



PEOPLE AND PLACES

LOCAL SON GETS SOLAR WORKING

Boyd Dainton's family has been in the Goulburn Valley since the mid 1800s. Schooled in Shepparton, Boyd served time in the Royal Australian Navy as a National Serviceman before embarking on a career in electronics.

He grew his business around the well known AKAI brand and he became familiar with the challenges of successfully importing high tech products from Asia. After selling his business to Chinese interests, Boyd chose to retire to Strathbogie where he set about building his own home from environmentally responsible materials including an off-grid power system. It was during this process that he became fascinated with the largely untapped potential for solar powered pumps, fences and lighting in the Australian agricultural and leisure industries.

Boyd had previously obtained the rights to the business name 'Commodore' from the makers of the early Commodore 64 Computers and he set up his company, Commodore Australia in its current location on the Old Hume Hwy, Euroa.



Boyd Dainton displays a 4" submersible solar pump at his Euroa premises

The demand for Boyd's solar products & solutions is strong and he says that the busiest areas of his business are off-grid solar system upgrades, solar powered submersible pumps and solar electric fences. He also receives regular positive feedback about the solar pump specification calculator located on the website www.commodoreaustralia.com.au

Commodore Australia sponsors **The Granite News** and we believe that Boyd's products and his business ethos fit well with Landcare's objectives to reduce the local environmental footprint.
By Don Cook

NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Student of the Week

Bonnie



For being totally engaged in her writing task and always willing to do more. Well done!

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Highlands Primary School has signed up for the State Government's Achievement Program.

This is a health promotion program that assists school communities to highlight the positive ways healthy choices can be made part of everyday life and is endorsed by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development for use in primary & secondary schools.

We started this year's program with a healthy cooking/eating day where we made the zucchini slice and that included a discussion around vegetables and how they can be included more often in food.

There will be a survey sent home shortly for parents and grades 4, 5 and 6 students will be completing a "Day in the Life" survey at school that will generate more discussion. The Health and Wellbeing Committee that meets as part of the Chaplaincy program is keen to hear your ideas about what other things the school could do to support families and kids in making healthy choices.

By Meagan Callander—Principal, HPS



Hughes Creek
Catchment Collaborative

BOTANY, BIRDS & CREATURES

THE SACRED KINGFISHER *Todiramphus snactus*

I found these dear little birds in the garden the other day !



These birds perch on trees, wires, posts, and stumps darting down to seize large insects and small reptiles.

They live in open forests & woodlands, on the margins of rivers, lakes, seashores, mangroves, mudflats, islands, golf courses, parks & garden ponds.

They are resident in northern Australia with Spring/Summer from September to April breeding migration to coastal and sub coastal southern Australia.

By Marcia Telford

LANDCARE NOTICE BOARD

HCCC SPRAY UNITS

Tarcombe— Rob Hayes **5790 4319**
Caveat—Michael Kopanica **5790 4235**
Highlands— Scott McKay **5796 9259**
Ruffy— Don Cook **5790 4007**

\$33 per Spray Day/\$100 per Season

Payment to Janet Hagen
Coordinator--HCCC Landcare
5790 4268

jhagen@harboursat.com.au



THE SEARCH
For
THE PERCH

FINDING FOXY

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and bottom left of Page 4

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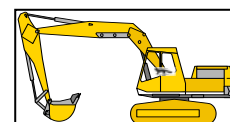
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Classifieds & Community Notices

POTENTIAL INCOME SOURCE for VICTORIAN LANDHOLDERS Youcamp.com

The idea of opening the front gate to visitors may seem crazy to many landholders but not to Samantha Chaffey and Eric Lemoussu of Gippsland who are earning another farm income from offering authentic camping sites. Their motivation is to have a diversified farm income so the health of their land isn't compromised.

They are proud of their property and the good condition it is in.

Public camping grounds are restrictive and often full and not all travellers want to stay in van park camping suburbia or highway rest areas.

Also, travellers want authentic experiences off the well-trodden tourist track.

Farmers and landholders are looking for new income streams that contribute to a property being managed sustainably. Youcamp.com meets both these needs.

Almost every property has a spot that travellers would like to visit – a river or creek frontage, a private fishing spot, a beautiful dam or even just a big shady tree that would be perfect to park a fully self-contained campervan under.

Youcamp.com has recently listed a number of Victorian properties where the owners have been stunned at the interest from the public.

Shortly before Christmas Samantha and Eric decided they would open their front gate and share their land with carefully chosen, responsible members of the public who wanted a more authentic camping experience.

They did not want to set up a commercial van park or a mass camping ground; just a low-key place for people to retreat, for families to bond and truly experience nature. They offer a number of camping sites in different locations so each group has privacy.

To their surprise the response was immediate and much of the Christmas/New Year period was quickly booked. They contacted the local council to check the rules for allowing visitors onto private land and asked each group who arrived to sign a waiver.

"It has been beautiful, so beautiful to have kids come here and enjoy the property."



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LOCAL GOINGS ON



THE HOLY GRAIL



On the Village Green Cricket Ground at Strath Creek a battle of biblical proportions was waged between the two revered protagonists for the Grail of Granite (which as usual has gone missing).

When Ruffy saw the line-up of Holy men in the Highlands side they thought they were damned. Normally they would not have been too worried about the heretics from Highlands but somehow the gods of cricket had lined up Father Holy man, Brother Holy man and two junior Friars from Fassifern Road. Highlands also had the late upgrade in Sammy Strong for Andrew Shaw.

Ruffy need not have worried because their selector introduced a novel selection process by going for youth (with an international flavour in Danni).

Ruffy was sent into bat because Highlands thought they had a favourable (if not bribeable) umpire in Fraser Welch, unfortunately our research had not turned up the fact that he knew nothing about umpiring.

Ruffy subsequently made a great start and had 5-120 on the board for their first innings. Highlands replied with 3-90 after some very tight bowling (some of their bowlers getting satanic reverse swing), exceptional Ruffy fielding and the Sleigh boys channelling Michael Clarke - Harry with his numerous field changes and Slugger with his crook back.

In the second innings things went wrong for Highlands when tame umpire Fraser went down with a knee injury and was replaced by Slugger, the on-field Ruffy coach. Highlands also lost James Holyman to a self-inflicted knee injury trying to field like some of Ruffy's youth.

Ruffy batted with the angels on their side to finish off with 210, thanks mainly to Bryce (the rejected rock star from the Ruffy Rec Reserve Concert, who not only looked like South Africa's Hashim Amla but batted like him as well) making 32, Poss making a lusty 24 and Richard Eddy top scoring with 34.

Although Highlands batted like the devil-possessed with Scott McKay (28), Tom Holyman (27) and Hamish McAlpin (27), a maiden over from Ruffy's John Cox and two great overs from Richard Eddy turned the Highlands' equation from heaven to hell - leaving Ruffy the victors by 12 runs.

B.O.G was awarded to David Sleigh for getting a successful Ruffy side together against insurmountable odds and for stepping into the umpiring cauldron following the injury to Fraser. Special mention should also go to Gerry Ginnivan the scorer, who showed off his actuarial skills from a previous life by actually getting the scorebook to add up.

As per usual the bus trip from Hell (for the driver) broke down at Strath Creek Pub for the final time because the pub was closing down that night.

Next Match is vs Maygar's Hill Winery on the 8th March at the RCG (Ruffy Cricket Ground) please contact Scott McKay if you are interested in playing . Report by Scott McKay

TRADING PLACES

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Contact Marcia 5796 9256



Ruffy Captain Harry Sleigh receiving the "Not the Real Trophy" from Scott McKay

COMMUNITY "WHAT'S ON" CALENDAR FEB/MARCH 2014



CFA ROSTERS
W/C Feb 23rd

- Whiteheads Creek/Tarcombe..... Driver: Doug McLarty Assistant: Andrew Duff
- Ruffy 2nd Lieutenant George Noye's Team
- Terip Terip..... 3rd Lieutenant Tim Lawrence's Team

TERIP TERIP MOWING ROSTER

W/C 10th Mar Sue Martin—Andrew Holloway & Tim Andrews—Car Park & all four courts
W/C 31st Mar Tim & Frances Lawrence—Peter Short & Betty Jenkins—Both Sides Springs Rd & 4 Courts

Tuesday 25th February 7:30pm

TERIP TERIP RECREATION RESERVE—Committee Meeting at Terip Terip Recreation Reserve
All are welcome to come along to help plan events and jobs for the year ahead for the Recreation Reserve.
Any queries, please call Andrew Holloway (Secretary) on 5790 4080

Thursday 27th February 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

Friday 28th February 6:30pm

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. This month we also have a special presentation by historian **Paul McGregor** on one of our colourful local early settlers—**Lowe Kong Meng**. **Contact 5796 9366 or Email contact@rockypasses.com.au**

Saturday 1st March 9am—2pm

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**

Saturday 1st March 8:00pm Doors Open 7:30pm

RuffArtZ "Season of Saturdays 2014" at the Ruffy Community Hall Nolans Rd, Ruffy
The first concert of this season will feature the group **Saoirse**, winners of the 2013 inaugural Australian Celtic Music Awards for Best Album & Best Song. It will be a wonderful evening of songs, ballads, hand clapping and reels. Sit back and enjoy this evening with your BYO drinks and nibbles.
For tickets (\$25.00) Contact Verena on 5790 4309

Saturday 1st 8:00pm & Sunday 2nd March 4:00pm

EUROA CINEMA "Saving Mr. Banks" 123 mins (PG) Bio / Drama **** 4 stars
This movie focuses on the behind the scenes turmoil of Australian born author P L Travers and Walt Disney. Disney is passionate in his efforts to bring "Mary Poppins" to life on the big screen.
Starring Tom Hanks and Emma Thompson

Saturday 8th March 11am-ish



HIGHLANDS/RUFFY vs MAYGAR'S HILL WINERY—FAMILY CRICKET MATCH at the RCG
The Lowlanders from Maygar's have challenged the Highlander/Ruffians for cricket bragging rights. It'll be a terrific family day at the delightful Ruffy Cricket Ground, followed by dinner at The Ruffy Produce Store.
Everyone is welcome to play—especially the kids. **Contact Scott McKay 5796 9259**

Sunday 9th March 11:15am

St. DAVID'S UNITING CHURCH TERIP-RUFFY Ruffy Road, Terip Terip
The service with Holy Communion will be conducted by our Minister, Reverend Glenys Gill. .
For any information Contact Jennifer Penny on 5790 4233

Monday 10th March 9am-2pm



SEYMOUR LABOUR DAY BUSH MARKET Goulburn Park, Seymour
Brought to you by Seymour Apex Club—Eastern Hill Cricket Club—Seymour Goulburn Lions Club
A host of stalls, food, entertainment and activities capped off by the Great Duck Race.
Gate Entry \$2 Under 16s Free **Contact Betty 5796 9295**

Friday 14th March 6:30pm

'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**

Friday 21st March 7:00pm

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**

Saturday 29th March

HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL WOOLSHED DANCE at Habbies Howe, Dropmore Rd Highlands
SAVE THE DATE more information coming soon



Sunday 30th March 4:00pm

Music in The Bush at Broadford Salon Series—Concert One At Peter Hagen's Broadford Studio
"Storming C.P.E. Bach" Peter Hagen - harpsichord Tri-centenary Concert.
Carl Philip Emmanuel Bach, tribute concert 300 years after his birth, in a concert with the dramatic Württemberg Sonatas and more.
Wine will be supplied by Tahbilk winery and you can also order a plate of nibbles. All details can be found on the booking links below and on www.peterhagen.com.au you can download the current brochure.
Tickets Adult \$38 Early bird tickets \$32, Series Ticket \$120 Bookings Essential - Limited Seating
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