



BITS OF BOTANY & BIRDS

More on Misunderstood Mistletoe



Australian ecologist David Watson has spent more than a decade studying mistletoes across three continents in a mission to revamp the reputation of these odd parasitic plants. What he has discovered will challenge everything you thought you knew about the botanical hangers-on. Mistletoes are found on every continent except Antarctica. Mistletoes are hemi parasites: they make their own carbohydrates by photosynthesis, but acquire water and minerals by plumbing themselves into their host's vascular system with a fleshy, root-like "holdfast". Generally foresters see these aerial squatters as tree killers. *"In most places, forest managers regard mistletoe as a destructive pest that should be removed,"* says Watson, who is based at Charles Sturt University in Albury, New South Wales. His research challenges this view and suggests the plants are overwhelmingly a force for good. *"Wherever they grow, they bring life,"* he says. *"Mistletoes are the key to a rich and healthy forest. They are the engine that drives diversity from the forest floor to the canopy. The biggest contribution mistletoe makes to the wealth of woodland life is the rain of leaves it drops to the ground,"* Watson argues. *"Mistletoe leaves are often twice as nutritious as those of their hosts and, unlike trees, mistletoes don't withdraw nutrients from their leaves before shedding them. Those leaves are packed with goodies,"* says Watson. *"This makes the leaf litter below a mistletoe-laden tree both deeper and richer than elsewhere, encouraging the proliferation of soil microbes and accelerating the recycling of nutrients that fuel the growth of plants."*

This is an extract from an article in New Scientist, Dec 2012 by Stephanie Pain

For more reading on mistletoe go to www.newscientist.com or www.anbg.gov.au/mistletoe

NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Student of the Week
Stohm
For an excellent colour poem.
Well done!



Excursion-What a fantastic day!



The IMAX theatre was definitely a huge hit with all students (and adults).



The Melbourne Museum also provided lots of entertainment- we could have spent many more hours there.

Congratulations to all students for their outstanding behaviour throughout the day. Thank you to Cath, Freya, Gaelyn & Maree who joined us.
By Meagan Callander - Principal HPS



WELCOME to ISSUE 10 2013
Contact editor@tgn.org.au 5790 4007

The Granite News is delivered to the local drop-boxes by Tuesday each week for folks who don't have email. We are noticing a gradual increase in the number of TGNs being picked up by readers.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The Granite News has always been an open but moderated community forum. We encourage our readers to contribute articles and we also encourage you to air your views on things that interest or concern you within our community. We certainly encourage feedback from you, positive or otherwise on anything that is published in *The Granite News*

READERS' WRITES

** Do you have constipated Livestock? Then get 'em on to some of this hay! Spotted in "The Weekly Times" 13th March 2013 by a TGN reader (Name Supplied)*

HAY WILLAURA
300 5x4 rolls. Rye/Wheat/Barley
\$154 per tonne. 0427 541 476.

HAY, 5x4 grass round bales, great quality, 500kg hay \$60
Nar Nar Goon 0435 176 024
www.snowview.net

LOOSEN HAY
8x4x3, \$165/tonne
0419 916 282

HCCBNE Barley and Oatstraw.
8 x 4 x 3 bales. V. Good Quality.
SIMS Pastoral Lockington.
0428 868 307

LUCERNE HAY
Second cut round 5x4 net wrapped and small squares third cut. All shedded high quality.
Geelong area 0438 222 275

RABBIT RIPPING SUBSIDY AVAILABLE NOW FROM THE HCCC LANDCARE GROUP



A 50% subsidy may be available to you for warren ripping.
Contact Simone 5790 4146
hughes.creek1@gmail.com

COMMUNITY "WHAT'S ON" CALENDAR - MARCH 2013



CFA ROSTERS
W/C Mar 17th

- **Whiteheads Creek/Tarcombe**..... **Driver: Russell Chapman Assistant: John Dalziel**
- **Ruffy** **1st Lieutenant Travis Tilton's Team**
- **Terip Terip**..... **2nd Lieutenant Ken Richard's Team**

	<p>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></p>
<p>Monday 18th & Tuesday 19th March Before & After School</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>Monday 18th March 8:00pm</p>	<p>TABLELANDS COMMUNITY CENTRE @RUFFY Old Ruffy School, Nolans Rd Monthly Meeting. All Welcome. Contact John Furlanetto 5795 3435</p>
<p>Thursday 21st March 8:00pm</p>	<p>HCCC LANDCARE MEETING Tablelands Community Centre (Old Ruffy School) Monthly Landcare meeting to discuss all aspects of local Landcare. Everyone is Welcome & encouraged to come along. Contact Michael Kopanica 5790 4235</p>
<p>Saturday 23rd March 12noon</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>Saturday 23rd March 4:00pm</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>Saturday 23rd 8:00pm & Sunday 24th March 4:00pm</p>	<p>EUROA CINEMA "Les Miserables" 152 mins (M) Drama/ Musical ****4.5 stars An adaptation of the successful stage musical based on Victor Hugo's classic novel set in 19th-century France. Everyone knows the story and the fabulous music, which is all performed live on screen, an amazing feat. Starring Hugh Jackman, Anna Hathaway, and Russell Crowe. <i>Doors will open early both days for wine tasting & sales from Jenny Haughton's Maygar's Hill Winery</i></p>
<p>Tuesday 26th March 6:00pm</p>	<p>BURNT CREEK LANDCARE BBQ DINNER plus GUEST SPEAKER Upton CFA Shed, Upton Rd This is sure to be a terrific night with Guest Speaker-Steve Wilson, Land & Diversity Team leader GBCMA Cost is \$10 per person for BBQ. BYO Wines, Beer available. Booking Essential Contact Sandy MacKenzie 5796 2088 or sandymackenzie@ozemail.com.au</p>
<p>Thursday 28th March 5:30pm</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>Thursday 28th March to Saturday 30th 8:00am Daily</p>	<p>SEYMOUR WORKING SHEEPDOG TRIALS Kings Park, Tallarook St. Seymour The iconic sheepdog trials are on again this year and everybody, young & old is welcome to come and watch the wide range of working sheepdogs. This is a wonderful family event and catering is available. Contact Diann Shrapel 5792 1089 or Email schrapel1@activ8.net.au</p>
<p>Friday 29th March 12:30pm</p>	<p>RUFFY CFA GOOD FRIDAY LUNCH Ruffy Fire Shed or Ruffy Hall (Depending on the Weather) Fish & Chips with Salad Lunch to coincide with the Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal Adults \$15:00 Children \$5 Soft Drinks Available Contact Sally 0407 904335</p>
<p>Friday 29th March 6:00pm</p>	<p>ROCKY PASSES TAPAS NIGHT Rocky Passes Winery 1590 Highlands Rd., Whiteheads Creek The popular Tapas Nights provide a relaxing way to end the week by enjoying great food & wine with friends. Contact 5796 9366 or Email contact@rockypasses.com.au</p>
<p>Monday 8th April 7:00pm</p>	<p>STRATHBOGIE RANGES CONSERVATION NETWORK MEETING Old Caveat Church, Caveat All interested local people are invited. Check website for further Information www.strathbogierangescmn.com</p>
<p>Friday 12th April 6:30pm</p>	<p>"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</p>



Classifieds & Community Notices

LOCAL GOINGS ON

HiArts 2013.....A Great Weekend!

Several people, including children proudly walked out of the HiArts Exhibition a week ago with their very own art work. An abstract of encaustic work, various woven objects made from straw, and the promise that their clay pot would be fired later.

Ember Fairbairn was a quiet operator. A skilled artist from Healesville, she showed enthusiastic children and adults the ancient art of "Encaustic" work, a method as old as the Egyptians. A mixture of wax and paint pressed, scraped and overlaid on board.



Others were deep in concentration, as Coral Robben our potter coached them about posture and pressure. People simply enjoyed the sensuousness of handling clay in different forms.

Meanwhile down under the trees, the energy and sounds of those working with Jo Bowman (all the way from Perth) drifted up to the hall, as she encouraged people to use their imagination as they made objects out of straw.

The HiArts Exhibition on the first weekend of March again illustrated what a small community can achieve. Forty artists exhibited around 140 art works. In addition to visual artistry, there was pottery, sculpture, and woodcraft, all of high quality and sensitively arranged by our regular curator Shanley McBurney.

For the first time workshops were held on digital photography. These were conducted by a professional photographer, Munique Reid, who encouraged people to take photos without using the automatic button, and introduced people to the many ways in which we can preserve our photos. Both workshops were planned for an hour but the interest continued for over two hours.



Of course what would HiArts be without the hospitality of good food, excellent local wine and coffee accompanied by the gentle harp of Adele Heritage. Nor would it be right without the variety of painted faces, assisted by our now experienced team of Laura Bennett and Imogen Geffert assisted by Kassie Shaw.

While this year numbers were down, sales of art work were well up. The opening night drew around 70 people including artists and local supporters. The Mayor of Murrindindi, John Walsh opened proceedings with his usual flare and understanding.

Over the next few months the HiArts Committee will evaluate the weekend and reflect on future plans.

Review by Stuart Reid. Photos by Munique Reid

EUROA FARMER'S MARKET GAINING MOMENTUM

The Euroa Farmer's Market celebrated its 1st Birthday in January and it has now become a fixture on the local (and not so local) Foodies' monthly calendar. There are 30 regular stallholders and more accredited producers are encouraged, especially fruit & vegetable producers.

So, if you'd like to take the plunge into the exciting & rewarding world of Farmer's Markets then perhaps you should seriously consider attending the Farmer's Market Workshops being run by The Victorian Farmers' Market Association. The workshops are the first step if you are considering accredited farmers' markets as a sales outlet for your produce.

Dates are 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

Advertise your regional tourism event for free!!

Do you hold a tourism event within the Shire of Murrindindi?

Your event may be able to be listed in the May 2013 to October 2013 Calendar of Events brochure.

The brochure is distributed to all Visitor Information Centres within Murrindindi Shire, surrounding regions and Federation Square.

Application forms are available from

www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/events

Or Council offices at Alexandra & Yea

Contact Kat James 5772 0341

kjames@murrindindi.vic.gov.au

Applications close
Wednesday 3 April 2013

PUPS FOR SALE

Rhodesian Ridgeback
x English Mastiff



8 weeks old—4 Males & 1 Female
Vet checked, micro chipped, vacc'd
Raised by kids, so great natures
Microchip Numbers Available
on Request

Call Sharyn
0437 281072 or 5790 4297

**KOPANICA PASTORAL
EXCAVATIONS**



PH. 0357 904 235
MOB. 0429 804 235

RABBIT RIPPING, DAMS, DRIVEWAYS
GENERAL EARTHWORKS &
MACHINERY HIRE

**HABBIES HOWE
BEEF**

Mature, well hung &
available. Prahran,
Yarck, Ruffy or Habbies
5796 9260
www.habbieshowe.com.au

**Cavanagh Hayes & Assoc.
Management Consultants**

**"Helping you focus on
what is important!"**
Customer Value Discovery -
understanding what is
important to your clients and
community
cavhayes@westnet.com.au
0419557571

**Rocky
Passes**



Tastings &
"blackboard
menu" lunch
Sundays
11am - 5pm

Tapas bar
last Friday of
the month
from 6pm

Bookings 57969366
1590 Highlands Rd
www.rockypasses.com.au

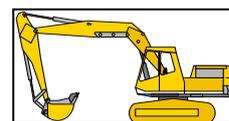
DONATION FROM A WEDGE
TAIL EAGLE LOVER

ruffy
producestore
www.ruffy.com.au

open lunch fridays
wood fired pizzas
every friday night
weekends & holidays
breakfast from 8.30am
lunch from 12 noon
bookings a good idea
phone 5790 4387

DONATION FROM A WEDGE
TAIL EAGLE LOVER

**A.J. & S.L. SHAW
EXCAVATIONS**



GENERAL EARTHWORKS
Andrew 0427969297
Sharyn 0437281072

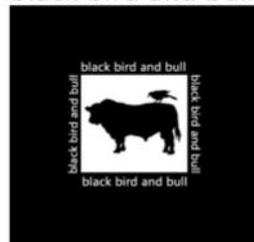
**FRANZ KLOFT
MECHANICAL REPAIRS**

Repairs & service of
vehicles
Tyres, Windscreens, Batter-
ies, Brakes, Exhausts, Wheel
alignment, Automatic
transmission
Phone 57952910
38 Railway Street, Euroa
FREE QUOTES

**AG Fencing
&
Contracting Services**

All fence constructions,
Equipment maintenance &
Pump repairs,
Blasting Service,
"Not sure if we do it?"
Give us a call 0407 028 122

black bird and bull



picture framing
and studio gallery in Terip Terip
57904167 or 0419131650

**ALEXANDRA VETERINARY
CLINIC**

Emergency Service
Mobile AH 0408 576056
Dr Doug Norman B.V.Sc.(Hons)
Dr Denia Ford B.V.Sc.(Hons)
Phone: 5772 1600
Regular trips to the Tablelands on Friday
afternoons with discounted travel

LAWSON

- General earthworks
- Hole boring
- Diesel repairs & servicing
- Metal fabrication & welding
- Shed construction & removal

m. 0437 182 223 h. 5796 9265
lawsoneuroa@gmail.com



Phone Ian on
: 0408990487
: 57904328
Registered Electrical Contractor:
License No. 16959

WALES RURAL
**Let the
land
produce**

38 Emily Street Seymour
Ph. 5792 1088

**Digit Downs Deco
Painting, Maintenance,
Design, Decoration**

**Neil Doran
Ruffy**
0457 253875
DigitDowns@gmail.com

Rodwells
A RURALCO BUSINESS

Come see Rodwells Alexandra
for all your Farm Supply
requirements, from Fencing &
Animal Health needs to
Agronomic Advice.

Please phone (03) 57 722 444
Free Delivery Available



SUSAN & PETER KRICKIC
0421 407 721 (03) 5796 9192

**BAILEY'S FUNERAL
SERVICES P/L**

27 Highlands Rd, Seymour
Offering a caring and
professional service
Prices starting from \$3500
Cremation, \$4500 Burial plus
cemetery fees.
Contact Garnet on
57992007 24 Hours.



Abseiling, BMX bikes,
9 hole golf course, cabins,
camping and much more.

Bookings: 0423 006 667
Site ph: 5797 6351
www.mafekingroverpark.com

TRADESMEN

Specialising in
renovations, alterations, and
repairs. Shed
erections, concrete floors,
paths, paving etc.
Contact Ken on 5797 6255 or
Michael on 5795 1109



This Space Booked
MK

This Space Booked
SS



CF & HL HANDASYDE BUILDERS
Established 1978
NEW HOMES, EXTENSIONS,
RENOVATIONS, DOMESTIC, RURAL
ALL YOUR BUILDING REQUIREMENTS.
Registered Building Practitioner

Call Colin for a quote
Telephone: 0419 502 782
handasydebuilders@bigpond.com