



PEOPLE AND PLACES

JUST A FEW BLOKES HAVING A BEER AND A CHAT.....

The Men's Shed is a mainstream movement that has the support of all levels of government, 'Beyond Blue', and a host of other agencies that are tasked with identifying & supporting male mental health issues such as social isolation and depression.

The first official Men's Shed was opened at Tongala, Victoria in 1998 and there are now 930 of them registered across Australia.



In winter the brazier is an essential component of Secret Men's Business gatherings

Whether or not they were influenced by the early Men's Shed concept is a moot point but in 2002 a few local blokes from Caveat decided to start getting together each month for a beer and a chin-wag.

Rather than rotate through each others' places they reckoned that it'd be good to have a fixed venue for their gathering and as

luck would have it, the old Caveat Church became available.....which is a story that will be told in these pages over coming months.

The mischievous title was actually bestowed upon the Caveat group by a lady who attended one of the early get-togethers and noted that she was the lone female in the group. She remarked that a lot of the discussions sounded to her like "secret men's business".

Whereas the official Men's Sheds demand a constitution, office-bearers, and a raft of compliance with safe operating practices; at Secret Men's Business there are no rules except that everyone should relax and enjoy a drink and a chat with mates and other blokes who they may not otherwise see from month to month.



The other icon is the BBQ that serves up a simple sausage in bread

Spend an hour or so at the Caveat Church grotto and you'll hear talk about the weather, cattle prices, bushfire threats, football, pasture growth, the state of the roads and most importantly the state of health of anyone in the district who might need a bit of support.

At 5:30pm on the last Thursday of each month anywhere from 10 to 20 locals turn up and it's not just the old blokes; Secret Men's Business also provides a welcome environment for our younger guys who otherwise might struggle to get off the farm due to long working days and after hours responsibilities with young families.

It could be described as spiritual but its definitely not religious, it's non-political and it's a big contributor to our district's health & wellbeing.

By Don Cook



Hughes Creek
Catchment Collaborative

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

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The Granite News is funded by HCCC Landcare and supported by our permanent advertisers. If you would like to make a donation in support of the Granite News you can contact the editor for HCCC Landcare's bank details.

Thank you to all those GN readers who have chosen to make a donation.....your support is appreciated

We are currently building a Database of weeds in the district. If you know of a roadside or property that has significant issues with Blackberries, Pater-sons Curse or any other weed of concern please contact Melinda Bronca.

0417 126975 5796 9157

hughes.creek1@gmail.com

All information will remain anonymous

FOX on the RUN 2017

- * Begins Sunday 4th June
Ends Saturday 1st July
- * New competition details to be revealed next week
- * Contact Mel to register

0417126975 57969157

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FARMING & ENVIRONMENT

'HEALTHY HECTARES' offers HEAPS of HELP

A country property is a great change of pace for many living busy Melbourne lives. The chance to slow down, breathe deeply and inhale eucalyptus instead of fumes, maybe grow some vegies or raise some animals. After years of visiting properties, many new landholders I meet express their delight in the space, the views, wildlife encounters and often mention they would like to earn some money from their property.



Just how much can you earn from a small acreage, and what are some of the land management challenges you might face on your block of land?

Planning your property is your first big step – identifying sensitive areas on your land – watercourses, steep hills and spring soaks. What is your fire risk and what steps will you take to mitigate that risk?

Do you have weed or pest animal issues? Where are existing fences and water points for stock? Will you have animals and what are the legal obligations you will need to address as a property owner? Where is your native vegetation and do you want to create better links for wildlife?

It's not easy navigating each of these questions on your own. We hope to help through the **Healthy Hectares program** by signposting you to information or local people that can help with your questions. We hope you'll take the time to visit the website, www.healthyhectares.org.au, read through the booklet, or join us at a training day – these are listed under the News and Events on the website.

Contact Vikki Lane vikki.lane@euroaarboretum.com.au for the booklet publication or further information about the training days.

READERS' WRITES

"I read with interest Stuart Reid's piece in the last edition of the Granite News, and I understand his disappointment with the way certain important topics of conversation are avoided for fear of touching raw nerves.

The good news is that in our area there are opportunities for discussing such important topics with people who may have different views but are prepared to approach difficult topics with an open mind.

U3A Euroa and District (University of the Third Age) offers two 'courses' (monthly 2hr sessions) where participants engage in free discussion on a topic introduced by the course convenor. In the 'Philosopher's Forum' we discuss questions ranging from 'Does Religion Determine Morality' to 'Non-violence' and 'The Happy Life'.

The other course, on 'Comparative Religion', aims to develop a better understanding of the similarities and differences of different religions.

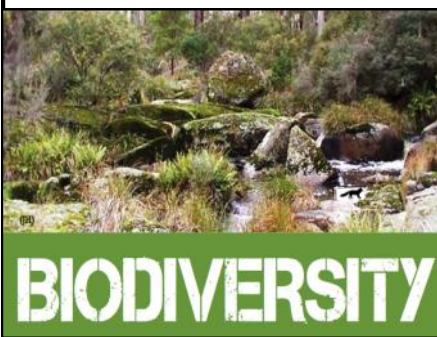
If readers are interested to find out more about U3A and the courses and activities it offers, Program Coordinator Cheryl Earnshaw 5695 3737 u3aeuroa@gmail.com will be happy to provide further information."

Erwin Weinmann — Ruffy

SPEAKING PLAIN ENGLISH

If someone described you as 'Flahoolick' it would mean that you're free with money, generous, full of largesse, an exuberant spender.

From flaithulach, Irish Gaelic for "very generous".



COMMUNITY “WHAT’S ON” CALENDAR — MAY/JUNE 2017



TODAY !!

TODAY !!



<p>Sunday 28th May 10:30am</p>	<p>HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS meet at Highlands Hall Andrew Shaw will take us from Spaniaks Road across country to Lade Road. Bring lunch & water. If it suits you better, meet us at the corner of Spaniaks Road & Highlands Road at 10.45am. For more information contact Judy Reid 5796 9358</p>
<p>Sunday 28th May 9:00am—1pm</p>	<p>NAGAMBIE FARMERS MARKET on centre median strip High St Nagambie Experience a true accredited farmers’ market in the picturesque lakeside town of Nagambie. Further details Contact nagambiefarmersmarket.com.au</p>
<p>Wednesday 31st May 7:30pm</p>	<p>HIGHLANDS CAVEAT RURAL FIRE BRIGADE Highlands Fire Shed “Office” End of Season Meeting. All Members are encouraged to attend. Contact Peter Roberts 0427 529551</p>
<p>Saturday 3rd June 9am — 2pm</p>	<p>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 & crafts, children’s activities, play ground and skate park. Gold coin donation entry</p>
<p>Sunday 4th June 9am — 1pm</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Monday 5th June 11am</p>	<p>HIGHLANDS SPINNERS 450 Caveat-Dropmore Rd. Caveat Bring anything that you may be busy working on – knitting, embroidery, spinning, etc..... All Welcome Contact Jan 5790 4361</p>
<p>Friday 9th June 6:30pm</p>	<p>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 5796 9247</p>
<p>Sunday 11th June 9am—1pm</p>	<p>AVENEL COMMUNITY MARKET at Jubilee Park, Avenel Join our community at this iconic country market where each month we support local makers, artisans, musicians and farmers. For more information Contact Cynthia 0403 831520</p>
<p>Saturday 17th June 9am—1pm</p>	<p>EUROA VILLAGE FARMERS MARKET Rotary Park, Kirkland Ave., Euroa “Meet, Greet, Eat & Shop” A wonderful range of farm fresh produce from “local” producers. Contact Helen Brook 0456 723331 www.euroavillagefarmersmarket.org</p>
<p>Saturday 24th June 6:30pm</p>	<p>TAKE A BITE OUT OF WINTER at Highlands Hall  Curry and Casserole night - bring a slow cooker or Casserole to share. BYO drinks. Gold coin donation. Please let us know if you can make it Mel 0417126975 Judy 5796 9247</p>