



BOTANY, BIRDS & CREATURES

It's not often I get to introduce Peg Lade to a new bird for her list for Highlands, but I did so the other day. Square-tailed Kites can be found in wooded areas all over Australia but are quite rare - in Victoria the population estimate is from 20 to 50 pairs. I used to see what I was pretty sure was one around Caveat 20 years ago, but hadn't seen one for years until a few weeks ago when I saw a bird while I was driving and thought – it's that stupid thing that looks like a Square-tailed Kite but I was never actually certain was; I'm not going to waste time on it again.



Square-tailed Kite *Lophoictinia isura*

But I did stop and was glad I did because it flew straight onto a nest where I was able to get a good enough look to confirm its identity.

I've been keeping an eye on the nest for a few weeks now but I haven't seen signs of young yet.

It's a medium-size bird of prey, similar in size to a Little Eagle or Whistling Kite, with long thin wings with prominent fingering.

It soars with wings slightly upturned. When perched its folded wings are longer than its tail.

If you see a pale face you can be sure of the identification but often in flight this isn't obvious (which is why I was never 100% sure before).

It eats small birds and their eggs, lizards, frogs and insects, and hunts by flying low over treetops and pouncing into the canopy.

It's not a threat to any sort of livestock.

By Louise Currie

NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Student of the Week Jessica



For her cooperative and caring approach to her peers. Well done!

Music & Drama: Last week we were fortunate to have Graham bring in his boom whackers for our music session. Boom whackers are long, narrow tubes which play a musical note. Each child was given a note which they played by gently banging the tube onto the floor. Together, under Grahams instructions the children were able to play a number of songs including Mary had a Little Lamb and Hickory, Dickory Dock. We have also been very interested in dressing up and Leone led the children in creating their own short plays which they presented to the whole school.

By Sue Watson—Principal, HPS



Hughes Creek
Catchment Collaborative

Contact editor@tgn.org.au 5790 4007
To subscribe online go to www.highlands.org.au

READERS' WRITES

"I would like to address the furphy that Highlands Primary School is financially desperate and will close unless injected with a large amount of cash. Rubbish!!

Please consider ringing our excellent new acting principal Sue 5796 9208 to find out the truth. She may confirm that you have been misled.

Highlands Primary School fund raising account is in the + five digit category. Stop and think! Start asking questions. Why is there such a drive for fund raising?

What on earth does the hall need but to be used regularly.

Of course the fire brigade could use funds indefinitely, you can never have too much equipment.

Our school has 14 students.

If you wish to cement it's longevity, have babies, adopt, open your spare rooms to refugee families with children.

Students are what keeps schools afloat and money flowing.

Not absurd events like Strawberry Fields which divide the community, with their possibility of danger and disruption."

—Leone Gabrielle, Highlands

HIGHLANDS/CAVEAT RURAL FIRE BRIGADE



CFA & COMMUNITY RECONNAISSANCE DRIVE

Sunday November 30th

The Highlands/Caveat RFB will conduct a local Reconnaissance Drive for CFA members & community to familiarise with the local landscape.

Meet at the Highlands Fire Shed at 9:00am

Bring a Picnic Lunch and private vehicles must be 4WD.

It should be a great day.

Contact **Jim McCooley** 0418 532103



RUFFY RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

Fire-Ready Awareness Walk

Saturday November 22nd

The Ruffy CFA invites members and Community to join them at the corner of Noye Lane and Buntings Hill Rd, Ruffy at 6pm to inspect the roadside vegetation along the route to the Ruffy Neighbourhood Safer Place.

We will walk the road back to the Fire Shed where there will be a community BBQ. All Welcome

Contact **John Furlanetto**
0427 344956



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FINDING FOXY

Issue 39 Under Ed Sprunt's Seat!

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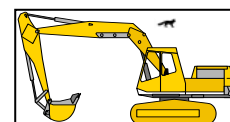
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Classifieds & Community Notices

LOCAL GOINGS ON

.....IT'S A SCHOOL NO MORE !



Ruffy Primary School closed in 2005, and despite its name change to the Tablelands Community Centre it has remained embedded in the local psyche as the 'Old Ruffy School'

Volunteers have maintained the building and grounds, installed grid-connected solar power, designed & built new toilets and totally repainted the internals; but the facility had struggled to adopt a new identity.....and then along came Fiona Steel.

With the backing of the committee, Fiona has breathed new life into this wonderful community asset. Her vision has included a complete re-make of the front garden landscape to reflect our indigenous botanical heritage and her mission to give the place back its heartbeat has been achieved by converting the old shelter-shed into a weekend Bric-a-Brac store.

Fiona is excited about the future for this new community venture and she is keen to attract local sellers and buyers of good quality curios, antiques & other ephemera. The Bric-a-Brac store will open each weekend and Fiona can be contacted on 5790 4369



Do you know someone outstanding?

Have you thought about nominating them for an Australia Day award?



Nominations are open in the following categories:

- Murrindindi Citizen of the Year
- Murrindindi Young Citizen of the Year
- Murrindindi Community Event of the Year

These awards provide all Murrindindi Shire residents with the opportunity to pay tribute to our outstanding local achievers. Download the nomination form from our website www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au, pick up an application form from any council office or call Sarah Light on 5772 0341 **Nominations close at 5pm on Friday 28 November 2013**

TRADING PLACES

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For adverts in this column contact editor@tgn.org.au

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COMMUNITY "WHAT'S ON" CALENDAR NOV/DECEMBER 2014

CFA ROSTERS W/C Nov 16th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whiteheads Creek/Tarcombe..... Driver: Chris Head Assistant: Ralph Provan • Ruffy 4th Lieutenant Matt Ulstrup's Team
TODAY!	Sunday 16th November 10am until After 5pm GAIL & BRIAN van ROOYEN'S OPEN GARDEN Hewlett's Road Terip Terip As part of the Victorian Rotary "Garden designfest" this wonderful local garden will be open to the public for one day only. Entry Fee \$12 with proceeds to Rotary The Terip Tennis Club will serve Devonshire Teas with proceeds to the tennis court replacement project.
TODAY!	Sunday 16th November 4:00pm CONCERT ONE Peter Hagen (Harpsichord) & Margaret Caley (Violin) at the Broadford Salon C.P.E. Bach violin and harpsichord works. Sonatas fantasias and other pieces for violin and harpsichord written by the famous C.P.E. Bach's whose tricentenary is celebrated this year. Tickets \$38 Adults Bookings Essential www.trybooking.com/FZZD
Wednesday 19th November 7:30pm	RUFFY COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP at Tablelands Community Centre End of year meeting of the Action Group to hear about activities since August and to consider and advance local projects and ideas. Everyone is welcome – Light supper and drinks following meeting. Contact Justus Hagen 5790 4268
Friday 21st Nov 7:30pm	HCCC Landcare Monthly Meeting at the Highlands Hall Monthly meeting and all welcome. Landholders are encouraged to attend Contact Janet Hagen 5790 4268
Saturday 22nd November 8:00pm Sunday 23rd 4:00pm	EUROA CINEMA "Gone Girl" 148 mins (MA) 4 stars Drama/Mystery This movie has generated a huge amount of comment. Adapted from the book of the same name, it is a story about a marriage that has soured. Nick (Ben Affleck) comes home to find his wife Amy (Rosamund Pike) is missing and there are signs of violence in the house. It appears Amy has a diary which records the early part of their relationship. Nick's story starts to unravel and it all becomes a media circus. If you have seen the movie then you are bound not to reveal the ending From all reports this is one that will have you talking and thinking for sometime after you leave the cinema
Saturday 22nd November 6:00pm	RUFFY RURAL FIRE BRIGADE Fire-Ready Awareness Walk Noye Lane & Buntings Hill Rd Ruffy Community & CFA walk back to the Ruffy Fire Shed for a BBQ Tea and a Fire readiness discussion Contact John Furlanetto 0427 344956
POSTPONED	20 YEAR CELEBRATION DAY for HCCC LANDCARE at the Old Caveat Church A terrific day of celebration is planned for the 20th Anniversary of the HCCC Landcare Group. There will be interactive displays of Landcare's achievements, a free lunch and a walk to the Mineral Springs on Hughes Creek. The new date will be announced early in 2015 Contact Simone Ulstrup for further details 5790 4146
Sunday 23rd November 6:00pm <div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">NOTE Venue Change</div>	ST.DAVID'S UNITING CHURCH TERIP-RUFFY meet at the Ruffy Hall For the 4 th Sunday of this month members and friends of will share a barbeque dinner. After dinner Fred Jungwirth will present his recent travel experiences, titled 'Mutual win! An Australian and Vanuatu Partnership' . Please bring your own meat and a salad or sweet to share. (Tea and coffee provided) For more information, please contact Verena Weinmann, 5790 4309
Thursday 27th November 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
Sunday 30th November 9:00am	HIGHLANDS/CAVEAT RURAL FIRE BRIGADE meet at the Highlands Fire Shed CFA & Community local Reconnaissance Drive. Bring a Picnic Lunch. Contact Jim McCooley 0418 523103
Friday 5th December 6:00pm	HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP & BBQ at The Highlands Hall BYO drink, chairs, meat and salad to share. Don't miss out on the special visit from Santa at 7.30pm and the beautiful voices of the children singing Christmas carols. Please drop off presents for your children at the school prior to this date labelled with their name (maximum of \$5). Contact Judy Cameron 5796 9247
Saturday 6th December 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
Friday 19th December	RUFFY HAPPY HOUR (or two!) The happy hour will not be held in December as scheduled, and will go into recess until the New Year

TODAY!

TODAY!



POSTPONED

NOTE
Venue Change



In Recess