



An Intergenerational Thank You to Highlands Primary School—No 3440

When news broke that Highlands Primary School was closing there were widespread feelings of sadness and a sense of loss. Down the years we've seen this scenario so many times that you'd think we'd take it in our stride — just another example of our changing world. But this was different. This school has meant so many things to so many people and it is also the birthplace of The Granite News.

For 114 years Highlands Primary School has been a heart & soul place; not just a collection of buildings that housed hundreds of local kids during the daytime hours of their formative years, but a sanctuary and a portal through which those children learned to view the world.

It would have been understandable had last Sunday's school closure event been a sombre affair, but no; in the positive spirit that has always defined HPS, the organising team delivered a celebration, and well over 200 people turned out on a perfect day.

Present & past pupils, Principals, Teachers, Administrators, Bus Drivers, Chaplains, Mums & Dads; they were all there to reminisce and to recognise the priceless contribution that this wonderful little country school has made to our nation over 114 years.



Past pupil David Sprunt & wife Julie explored the historic records



A comprehensive range of historic class photos & memorabilia is on display

Miranda Yorston was MC who led us through a potted history of the school and then introduced an entertaining range of speakers:

Jim Davidson spoke of the sporting rivalry between Highlands & Ruffy schools where Highlands always won because they had three McCall kids who could always run faster, jump higher and kick longer; Peter Lebidka told us of the 3 generations of his family who have bussed the Highlands kids 2.8million kilometres over the past 56 years; past Principals each related heartfelt & humorous memories of their time at Highlands — John Gosstray talked about the warmth of the welcome he received from the Lade family upon his posting here;

Lorna McDonald spoke about the

generosity of the community in ensuring that every child had the opportunity to participate irrespective of their socio-economic background; Alison Mildren recounted the time she suggested to Miranda one morning that they light-up the burn pile before the children arrived, and how a rabbit ran out of the pile, on fire, just as the school bus pulled up, so Miranda dispatched the rabbit with a shotgun; Meagan Callander told of her attempt to find the 'tree-climbing' policy within the Dept of Education's Standard Operating Procedures and she noted the introduction of the Chaplaincy program and the creation of the Woolshed Dance as two of her most satisfying achievements; Maree Moyle has the distinction of being the final Principal at Highlands Primary School and she spoke passionately about the unique experience it has given her.



Bernie Moss, Rick McAlpin & Roger Strong were part of the 200+ crowd

Everyone's spirits were high as we feasted on the Highlands Community Group's barbeque while celebrating over a century of local education history.

The photo displays will remain for the next two weeks during school hours for anyone wishing to view them.

By Don Cook

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Classifieds and Community Notices

LOCAL GOINGS ON

REGIONAL OUTREACH HEALTH CLINICS

At RUFFY



Free Health Screening & Education

Katrina McMaster, Chronic Disease Outreach Worker
—Honeysuckle Regional Health Services

Discussions on Practical First-Aid for Snake Bite

Blood Pressure Checks

Type 2 Diabetes Assessments

Professional support for chronic disease sufferers

Where: Tablelands Community Centre at Ruffy

Waiting Room

Private Consulting Room

Complimentary Coffee, Tea & Biscuits

When: Friday 9th December — from 10:30am

No Appointment necessary but please contact Melissa if you wish to reserve a time 0404 833388



Hughes Creek
Catchment Collaborative

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

LANDCARE NOTICE BOARD



HCCC SPRAY UNITS

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Caveat—Michael Kopanica 5790 4235
Highlands— Scott McKay 5796 9259
Ruffy— Don Cook 5790 4007

\$33 per Spray Day/\$100 per Season
Payment on Invoice from
HCCC Landcare

Tablelands Rainfall

| Month | Highlands | Ruffy |
|--------------------|-----------|----------|
| November | 62.8 mm | 65.5mm |
| 2016 Total | 955 mm | 852.5 mm |
| November Rain Days | 8 | 6 |



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HiArts Annual Arts Prizes

Each year HiArts provides a cash prize to the best senior arts student at Yea Secondary College and Seymour College.

Joanna Gilbee is the winner of the 2016 senior art student prize for the **Yea Secondary College** and **Abbey Baker** the winner from **Seymour College**.

Joanna had an equine theme and painted two main final works.

Both were 'Acrylic on Canvas'. One depicted a beautiful Arab horse with lady in red coat jumping over poles as part of a dressage course. The second piece was a close up head portrait of a gelding.

Abbey a keen ballet dancer herself expressed her passion through photographs of dancers; a mixed media presentation, including a shadow box displaying a ballet performance and a plaster caste of her own leg decorated with ballet images. It was a real celebration of dance.

Unfortunately because of changes to the Yea Carnivale, we will not have the opportunity to place these excellent works on public display as we have in the past.

At its recent AGM, HiArts has committed to continue these prizes into the future.

COMMUNITY "WHAT'S ON" CALENDAR — DEC 2016/JAN 2017



W/C Sunday
Dec 11th

Highlands/Caveat..... Driver: Rick Webb — Radio: Matt Smith
Ruffy..... 4th Lieutenant Susan Sleigh's Team

TODAY !!!
Sunday 4th
December
9am — 1pm

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.

Sunday 4th
December
9am — 1pm

TALLAROOK FARMERS' MARKET Mechanics Institute Hall, Main Road, Tallarook-
One of Victoria's strongest farmers' markets, the Tallarook market is well worth a visit.
A generous variety of locally grown fresh produce is on offer.

Monday 5th
December
11:00am

HIGHLANDS SPINNERS o Caveat-Dropmore Road, Caveat
Christmas get-together. Please come along and enjoy the food and friendship, and bring a plate or bowl of something to share.



Contact Jan Sporry 5790 4361

Monday 5th
December
11:00am

RuffArtZ AGM at the Ruffy Community Hall
You are cordially invited to the RuffArtZ Annual General Meeting .
Everyone welcome, new committee members encouraged. Contact Sharron 5790 4329

Friday 9th
December
10:30am

REGIONAL OUTREACH HEALTH CLINIC Tablelands Community Centre Ruffy
Free Health Checks for Blood Pressure, Diabetes & Chronic Diseases.
No appointment necessary but for further info Contact Melissa 0404 833388



Wednesday 21st
December
4pm — 8pm

TWILIGHT FARMERS MARKET High Street, Nagambie
For all your festive Food Fare ! A twilight market not to be missed.
Take advantage of fresh seasonal local food & taste the difference

Saturday 24th
December
From 5:30pm

CHRISTMAS CAROLS at CAVEAT at the Caveat Church
Everyone is Welcome to come along & celebrate
the birth of Jesus in Stories & Song
For further details please Contact Susan Bennett 5790 4333



Saturday 14th
January
10:00am

TERIP TERIP ANNUAL TENNIS TOURNAMENT at Terip Rec Reserve
The annual & highly renowned Terip Tennis tournament is on again in January.
More information to come in later issues of Granite News



Sunday 26th
March
2017
10:30am

HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS meet at the Highlands Hall
Bring a carry lunch & a water bottle. Our destination has not yet been decided.
For more details Contact Judy Reid on 5796 9358

