

The Granite News

Whiteheads Creek
Hughes Creek
Caveat
Highlands
Ruffy
Terip Terip

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February
5th

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January 29th, 2007

WELCOME TO ISSUE NO.3

All the advertising spaces on the back of the newsletter have now been filled. Apologies to the businesses that missed out.

Thanks for the positive feedback and please keep the articles and suggestions flowing. Email these to Miranda Yorston – miranda@activ8.net.au or ring 57969261

We have started a new section called "Interview with a Local". Peg Lade is our roving reporter and is looking for interesting lives to write about. Please contact her on 57969222 with suggestions on whom she should approach.

VOLUNTEERS AT HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

At this stage we have only heard from one wonderful volunteer. If you are interested in helping at the school or with the newsletter, please get in contact with Allyson on 57969208.

Thanks to Scott McKay who began cricket lessons this week with the senior students. It was great to see the bowling styles improving in just one lesson!

There are two words in the English language that have all five vowels in order. abstemious and facetious

What is the longest word that can be made using only the letters from one row of the keyboard?

RACHEL'S EXERCISE CLASS

What a first night. Eighteen people, balls and mats turned up at the Highlands Hall for the class. It was so crowded that Rachel has decided to run two classes. The first class will begin at 6pm and will cater for the less flexible group. The second class will start at 7pm and will be a more challenging class. Ring Rachel on 0422255256 for further information.

HPS NEW SCHOOL LEADERS

Jack Mitchell and Ari el Graf are our new school captains. Elliot Lade is our Junior School Council President and Yasmine Hodgetts is a school leader. Congratulations to these four students for being elected to these positions of responsibility. We will look forward to hearing more about their contribution to the school this year.

PARRINDI BED & BREAKFAST, RUFFY

Situated on 180 acres of rolling farmland at Ruffy, an easy 2 hour drive north of Melbourne, the 'White House' at Parrindi farm is ideal for couples wishing to enjoy the tranquillity of the Strathbogie Ranges. The cottage is ideal for a complete break in a stress free environment.

Garden lovers can relax in the spacious garden which contains many exotic and native plants, with colour all year round. Be amazed by the variety of native birds – some even eat out of your hand! Enjoy learning about and meeting the farm's 50 or so alpacas (usually including some new babies) and the two llamas, Lassie and Minky and their cria(baby alpaca)

For the more adventurous, there are the many local wineries to explore, as well as numerous bushwalks amongst the spectacular granite boulders of the area – ideal for the photographer or artist - or just spot one of the many local koalas or kangaroos along the track.

Experience the luxury of sleeping under an alpaca quilt with an electric blanket too, in the fully self-contained cottage, which offers television, CD/ cassette player, books and magazines. Country style breakfast baskets are provided. Picnic hampers, BBQ provisions and evening meals are also available by arrangement.

For further information see:

www.parrindi.com.au

Bookings essential: contact Glen & Terry George, Ph: 5790 4318

or email: parrindi@mcmedia.com.au



Early Settlement in Highlands

The Dropmore run of 10,000ha in the Parish of Dropmore was originally part of Avenel station, and was taken up by J.H.Webster in 1841.

In 1849, it was transferred to the Ruffy Bros. Also in 1841, Habbies Howe of 4,000 ha in the Parish of Kobyboyn, was occupied by George Taylor and Gideon Stewart, from Kenilworth in Tasmania. They arrived with 500 sheep and 500 pounds.

In 1869, an act of Parliament decreed that these large properties be subdivided into 320 acre blocks, but the original occupiers were allowed to retain 640 acres as a pre-emptive right.

Henry Lade from Strath Creek selected allotments 1 and 2 in the Parish of Kobyboyn in 1882. About the same time, John, Murdock and Ken Yorston, also from Strath Creek, obtained selections.

Next to come to Highlands were the MacAlpin and Chisholm families from Emu Flat. Joe and Francis Zoch, from Arcadia, selected blocks at Caveat and Highlands.

The Minchinton family came from Corop to Caveat, and Ted Minchinton's daughter, Joyce Waddell, still lives at the homestead. These six pioneer families are commemorated by the six granite pillars at the Highlands crossroads. This stone circle was erected in 1982 to mark the centenary of Highlands. By Doug Lade

Community What's On Calendar - January/February

Week starting 5th Feb	Ruffy CFA Crew Bill Hill Highlands CFA Crew C, with Frits Pompe,
Friday Feb 9th, 8pm Saturday Feb 10th 8pm Sunday Feb 11th 4pm	Euroa Cinema "Happy Feet" Children's animation about a musically talented penguin in Antarctica.
Sat 10th Feb	Highlands Vs Hughes Creek cricket match
Monday 12 February	Scribblers - Next meeting 7:30pm at Leone's 1995 Highlands Rd. Kobyboyn. Ph 0500 500 088 Scribblers is an easy going writing group. New members welcome.
23-25th Feb	Highlands—Caveat Crew Leader Course
Sat 24th Feb	RuffArtz "A Season of Saturdays" Bohemian Nights 8pm Ruffy Public Hall Tickets on sale from Glen Ph 57904318
Sunday 25th Feb	Highlands Ramblers. Our first walk for 2007 will be in the Hughes Creek- Stewart's Creek- Glen Lyon area, depending on the weather. Meet as usual at the Highlands Hall at 10 a.m., with your lunch and a drink, (and your bathers if it's hot !) Any newcomers are very welcome, - enquiries to Peg Lade - 57969222. (No walk if it is a Total Fire Ban Day)
1st March	HCCC Executive Meeting Highlands Primary School 8pm

OUR FIRST INTERVIEW WITH A LOCAL

Dennis Spiteri is a talented and original artist, who "discovered" his 46 acres at Highlands in 1997, after 20 years of looking for land all over Victoria. Dennis spent the first 6 years of his life in Malta. He then moved to Gippsland with his parents, and all his life he knew he was destined to becoming an artist in spite of his parents urging him to "get a proper job". However, they realised his dedication, and he studied at the Prah-ran College of Technology and the National Gallery School for his final year. In 1970 he held his first exhibition, which was almost a sell out. One picture is in the National Gallery in Canberra, and one in the Burwood Campus of Deakin University. At this time, he had discovered classical music, particularly Bee-

thoven's music, and this made an enormous impact on his work. His paintings are huge, and seriously based on music by Sibelius, Bach, and others, with his belief that "All arts aspire to the condition of music".

Dennis believed that Germany was his spiritual home, and he intended to live and work there. A series of incredible personal tragedies eventually brought him back to Australia. Here he worked at what he calls "bread and butter jobs", one of which was 20 years at the State Library, while continuing with, and developing his painting. He became disillusioned with the art world in Melbourne, and here he is, at Highlands. He built an impressive gallery to house and exhibit his paintings and to continue his work. His life's dream has become a reality. To say that the gallery takes one's breath away is no exaggeration.

Situated on Dennis's own land, with a superb view to the west, and a collection of staggering colours and shapes on the walls. Recently, Dennis and his wife Margaret Millburn, who teaches Art at Seymour Technical High School and is a creative potter, have hosted a series of private film viewings. These have included "Cinema Paradiso", one of Dennis's favourite films, which he claims to have watched nearly 1000 times!

Currently, Dennis is working on a series of paintings entitled "Song of the Earth", inspired by nature and the composer, Mahler. To visit the gallery is an amazing and almost spiritual experience.

The gallery will be open on March 3 and 4, as part of the Hi-Arts exhibition at Highlands and is not to be missed. The "Four Seasons" series, painted in 1976, will be shown at this time.

BITS OF BOTANY AND BIRDS.

Many years ago, Doug came in and said "I've seen the smallest bird in the world!" Further investigation identified

this as the Golden-Headed Cisticola, only 9 to 11.5 cms in length. It lives in rank growth around wetlands and swamps, and breeding males call incessantly from grass tops, fences, and electricity wires with an insect-like buzz. It

has a small, domed nest, with a side entrance, in low shrubs, tussocks or rushes, and breeds from September to March. I thought it had disappeared from our swamps, but I was delighted to find it buzzing away this summer. By Peg Lade

THANK YOUS FROM HPS

A rather late thank you to Shane Deglati for donating the eggs for the Highlands Primary School Break Up Breakfast last year. Thank you also to Andrew and Sharon Shaw who donated the bacon, two essential ingredients in a serious breakfast. Next week we will include photos of our three new wonderful Preps and our two very efficient Bus Captains!

Classifieds & Community Notices

Work Wanted - Martin looking for work
Ph. 0500 500 088
Mob. 0416 356 930

Ruffy Fire Brigade:

We held our Community Wildfire Survival night at the School on Friday night-Many thanks to those who prepared the room and also to those attending. There is still a long period of fire-danger to go! We have also begun to train our new recruits,(and older ones) with a session on Saturday followed by a BBQ. Don't worry if you missed out-there will be some mid-week evenings to follow.

RAINFALL

Terip Terip was unlucky to miss out on the New Year's Eve thunderstorm, and their total for January was 25.8mms.

Highlands managed to sneak in a total of 45 mms, but this included 21 mms from New Year's Eve.

We will all hope for a Noah's flood in February!

Tiles needed

Needed, tiles for mosaic sculpture. To be created by the senior grades at Highlands Primary this term. Anyone with tiles, coloured glass, broken or old china, who wish to donate please ring or drop off at my place or school.

1995 Highlands Rd. Kobyboyon
0500 500 088 Leone.

HIGHLANDS CFA

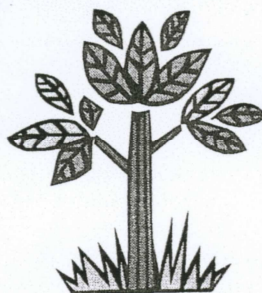
Last year several brigade members undertook a Level 2 First Aid course and learnt essential life-saving skills. For this qualification to remain current an annual update of the Level 1 CPR component needs to be done between now and the end of April. Further details of date and cost will be noted in the Granite News, but if any other community members are interested in obtaining this basic skill please advise Pauline 57969301 of your interest before 20th Feb.

Many thanks to Jenny Webb, Trish Pompe, Leanne Pleash and Leone Gabrielle who have offered their time and expertise in occasionally cleaning up the fire shed. All crew can make their job easier by ensuring that any rubbish is placed in the bins. Please note there is now a roll of garbages in both vehicles to dispose of any rubbish generated on fire calls.

WATER SAVING TIPS

Leaking taps can waste up to 200 litres of water each day. To reduce leaks, turn your garden and household sink taps off tightly and replace washers as soon as they begin to leak.

Make sure the dishwasher and washing machine are full before running them and if you can, set the water level to match the amount of clothes you are washing.



purchase at interval. Tickets for each performance will be \$26.00 each. However, some performances over the last few years have been sold out, with people missing out on seats. You have the opportunity to purchase a Season Ticket which gives entry to all four performances at a cost of \$78.00 – great value! Please note the tickets are transferable but not refundable. Concession tickets (season ticket \$45.00 or \$15.00 per show) only apply for students 16 to 18 years of age. Children 15 and under are free. The number of Season Tickets available is strictly limited and tickets will be allotted on a 'first come - first served' basis. If you would like further information please contact:

Glen George Phone: 5790 4318 or email: parrindi@mcmedia.com.au

For Sale:

Double horse float, good condition, extra foot in length, comfortable travel for two big horses, freshly painted, centre divide, sound floor, hydraulic brakes, registered until 24/03/07, user friendly, new tyres \$5,800
Ring Harriet 57969261

RUFFY NEWS

Ruffy Primary School was finally officially closed at a school council meeting last week. Thanks to Simon Weatherall and other school council members for completing this task. The new "Ruffy Community School" committee will meet on Tuesday evening next week to further discuss future plans for the use of the school building.

John Furlanetto is president of this committee and Naomi McLennon is secretary.

Contact them if you are interested in participating in future planning sessions.

The annual Ruffy gymkhana was held on Sunday at the recreation ground.

How many years has the gymkhana been going? It must be over 30 years. By Janet Hagen

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL, JUST EMAIL MIRANDA WITH YOUR REQUEST.

MLA PRELIMINARY APPLICATION

The depletion of established single/small groups of paddock trees is the focus of this submission.

Jenny Strong has written a preliminary application for funding to the MLA (Meat & Livestock Australia) for \$15,000 over 3 years. This is to trial different fencing techniques of scattered paddock trees for regeneration. There is also an application for funding to trial a variety of methods to remove mistletoe.

Jenny has only heard from two other landowners at this stage. It can't proceed without another 8 landowners joining the group.

If you are interested in being part of this proposal, please contact Jenny now ph.57969213. The submission has to be submitted by the 28th Feb-

Ruffartz 2007 Café Concert Series

'A Season of Saturdays'

Once again Ruffartz is presenting an exciting line-up of high quality, professional musicians performing an excellent program of music from around the world. Dates for this year's concerts are:

Saturday 24 February Bohemian Nights

Saturday 2 June Zulya & the Children of the Underground

Saturday 25 August Sanfona

Saturday 17 November Gutbucket Jug Band

All performances will be in the Ruffy Public Hall commencing at 8.00 pm. (Doors open at 7.30 pm.) You are welcome to BYO drinks and nibbles. Coffee and cake will be available to

The Granite News acknowledges the following sponsors.

Thank you for supporting Highlands Primary School and our community.

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5796 9355

Ruffy Produce Store

Breakfast & Lunch
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Lunch & Dinner Fridays from 11.30am

First Friday BBQ- 2nd February

Need to book, call Helen or Doug

T: 5790 4387

E: info@ruffystore.com

F: 5790 4209

Victor Oles

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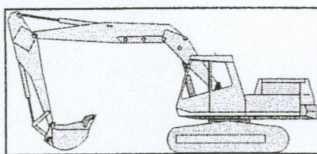
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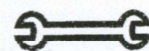
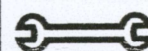
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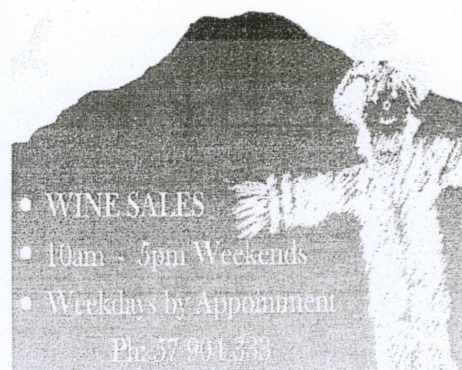
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ANTCLIFF'S CHASE



- WINE SALES
 - 10am - 5pm Weekends
 - Weekdays by Appointment
- Ph: 57 901 533

Thank you to the band of posties who kindly deliver The Granite News out of the goodness of their hearts.