'Kulaba West' at Whiteheads Creek since 1988 and he has been a leader in environmentally responsible farming practices.

He has planted over 150,000 trees, established perennial pastures, fenced gullies and planted understory bordered by agro-forestry shelter belts to eliminate erosion. The regeneration of bird life through these previously barren corridors has been stunning.

The fencing of gullies has also enabled a reduction in paddock size that facilitates rotational grazing which, among other things ensures a constant high percentage of ground cover.

Salinity, rabbit & blackberry control programmes are always on David's agenda.


David is also involved with Seymour Wool Marketing Group, Whiteheads Creek Landcare and the Seymour Agricultural Society.

COMMUNITY "WHAT'S ON" CALENDAR - MARCH 2013



CFA ROSTERS
W/C Mar 3rd

- **Whiteheads Creek/Tarcombe**..... Driver: Rod Chisholm Assistant: Michael Greer
- **Ruffy** 3rd Lieutenant Ryan Furlanetto's Team
- **Terip Terip**..... Captain Geoff Penny's Team

Tuesday 5th March 1:30pm	SEYMOUR & DISTRICT U3A "MELTING POT" Salvation Army Hall, Victoria St., Seymour This Month "How is Government Doing in Australia?" A talk by Mr Terry Moran AC Everyone is Welcome Contact: Trish Archer at Seymour & District U3A 0409 945807
Wednesday 6th March 8:00pm	RUFFY COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP MEETING Ruffy Recreation Reserve, Noye Lane Ruffy A busy agenda of local Community items, including final approval of the Ruffy Community Action Plan Everyone is Welcome For Details & Copy of the Draft Action Plan Contact Justus Hagen 5790 4268
Thursday 7th March 10:30am-12:30	RUFFY PLAYGROUP Tablelands Community Centre@ Ruffy (Old Ruffy School) Various Supervised Kids' Activities. This month "Easter Egg Baskets" Cost: \$3:00 per Family. Bring a small plate of food to share. Contact Sally Kubeil 5790 4335 or 0407 904335
Friday 8th March 6:30pm	"DRINKS on the DECK" 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
Saturday 9th March 10am-12pm	"BLACK MARKET" at ROCKY PASSES ESTATE 1590 Highlands Rd, Whiteheads Creek Swap & sell your home produce at this local food exchange and "open garden". This month it's being hosted by Candi Westney & Vitto Oles, . Contact Paul Macgregor 5797 0229 diversity@diversity.org.au or Candi 5796 9366
	MARCH is RED CROSS CALLING MONTH Olga and Jan will not be door knocking this year. Your donations can be made at the Ruffy Store or the Tablelands Community Centre (old Ruffy School) If a receipt is required please leave your name and address and a receipt will be forwarded to you. Donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible. <i>Thanks for your continued support, from Olga and Jan</i>
Saturday 9th 8:00pm & Sunday 10th March 4:00pm	EUROA CINEMA "Jack Reacher" 130 mins (PG) Mystery/Suspense *** 3 stars Six shots—five dead! Within hours the police have it solved. However the accused is saying..... "you got the wrong man, get Reacher for me". <i>Starring Tom Cruise</i>
Sunday 10th March from 4:30pm	RUFFY PRODUCE STORE Labour Day Weekend —Music Nolans Rd. Ruffy Kick back in the garden with the "Hairy Lassos", antipasti, jugs of sangria and a long sunset Perfect Contact Helen 5790 4387 or email store@ruffy.com.au
Monday 11th March 9am-2pm	LABOUR DAY BUSH MARKET Goulburn Park Seymour Carnival Activities, Music & Dance, Food and Drink, Books, Clothes, Plants, Bric a Brac, Hardware & More. Also The Great Duck Race. Cost is \$2 entry, Kids Under 16 Free Contact Betty 5796 9295
Saturday 16th March 9am-1pm	EUROA VILLAGE FARMERS MARKET Rotary Park, Kirkland Ave., Euroa <i>"Meet, Greet, Eat & Shop"</i> A wonderful range of farm fresh produce from "local" producers. Contact Leah Jones 5795 1886 or hunaleah@mcmmedia.com.au
Monday 18th & Tuesday 19th March Before & After School	BOOK FAIR at HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL Highlands Rd., Highlands The Book Fair will be open before and after school on Monday 18th & Tuesday 19th for browsing and purchases. Families and friends are invited to a morning tea on Monday 18th at 11am to have a look at the books. For further information Contact Di or Meagan at HPS 5796 9208
Monday 18th March 8:00pm	TABLELANDS COMMUNITY CENTRE @RUFFY Old Ruffy School, Nolans Rd Monthly Meeting. All Welcome. Contact John Furlanetto 5795 3435
Saturday 23rd March 4:00pm	RUFFY PRODUCE STORE COOKING CLASS Nolans Road, Ruffy Mor Saykao will hold the first of the new series of cooking classes. This class is Thai cuisine. Cost is \$120 which includes dinner. Limited places so book early. Contact Helen 5790 4387 or store@ruffy.com.au
Saturday 23rd March 12noon	CREIGHTONS CREEK PICNIC First held in 1895, The Creightons Creek Picnic tradition is being continued A wonderful Family day featuring Old Time Games. BYO Picnic Lunch or buy a Snag from the CFA Cost is \$10 per Adult Children Free Venue is Creightons Creek Reserve Contact Howard 5790 3282
Thursday 28th March 5:30pm	SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS Old Caveat Church, Caveat-Dropmore Rd, Caveat Come along and have a casual chat with other local blokes. BBQ Tea Provided (Gold Coin) BYO Drinks

Classifieds & Community Notices

BITS OF BOTANY & BIRDS

Beautiful Blackwood Acacia Melanoxylon



Anyone driving, walking or riding along the Highlands-Caveat Road recently could not have missed the prolific display of Blackwoods in flower.

This wattle has had a profuse seed-production season this summer, with trees covered in masses of curly brown seedpods, containing the black seeds, each encircled by a red loop called a funicle. It's a taller tree than most wattles and the adult leaves are leathery with 3-5 veins running along them. In spring the flowers are pale yellow balls. Aborigines heated the bark over a fire then infused in bathing water was a treatment for rheumatism, but the bark could also be used to stun fish, so I'm not sure how good an idea this treatment would be! The wood is excellent for furniture and was used by Aborigines for weapons.



Brown Falcon Falco Berigora

This small bird of prey is a bit larger and heavier than kestrels and although fairly common it's not very distinctive in flight so is often not noticed. It's just too heavy to be able to hover well and isn't as sharp-winged and fast as peregrines or hobbies. They commonly perch in dead trees or on power poles and come in all shades of brown, often with a mottled front. They eat small mammals, birds, insects and reptiles. I see them fairly regularly around the district and they're found all over Australia .
Both Articles By Louise Currie

LOCAL GOINGS ON

LABOUR DAY BUSH MARKET Goulburn Park, Seymour

The Apex Club of Seymour in conjunction with the Seymour-Goulburn Lions Club & The Eastern Hill Cricket Club are once again running the Labour Day Bush Market.

Goulburn Park will be alive with Carnival Activities, Music & Dance, Food and Drink, Books, Clothes, Plants, Bric a Brac, Hardware and lots more.

Purchase lunch, grab a bargain, watch your duck win in The Great Duck Race at 1:00pm and enjoy music in the Park.



Date: Monday 11th March 9am-2pm
Gate entry \$2 Under 16 Free
Further Details & Site Bookings
Contact Betty 5796 9295

ruffy produce store



- * **Labour Day Weekend –Music**
Sunday March 10th from 4.30pm
kick back in the garden with the "Hairy Lassos", antipasti, jugs of sangria and a long sunset ...perfect
- *The sensational kitchen bench is in and **Cooking Classes** will start on 23rd March with Mor Saykao and a Thai class. \$120 includes dinner only 8 places available, so book early
Contact Helen 5790 4387

FARMERS MARKET WORKSHOPS

Do you grow, raise, catch, forage or make fabulous food?

Not sure how to get your product to market?

The Victorian Farmers' Market Association (VFMA) is holding their next series of workshops for producers interested in becoming stallholders at Farmers' Markets throughout 2013.

This workshop is the first step if you are considering accredited farmers' markets as a sales outlet.

You will gain an understanding of accredited farmers' markets and how they can benefit your business, as well as how to apply for accreditation.

Dates

20th March—Broadford

21st November—Seymour

To book ph 9020 8035 or email
tristan@vicfarmersmarkets.org.au

TRADING PLACES

Good stuff for private sale or wanted by friendly locals

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

CLEARING SALE – TERIP TERIP

Sunday March 17th
10:30am

- * 2003 Toyota Land Cruiser Ute
- * 1994 KTM 250 2stroke Motor Bike
- * 1982 UD 6 Horse Truck & Caravan
- * Farm Machinery —
Deutz Tractor with Blade
4W Yamaha Motor Bike
Hay Press
Lawn Mowers
- * Antique Farm Machinery
- * Household furniture & chattels
- * Reclaimed building materials
antique doors etc
- * Trade Tools
- * Push Bikes & much much more
- * Outside vendors also selling

For full list of Sale Items

Contact Helen McKenzie 5790 4211
or kendaleestables@hotmail.com

READERS' WRITES

Hi,
I was wondering if it would be possible to be put in touch with Sonya McLennan regarding her Swimming Echidna photograph in 07.05. We have a local Educational Echidna eBook for schools with iPads, and if she finds it acceptable, we would love to include her image in the free educational resource. **David Hibbert**

Editor's Note: Sonya agreed to release her echidna photo for use in David's Echidna eBook.

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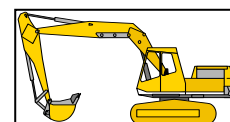
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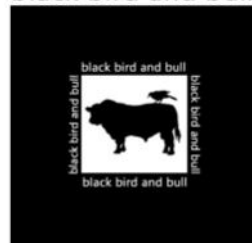
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