



CONVERSATIONS from The Vault

We interviewed Taffy Jukes back in 2013 and we're revisiting this local character as part of our series of 'Conversations from the Vault'.

Stonemason, Blacksmith, Carpenter, Wheelwright, Artist, Weaver, Designer, Restorer, Collector, Restaurateur. Most of us would be happy to have one or perhaps two of these on our CV. 71 year old Ruffy resident, 'Taffy' Jukes can justifiably claim all these titles, but he's far too humble to ever do so.



Growing up in the Welsh town of Rhydlewis in Cardiganshire he was schooled under a local stonemason who taught him all the aspects of stone craft including house-building & dry-walling.

After emigrating to WA in 1970, Taffy worked in Margaret River constructing stone buildings for the developing wineries of the region including Evans & Tate. After 5 years in WA he set out for Victoria where he built and operated Taffy's Restaurant at Longwood East. His next move was to a rough 50 acre

block at the bottom of the Weibye Track at Ruffy where he still lives. His first abode was a slab & daub hut (that is still standing) and he then set to work to build his substantial stone home.

Taffy Jukes was one of a number of Stonemasons working in the Strathbogies and over time he has been responsible for a large number of the fine stone structures in our district and beyond. He also trained many 'young fellas' in the craft such as Mark Noye who is now carving out a reputation of his own as a Stonemason.



One hour at Taffy's place is like a walk back through time.

In the Blacksmith's shop he handed me a small length of worked metal that he had just finished. Of course I immediately identified it as a foot peg for a penny farthing bicycle! What else? From there we wandered through the carpentry shop where there lay two wooden-spoke steel rimmed wheels that he has recently manufactured for a 'bone-shaker' bicycle. Then on to the storage area that holds the Gypsy caravan style slip-on that he built from scratch to fit his Toyota ute. An identical but horse-drawn Gypsy caravan lives outside under cover, still awaiting its first road trip.

Taffy's lifetime as a Stonemason has taken its toll on his back and he can no longer do the heavy work, but everywhere you look there is evidence of his boundless energy; from the walls of neatly split & stacked firewood, to his fully restored vintage Bedford utility, to his raised-bed veggie garden.

On entering his beautiful stone home, the treats continue.

Taffy has his hand-built penny farthing on display (he once rode it all the way to Melbourne) and the lounge room has examples of his hand woven 'rag' rugs that he has made from remnants of some of his old clothes. After bidding him good-bye and heading back up the 'Weibye' I found myself reflecting on the unbridled talents of Taffy Jukes and, by comparison, my own inadequacy.

By Don Cook



Hughes Creek
Catchment Collaborative

LANDCARE NOTICE BOARD

Your HCCC Landcare group is currently building a Database of weeds in the district. If you know of a roadside or property that has significant issues with Blackberries, Patersons Curse or any other weed of concern please contact Melinda Bronca.

0417 126975 5796 9157

hughes.creek1@gmail.com

All info will remain anonymous

IT'S CHOPPER TIME FOR PATTO in the HUGHES CREEK CATCHMENT



The time is fast approaching when aerial spraying of Patersons curse will be conducted in the HCCC area. The Landcare group offers subsidy on the cost of the helicopter & chemical.

To get involved please contact
Mel 5796 9157
hughes.creek1@gmail.com

IT'S ON AGAIN !!! RUFFY CAR BOOT SALE

At Ruffy Recreation Reserve
Sunday October 15th 9am — 1pm

COME & SELL — COME & BUY

ONLY \$10 per Site

Stacks & Stacks of Bargains
Lunchtime Sausage Sizzle
with 2pm Official Opening of
the New Rec Reserve Kitchen
All Enquiries to Marj Leigh
5790 4298



Habbies Howe Beef

Mature Well Hung and Available
Gary's Meat Prahan Market
Berties of Richmond and St Helena
www.habbieshowe.com.au

KOPANICA PASTORAL EXCAVATIONS



PH. 0357 904 235
MOB. 0429 804 235

RABBIT RIPPING, DAMS, DRIVEWAYS
GENERAL EARTHWORKS & MACHINERY HIRE



HILLSIDE FENCING & WEED SPRAYING

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



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

ruffy producestore
www.ruffy.com.au

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

EUROA PRINTERS

We do the lot!

print and design single to full process colour
photocopy business cards graphic design
brochures Large format printing order books
laminating digital imaging invoice books
stubby holders envelopes and more!

45-47 Railway Street, Euroa
(03) 5795 1655

FRANZ KLOFT MECHANICAL REPAIRS
Repairs & service of vehicles

Tyres, Windscreens, Brakes,
Batteries, Exhausts,
Wheel alignment,
Automatic transmission
Phone 5795 2910
38 Railway Street, Euroa
FREE QUOTES

BenCo PLUMBING SERVICES

Ben Laycock
License no. 105134

0438512299

bencoplumbingservices.com
ben@bencoplumbingservices.com.au

AG Fencing & Contracting Services
Grant Wheatley

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

Koponica Pastoral Company P/L

Livestock, Water and
General Cartage

We Will Cart Anything

Phone 5790 4235
Mobile 0447 775 247

MACSHAY

Hay & Silage Contractors

Rounds and Small Squares
We also do Contract Slashing
& General Freight Carriers

Frits 57969312 0438969318
John 57969267 0429861817

EZY ELECTRICAL SERVICES

Phone Ian on
: 0408990487
: 57904328

Registered Electrical Contractor:
License No. 16959

Robert Hamilton Earthmoving



*Specialising in General earthmoving
Erosion Control, Dams, Roadways,
Clearing, Ripping, House/Shed sites
* A range of small & large equipment

Contact Rob Hamilton
0429 059602

EDUCATION SPACE For Hire

The Tablelands Community Centre at Ruffy

Ideal for Meetings, Lectures or
Arts & Crafts

Very Reasonable Rates
Contact Melissa Macdowall
0404 833388

LAWSON

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

Callum - 0437 182 223 5796 9265
lawsonbluetop@gmail.com

AB Home, Garden & Property Services

For regular help or one-off projects like painting, tiling, carpentry, gardening, fence repairs, and more...
call Andrew on
048 777 1234

Donation from Supporters of the **POWERFUL OWL**



ROVERS

MAFEKING ROVER PARK

Camping, Cabins, Multi-Purpose Hall & Picnic Shelter, Abseiling, Archery, Bush Walks, BMX Track, 9 Hole Golf Course & Much more!

Bookings: 03 9111 0030
Site Phone: 03 5797 6351
www.mafekingroverpark.com

Chris Sharman
Energy Efficiency & Solar Energy Specialist


Acme - Air Conditioning | Electrical | Solar

M: 0418 551 301 |
T: Office - 9785 7339
E: chris@acmeair.com.au



Corner Stone Dental Dr John Paul Lee
BDS (Otago NZ)
Orthodontics/Implants
Cosmetic & General Dentistry

Book an Appointment
5792 2055
72 Anzac Ave
Seymour



Kitchen Table Coaching

- *Overcome life's challenges
- *Use inner "core muscles"
- *Ask self challenging questions
- *Sample delicious food

Your Coach Maxien
5799 1691

Amelia Rise Donkeys at Hee Haw Farm



Caveat Rd, Terip Terip.
Open to the Public
Entry by Donation
Open Wed—Sun and Public Holidays
10.00—4.00 pm
Please phone to check if weather is inclement
PH: 0412 251114

HAMILL PLUMBING & GAS



Rural Plumbing
Renovations
Maintenance
New Buildings

Ph: 0422191807
Licence: 106798

RJT EXCAVATIONS
0457740394



All General Earthworks and Excavations
• Dams, House and Shed Sites, Farm Tracks, Driveways, Tree Clearing, Fence Lines and Scrub Clearing, Erosion Control, Rabbit Ripping
• Wide range of machines available
Give us a go we won't disappoint!

CLASSIFIEDS and COMMUNITY NOTICES



Ruffy Community Meeting

**Tablelands Community Centre
Wednesday 20 Sept 7.30 pm**

The purpose of this meeting is to form the **Ruffy Community Planning Reference Group**, the successor to the Ruffy Community Action Group. On the basis of the inputs received at last month's Ruffy Community Forum, this Group will prepare the *Ruffy Community Plan 2017-2021* and implement it over coming years, in conjunction with the other community groups in Ruffy and with funding and support from the Shire of Strathbogie.

It would be desirable for the Reference Group to be made up of a representative from each of the existing community groups in Ruffy plus a small number of representatives of the general community.

Please contact Erwin Weinmann before the meeting to discuss nominations for the Reference Group, or bring your nominations to the meeting.

Erwin 5790 4309 or 0400 850 816 ozrondo1@gmail.com

TERIP TERIP TENNIS for SCHOOLIES

Last year Terip Terip Tennis Club ran a successful two day Tennis Clinic with fully qualified (Level 2) Club Professional Tennis Australia coach Mick Young.

This year the club is hoping to run another clinic on the **3rd and 4th October** in the school holidays.

Lessons would be 45min —1 hour each day for younger age group 5-7 year olds and 2 —2.5hour lesson for 9 years and above.

Beginner adults wishing to receive some coaching may also join the older group.

Cost is dependant on numbers enrolled.

Free morning tea provided.

**For Further Information
Contact Frances 0427 904262**



TRADING PLACES

Good stuff for private sale or wanted by friendly locals



FOR SALE

**'ASHFORD' SPINNING WHEEL
& ACCESSORIES**

Asking \$150 ono

**Anyone interested should Contact Verena
5790 4309**

READERS' WRITES

Love and Loving

Marilynne Robinson in her splendid novel 'Lila', tells the story of a young woman's struggle to survive on the margins of society. Eventually she discovers an unusual romance with an elderly minister and they marry. Lila struggles with the transition from her life on the road to the settled existence with her husband. His love and gentleness is in stark contrast to her life as a homeless itinerant.

At one point, she confesses to her husband that 'she seems unable to love him as much as she loves him'. What I think she is saying is that she feels she lacks the knowledge and experience to actually practise real love. For one thing, she had no parents, no models to go on and the people she had encountered were hardly models to emulate.

Her early life lacked trust & security and violence was always around the corner.

In relationships, love is essential, but we also need the tools to love. Something Lila confessed she lacked. She found she did not know how to love and accept being loved.

Love is not enough if we lack the skills to handle differences and conflict, if we are not transparent with our feelings (men take note) and persist in habits of poor communication.

Lila did improve her tools for love as did her husband, telling us that developing good communication skills is a life time journey. Even in the closest relationships, time changes us, which means that relationships need to be continually under review.

Love itself can be a mystery, but how we love is something we can all learn. Blaming others for a failure in a relationship is not constructive; attending to our own part is definitely our responsibility. What do you think?

Stuart Reid—Highlands

COMMUNITY "WHAT'S ON" CALENDAR — SEPTEMBER 2017



TOMORROW!



| | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p>Monday 11th September 11:00 am</p> | <p>HIGHLANDS SPINNERS Bring anything that you may be busy working on . Same cheerful company and good coffee & tea All Welcome Contact Jan 5790 4361</p> | <p>450 Caveat-Dropmore Rd. Caveat</p> |
| <p>Saturday 16th September 9am—1pm</p> | <p>EUROA VILLAGE FARMERS MARKET A wonderful range of farm fresh produce from "local" producers. Contact Helen Brook 0456 723331 www.euroavillagefarmersmarket.org</p> | <p>Rotary Park, Kirkland Ave., Euroa</p> |
| <p>Wednesday 20th September 7:30pm</p> | <p>RUFFY COMMUNITY MEETING This public meeting is a follow-up from the recent Ruffy Community Forum and its purpose is the formation of the new Ruffy Community Planning Reference Group. (More details under 'Community Notices') For further information Contact Erwin Weinmann 5790 4309</p> | <p>at Tablelands Community Centre, Ruffy</p> |
| <p>Saturday 23rd Sunday 24th September</p> | <p>YEA GARDEN EXPO Everything from rare trees, plants & bulbs through garden tools, ornaments & equipment to compost & soil. Food, Drinks and Good Coffee will be available.</p> | <p>at the Yea Racecourse</p> |
| <p>Sunday 24th September 9am—1pm</p> | <p>NAGAMBIE FARMERS MARKET Experience a true accredited farmers' market in the picturesque lakeside town of Nagambie. Further details Contact nagambiefarmersmarket.com.au</p> | <p>on centre median strip High St Nagambie-</p> |
| <p>Sunday 24th September 10:30am</p> | <p>HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS Andrew Shaw will take us on a Switzerland Range Ramble which will be a lot easier than last month's walk!!!!!! We hope there will be no snow or hail this time, just a beautiful spring day. Bring a carry lunch & water. For more information Contact Judy Reid 5796 9358</p> | <p>meet at Highlands Hall</p> |
| <p>Sunday 24th September 1pm—3pm</p> | <p>HCCC LANDCARE BEE—KEEPING W'SHOP at Tablelands Community Centre There will be 3 Workshop Sessions Session 1 - Is Bee Keeping for me ? David Arnold from Murrnong Permaculture Farm at Violet Town will be covering topics for those considering starting bee keeping. Cost \$20 per session To book a place please contact Janet Hagen hughescreek2@gmail.com 57904268 or message 0458904268</p> | <p>at Tablelands Community Centre</p> |
| <p>Monday 25th September 9:00am</p> | <p>STRATHBOGIE GRANITE SYMPOSIUM Community Centre, Benalla Showgrounds Local residents are encouraged to attend this special and un-repeatable event. Participation assumes an enquiring mind, but no prior knowledge of geology. Only \$25 per person. Further enquiries Contact benalla2017@geosymposia.com.au</p> | <p>Community Centre, Benalla Showgrounds</p> |
| <p>Thursday 28th September 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>Old Caveat Church, Caveat-Dropmore Rd, Caveat</p> |

INTERESTING BUT USELESS FACT
Mozart wrote the nursery rhyme 'twinkle, twinkle, little star' at the age of 5

FINDING FOXY Issue 29 2017
Dropper Foxy Page 3

SPEAKING PLAIN ENGLISH
'Agerasia' is the state of looking younger than one actually is.