

# The Granite News

Whiteheads Creek  
Hughes Creek  
Caveat  
Highlands  
Ruffy  
Terip Terip

Highlands Primary School  
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Highlands 3660

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Volume 1, Issue 6  
February 23rd, 2007

## WELCOME TO ISSUE NO.6

If you are doing anything interesting on your land or in your life, let us know so we can share it. Poor Allyson is still receiving lots of emails for The Granite News, please send them to [miranda@activ8.net.au](mailto:miranda@activ8.net.au)

## INTERVIEW WITH A LOCAL

Murrindi Shire Councillor - Leanne Pleash and her husband, Adam Dennis, both of Highlands. **"THE TWO of US"**

Adam Dennis was an eastern suburbs boy from Boronia, leaving home in 1980. He played the guitar in a band which had gigs at local pubs. He was in the P.S. for 7 years and says he was put on a list "Never to be promoted!"

He became a consultant in Internet Technology, and he established a firm with Leanne, "CONSONANT", which keeps him very busy. He commutes to the city to work with their clients, but hopes to transfer most of that to working from Highlands. Adam also teaches guitar at Alexandra and at home. He will be performing at the Hi-Arts weekend at Highlands.

Leanne Pleash was born the youngest of a family of 6 at Singleton in the Hunter Valley, N.S.W. Her father was a coal miner, and her mother a "feisty Irish Catholic". At the end of 1995, she met Adam and began an Email relationship with him, which obviously dispelled her first impressions of a "surly, arrogant and demanding" personality! Leanne was involved in producing "Watermark Australia", and also with the Australian Democrats. However, she and Adam became disillusioned with formal politics. In 2003 Leanne completed the Fairley Leadership course in Shepparton, and felt she had enough experience to take on Local Government. She is currently studying for a double degree in Information Systems and Arts, and has one minor subject in Journalism to finish this year.

She was elected to the Murrindindi Shire Council in Nov. 2005. Last year she worked in the Community and Customer Services portfolio and this year in Tourism and Economic Development. We are indeed lucky to have such a dynamic, well qualified and hard working person as our representative, and someone who has such an interesting and supportive husband! By Peg Lade

## NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Student Learning Awards:

**Junior Room** Home Learning: Too hard to choose this week- tops all round

**Spelling:** Imogen, Kassie

**Tables:** Laura  
**Counting:** John  
**Senior Room**

**Home Learning:** Michael, Elliot

**Spelling:** Jack H, Elliot, Ariel, Yas

**Tables:** Michael, Elliot  
**HPS Spotlight on a new prep:**

**Full name:** Kendall Dawn Richards

**Birthday:** 5th January

**Eye Colour:** Green

**Fav Food:** Fruit

**Fav Games:** Construction

**Fav Story:** Animals at Work

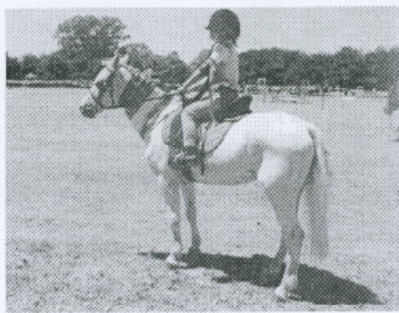
**Fav Person:** Emillie

**Fav Colour:** Pink

**Pet Hate:** Spiders and snakes

**Loves:** Riding my horse

Dusty



## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marisa Gorry and Greg Philpot are proud to announce that Tobias now has a new baby brother. RHILEY THOMAS PHILPOT was born at Healesville Hospital on Sunday 11th February at 7pm, weighing a hefty and healthy 8lb 13oz.

Kylie and Steve Horne are also proud parents of a baby boy, a new brother for Alexander. GEOFFREY WILLIAM HORNE was born at Kilmore Hospital on Wednesday 14th Feb, 1.26pm, weighing a healthy 2.92kg. (A few more members for the up and coming Highlands cricket team!)

## HiArts Exhibition Saturday Night BBQ.

The HiArts BBQ will be held on Saturday, 3rd March at 6pm. The Primary School will be catering. Drinks can be purchased on site. The band will be a local group "Too Far Apart". We ask for a gold coin to help pay for the band.

## Calendar of Events Brochure

The Murrindindi Tourism Calendar of Events brochure for Winter/Spring (June 07–November 07) is currently being prepared. If you are involved with a tourism event within Murrindindi, then this event may be able to be listed in the brochure free of charge.

The application form is to be returned to Murrindindi Shire Council (Attention: Lisa Wallace) by Friday 23 March, 2007. For more information PH. 5772 0318 or by email to [tourism@murrindindi.vic.gov.au](mailto:tourism@murrindindi.vic.gov.au)

## "Mt Wombat fire tower is now on watch ,Good morning all."

Geoff Broughton, the fire spotter on Mt Wombat near Strathbogie, has spent a long summer looking out for us. Seven days a week, 10 hours a day, Geoff is employed by DSE to constantly scan the horizon for smoke. He looks out across our tableland, the alps and the plains. Equipped with his binoculars, maps, radios and phones Geoff does a wonderful job. Not many people would know the landmarks of our district as well as Geoff. There is nothing like thunder storm activity to get Geoff pulse racing as he tries to pinpoint lightning strikes and predict storm movement. If you turn your UHF radio to channel 13 you can listen to Mount Wombat and hear some very local fire information as well as interesting comments on life in general. If you would like to report anything fire related to Geoff ring

57 905 244. During quiet times you can even drive to the tower and visit Geoff.

By Janet Hagen



## Classifieds & Community Notices

### WHOLE FARM PLANNING COURSES

Two courses planned for June & July at Ruffy .1) "Updating Infra Structure" Planning for a drier future. Fencing, Water Supplies, Fodder Conservation, Pasture Establishment .Fire Protection .etc 2)"Possibilities for Our Place". Develop a 5 year action plan for your property. Environmental information about your place. Land Management Strategies. 5 week Course costs \$220 per property. The course will provide you with; an aerial photo of your property, Classroom sessions Reference Material in Folder, Individual property visit by DPI Staff. Workshops with Experts. Field Trip to visit local properties. A "Whole Farm Plan" of your own. A minimum of 12 people is needed to run each course. Courses will be tailored to suit participants interests and availability, could run week-end or night sessions.

**ALL LANDHOLDERS WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE.**

If interested contact Janet Hagen 57 904 268 or Kristy Youman DPI Broadford 57840618

### Ruffy Public Hall

"Granite News" readers and all community members now have the opportunity to support the Ruffy Public Hall when they shop. Redropps supermarkets in Alexandra and Yea have added the Ruffy Hall to their list of community services for the allocation of shoppers' points. If you wish to support the Ruffy Hall then tell the checkout operator to allocate your points to number 665 on their list.

Labrador pups x 2. Male, Black, vaccinated, born 21st Oct, pure-bred, fantastic family dogs, great with children, chocolate mum. \$250 03 57 904303

**WANTED:** empty 40 kg super bags to put manure in for mum's garden. Please ring Jack on 57969312

**True or False:** A jiffy is an actual unit of time for 1/100th of a second, TRUE  
Q. What is a word with 9 letters and only one vowel ?

### Highlands CFA

The mid-season meeting was well attended last Thursday and the following items may be of interest to some. HCRFB now has 46 members with Wildfire (min. skills) accreditation. If anyone is interested in purchasing a pager to access CFA messages (unable to send, just receive) then please contact Pauline 57969301 to express interest by

### Doug Lade contributes his first day at Highlands State School No 3440

In February 1926, aged 4 years and 11 months, I saddled "Old Pony", and with my father leading him down the road, we met Annie Lade, aged 13, (Andrew Shaw's grandmother) on her pony. She attached a leading rein to Old Pony for the two and a quarter mile (3.6 kms) ride through Yorstons paddocks to the Highlands School at the cross roads. The ponies were then shut in the horse yard (where the tennis courts are now situated ) for the day.

The school room was part of the Highlands Hall, and my first teacher was Miss May I. Rouse (the one and only staff). She boarded with my parents and walked to school. About 5 older children were in Grade 8, and 7 of us in Grades 1 to 7. I shared a desk with George Tennant, and we were issued with a slate and a pencil each. Arithmetic was the first lesson, then we cleaned our slates, or turned them over, ready for spelling and writing. The school lessons finished at 3.30, and I rode home for afternoon tea, before feeding horses, dogs and hens.

### ENERGY SAVING TIPS

*A difference of just one degree on the thermostat can reduce your energy consumption and greenhouse pollution by 10%.*

*10% of Australian household energy use goes on standby power—turn off your appliances at the wall when not in use and cut your greenhouse pollution.*



**DISTRICT WEATHER** Hot, humid days with afternoon and evening thunderstorms has been the pattern for the past week. "Gientannar," at Highlands, received 6.4 mms of rain in 2 separate storms, whereas Terip had the storms, but only a total of 3 mms. We watched the black clouds to the South and West of Highlands with envy, as some places South of Yea apparently had more than one inch.

Friday 9th March. Cost is either \$126 or \$165 depending on numbers ordered. Brigade member Greg Philpot has advanced an idea for better communications within the local area, particularly in reference to fire situations. He needs 2-3 people to join him in furthering his ideas to become a workable concept. For further information pick up one of Greg's documents from the school and/or give him a ring 57969360.

### RECOGNIZING ACUTE EMOTIONAL DISTRESS

As we know, the drought is a very stressful time for many people. Janet Hagen recently went to a seminar on "The drought and Stress" and sent me these notes. Many of the behaviours described are perfectly normal, every day responses to life and should only be considered to be of concern if they are out of character and combined with a number of other symptoms.

#### What might lead you to be concerned about an individual.

##### Behaviours :

Avoidance / Withdrawn behaviour  
Disorganized behaviour  
Deterioration in dress or appearance / reduced self care  
Erratic behaviour  
Repetitive or seemingly compulsive behaviour  
Self - destructive or high risk behaviour  
Aggressive behaviour  
Loss of interest in everyday activities.  
Substance abuse . Drugs or alcohol.

##### Biological Changes:

Changes in appetite and weight.  
Changes in energy and activity levels  
Changes in sleeping patterns.  
Decreased levels of Functioning:  
Reduced family , interpersonal or social functioning.  
Mood Changes:  
Frequent anger , irritability or tantrums.  
Increased levels of fear and anxiety.  
Reduced enjoyment and interest in usual activities.  
Depressed behaviour including crying and despair.

##### Thoughts:

Confusion, Impaired judgement, Delusions , including fixed false beliefs about oneself , other people , events or the environment .  
Difficulties comprehending language.  
Hallucinations . either auditory , visual or tactile.  
Poor concentration. Poor memory  
**WHERE TO SEEK HELP in VICTORIA.**  
Financial Services  
Upper Goulburn Rural Financial Counselling Service Ken Slatter - 28 High St Seymour 3660 57 354 342 mobile 0407 844 558 kslatter@eck.net.au  
SANE Australia Depression & Mental Health Help Group.  
Helpline 1800 187263 – Booklet available "Guide to Depression" Identifying the symptoms and helping yourself to get better. [www.sane.org](http://www.sane.org)  
Victorian Government Health Information Mental Health Services  
[www.health.vic.gov.au/mentalhealth/services](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/mentalhealth/services)

Information Victoria 1300 366 356 For the cost of a local call . 8.30am – 5pm Weekdays . They can transfer you to the government departments and agencies you want and help you locate the appropriate one if you are not sure who to talk to .

Lifeline : Phone counselling , information and referral . phone 13 11 14 24 hours



<b>Community What's On Calendar - February/March</b>	
Week beg 26th Feb	Highlands CFA Crew —Lt Frits Pompe.
1st March	HCCC Executive Meeting Highlands Primary School 8pm
2nd March	Clean Up Australia Day for Highlands Primary School children and community members. 11.30 am –1pm . Please let Allyson know if you can join us.
2nd March	Ruffy Produce Store First Friday BBQ Need to book 5790 4387.
2nd March	YEA JUNIOR FOOTBALL AND NETBALL REGISTRATION AND INFO NIGHT, Yea Rec, 4.00pm AGE DETAILS, START DATES, TRAINING DETAILS, FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS. COME AND REGISTER YOUR INTEREST AND SUPPORT. Call Kevin or Lucy if you can't make it but are interested in playing ph 57801474 Thanks....see you there....
3rd & 4th March	Hi Arts Weekend, Highlands Hall. In addition to art, poetry and music and children's activities, the exhibition will be having pottery and spinning demonstrations, sales of home ware, local produce seedlings and herbs.
Wed 7th March	Highlands Playgroup at Leone's 10-12 , Please Note day change. All welcome . 1995 Highlands Rd, Ph 0500 500 088
Wednesdays 1-3	Steiner playgroup in Yea Pioneer Reserve Hall. All welcome. Enquiries: Leone 0500 500 088
Sunday 11TH March	TERIP TERIP COMMUNITY BBQ AT THE REC RESERVE 6pm for sherries and nibbles Meat supplied. BYO drinks \$15 per person \$5 for school children Please could you bring a salad or dessert? RSVP Helen McKenzie 5790 4211
Monday 12th March	This year the Lions Club of Seymour Goulburn is again organizing the long-running Bush Market in Goulburn Park, Seymour 9am to 3pm. For more information, call Linda Johns, Publicity Officer, 57990239, rljohns@dodo.com.au
Saturday 17th March	Highlands CFA Community Meeting , Highlands Hall 2-4pm Purpose: To explain the Fireguard Scheme Audience: All community members at risk from fire. Outcome: You will improve your individual fire preparedness by joining with neighbours for mutual support. Contact: Leanne Pleash to confirm attendance 57969200 or 0411244306
Saturday 24th March	Whitehead's Creek Landcare Group and Whitehead's Creek Fire Brigade invite you to come along and Celebrate our Community at a Celtic fun night 24th March 2007 At the Hall, Kobyboyn Road, starting 7.00PM Featuring NICOLA STRATING, CORINN STRATING AND JEREMEY DUNLOP In a delightful Celtic and folk trio-These young artists will get your feet tapping and your heart singing. Also featuring special local performers. Come along and enjoy your friends and neighbours and celebrate our wonderful community BYO Nibbles and drinks. Bring a plate of something scrumptious towards supper. See you there! Ph 57923696 or 57921848 for more info.
24th March	Drought relief concert, Come and join in to raise money for those in need. Prizes available. Drinks and BBQ provided at the cost of \$1.00 Where: Yea Shire Hall Time: 5:30-9:00 Price: Adults \$3.00 Children (16 & Under) \$2.00 Please contact before 7th of March: Brooke Lloyd:0411580286

### Landcare trees

Indigenous Plants & Trees grown by Euroa Arboretum from local seed will be available again this year . Expressions of interest are now being taken for the 2007 planting season . Some orders from last season have been nursed over the summer and are ready for planting when it rains. Ring Janet to discuss your plans . Ph. 57 904 268 .Number of plants and species preferred. Cost subsidized by Landcare .  
Replace what has died in your garden with plants more suited to a drier future.

### WANTED:

### PHOTOGRAPHS OF WHITE-HEADS CREEK FOR A LANDCARE SIGN

We are in the process of designing a new notice board for our two Landcare shelters. We need some photos of our various landscapes to include in the artwork.

Please contact Lesley D'Alziel if you have any photos or know of someone who may be able to help us, jldalziel@bordnet.com.au

### HIGHLANDS CFA

TAFE ONE DAY CHAINSAW COURSES  
COURSE CODE SCCHAINSAW  
National Accreditation Cert II Agriculture  
Dates are:  
18 Apr 07 8:30 am - 4:30 pm at William Orr Campus Shepparton  
16 May 07 8:30am - 4:30 pm at Dookie College  
27 Jun 07 8:30am - 4:30 pm at Dookie College Cost is \$130.  
Course: Respond to Low Structure Fires  
Dates: 4, 11 and 18 Apr 07  
Time: 1900 hrs Location: Yea Fire Station  
Attendance: Participants must be able to attend all sessions.  
Contact: Nominations to Jeffrey Swain (03.5796.9353(H) or 03.5735.6922(W))

### Booking the Highlands Hall:

If you want to book the wonderful Highlands Hall for any meeting or event please contact Sue Peterson on 5797-6395 and she will look after you. Tables and chairs also for hire.

### THE TABLELANDS COMMUNITY CENTRE

(formerly the Ruffy Primary School)  
The Tablelands Community Centre Committee meetings will be held at the Ruffy Primary School at 8.00 pm on the second and fourth Mondays of each month For information phone: John Furlanetto 0427 344 956.



The Granite News acknowledges the following sponsors.

Thank you for supporting Highlands Primary School and our community.

## Binalong Services



Computing and book-keeping support.

On-site help at local prices!

**5796 9355**

## Ruffy Produce Store

Breakfast & Lunch  
Saturdays, Sundays & Public Holidays  
from 8am

Lunch & Dinner Fridays from 11.30am

**Need to book, call Helen or Doug**

T: 5790 4387

E: [info@ruffystore.com](mailto:info@ruffystore.com)

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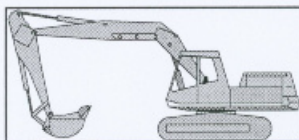
Interior / Exterior

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Mob: 0428 628 640



## A.J. & S.L. SHAW EXCAVATIONS



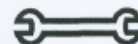
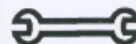
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## KELLBELL

BOBCAT,

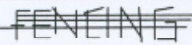
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- Ph: 57 904 333

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