

The Granite News

Whiteheads Creek
Hughes Creek
Caveat
Highlands
Ruffy
Terip

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WELCOME TO ISSUE NO.8

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INTERVIEW WITH A LOCAL

Sparked by Sari Wawn's interesting article on Eliot Neave last edition, it prompted thoughts about who else is living and working in The Tableland! Amongst the many semi-retired folk living and working in this wonderful tableland that The Granite News covers are Jill and Jim Davidson at Terip Terip. Having a small acreage during the years their 3 children attended school at Ruffy Primary and Euroa High School meant the benefits of rural living were enjoyed. They became 'weekenders' in recent years, living in Benalla through the week and returning to Terip at weekends only. Now they are able to spend more time here, take time for 2 delightful grand-daughters and generally become part of their local communities once again. They also enjoy their garden, fruit trees and farm jobs.

Jim's Story.

Jim has worked as a Telecommunications Technician, Fisheries and Wildlife Officer, self-employed farmer, fencer and woolclasser, prior to commencing his career in Educational Administration with the Department of Education and Training, Hume Region. During his 17 years in education, Jim was a School Council Liaison Officer, Senior Personnel Officer and finally, Assistant Regional Director. Through these experiences, Jim is a certified Professional Coach, has completed Advanced Negotiation and Mediation training and is also an accredited Myers Briggs Type Indicator facilitator. Now retired, Jim is self-employed, working from home part-time in strategic planning, change and personnel management, coaching and mentoring, conflict resolution and mediation, and delivery of professional development programs. He also enjoys working occasionally for neighbours and is enjoying the flexibility of semi-retirement.

Jill's story coming soon.

NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Does anyone have an exercise ball at home that they no longer use? Each morning at school we all do exercises and a run (in an orderly fashion usually) around the school grounds. We are all becoming much fitter and more flexible. We have bought rubber mats for everyone so that we can lie on the concrete without getting dirty, getting wet hasn't been a problem for a while! Now we would like to start using balls as part of this exercise programme. Please drop them into the school or give us a ring and we can collect them, many thanks.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

On Friday the 2nd of March all the schools in Australia were invited to clean up their local area by walking along the tree lined roads and collecting as much litter as possible. We had groups of people from Highlands P.S. We found ten 40 kilo bags full of rubbish. We also had a lot of exercise because we walked at least 3 kilometres. When we returned we put all the bags together and took a picture of the disgusting rubbish, the exhausted students and the teachers who participated.

Michael Shaw

NEW PROGRAM OFFERS DROUGHT MANAGEMENT HELP

A NEW free and easy-to-use computer program to help farmers to better manage their production, planning, budgeting and drought-recovery costs is now available.

The Member for Seymour, Ben Hardman, said the Agrigater program was designed to make good business planning and budgeting simple.

No accounting, record-keeping or book-keeping knowledge is needed, and only basic computer knowledge is required to use the program.

"The program can be used to calculate costs of production, profit margins and to analyse the effect of climate variability on business operation," Mr Hardman said.

"Farmers can obtain a copy of the Agrigater program by calling their local DPI office or the Customer Services Centre on 136 186.



Classifieds & Community Notices

A Great Weekend of Arts and Fun

Thanks to all those who contributed to a great weekend at the HiArts Exhibition. It was a lot of hard work, but enormously satisfying. The art, the music, the food and wine was terrific and all went well. We hope those who came enjoyed the weekend.
ps. A heart shaped neckless was found at the weekend. If it is yours ring 5796 9358.

I wish to thank the HiArts organizers for publicising my exhibition, and also all the workers at the hall for sending people up to the gallery. My "Four Seasons" will remain on exhibition until 29th April. Anyone who has not yet seen it, can phone Dennis or Margaret on 57969373 and arrange a viewing. Dennis Spiteri

A HUGE THANKYOU from the HiArts committee to all our wonderful Catering Angels. Your efforts in preparing food and serving over the weekend were appreciated enormously. It was great to see so many new faces from all around the district. Many thanks from Sammy and Jenny.

Q What is a six letter word with no vowels ? A.Rhythm
Another is Syzygy (-Means a pair of connected or correlated things)
Q.Can you think of five words beginning with DW ?
Thanks Scotty for pointing out that our 9 letter word with only 1 vowel in fact only had 8 letters. Perhaps we could just add an s.

COLLECTIONS IN THE UNDERGROUND

Sophia McAlpin a past Highlands Primary School student, Fashion Designer and partner in "Bird Girl" clothing gallery at 155 Brunswick St, Fitzroy presented a collection in the De Graves St Underground on Saturday evening, 3rd March, as part of L'Oreal Fashion Festival. Hundreds of fashionistas (and quite a few spunks) crammed into the subway following a humid 36 degree day that, along with the floor parade lights, ured the subway into an underground sauna! Despite the heat and sweat and lack of much-needed fans, the dedicated models flashed off new ranges from local independent fashion labels Queen, a name is a label, and Bird Girl.

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.

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

Ruffy Store
Rainfall Grand total for Feb. 20.5ml

Terip won on the night of 8th March, with 8.2 mms, whereas Highlands has only managed a total of 2.6 mms in three falls so far in March.

ENERGY SAVING TIPS

An average Victorian home uses 86,000 litres of water a year outdoors, mostly in the garden. By spreading mulch over you soil, you can reduce the amount of water wasted through evaporation by around 70%. Make mulch from leaves, grass clippings, newspapers, bark, wood, straw or other organic matter.



Martin is looking for work ph.0500500088 mobile:0416356930. I'm willing to do a variety of jobs, including gardening, farm, general labour and odd jobs.

Highlands CFA

Congratulations to Matt Smith, Gavin Crittenden & Matty McKernan for recently completing the Crew Leaders course at Boho. Well done fellas. Many thanks to all those brigade members who assisted in some way at the HiArts Fest, your willing contribution was gratefully appreciated. Don't forget the Region 12 Family Thank You Day on Sunday 15th April. RSVP to Pauline 57969301 before March 26th.

What is Community Kitchens about?

Community Kitchens in Alexandra has had its first cook-up with two mums and our volunteer chef Angelique getting together at St. John's Parish Hall. Stir fry was on the menu with lots of discussion amidst the busy chopping and stirring.

Community Kitchens is not a soup kitchen and is not just for people on a limited budget. It is basically a group of interested people getting together to plan and cost out recipes that they can either enjoy together or take home to share with the family.

Alexandra's first community kitchen has sought to encourage mums to get together to enjoy each others company. Berry Street Victoria and St. John's Anglican Church are providing volunteer minders on site so that mums can cook in peace.

All that is needed is an interest in cooking with all levels of cooking skill welcome. Alexandra Community Kitchens is now meeting 10.00am to 12 noon every Wednesday with anyone welcome to become part of our group - whether you have children or not.

Community Kitchens will also be extended to other towns where there is an interest. A meeting is planned for Buxton on Monday 19th March at 9.00am. If you'd like to know more please give Chris Wasley a call on 5772 0800 or 0417 028 100 or just drop into Alexandra's Community Kitchen and say hello.

EXERCISE CLASSES

The good news is that the Tuesday night exercise classes at the Highlands Hall WILL continue. Annette Cherry is going to run the classes. You may have noticed Annette, she attended all Rachel's classes and was up the front on the left hand side.

Gentle class -6pm

More Challenging class-7pm

Do come and make it worth Annette's effort to drive up the hill once a week. Enough people have to come to make it worth her time so please make use of this great opportunity. It's a lot easier than driving to yea or Seymour or doing it on your own!

Community What's On Calendar - March/April

Week beg 12th Mar	Highlands CFA crew - Peter Roberts
14th March	Scattered Trees Meeting Highlands Primary School 8pm
Saturday 17th March 2-4pm	"Community Fireguard Scheme . The scheme assists community groups to develop bushfire strategies that suit their lifestyle, environment and values. The scheme encourages neighbours to work together to improve bushfire safety. Why should I be involved? The CFA cannot provide every person and home with individual protection during a major bushfire. There are areas of the Highlands-Caveat region where the fire crews will not be able to safely venture. What can I do? Encourage your neighbours to come with you to the initial CFA presentation at the Highlands Community Hall . The CFA expert will advise and assist all interested groups of neighbours. Specific site inspections can be arranged. Contact: Leanne Pleash to confirm attendance 57969200
Sunday 18th March	Fiddle player Kevin Burke and Ged Foley -singer/multi-instrumentalist will perform at The Flour Mill , Euroa between 3.30 and 6.30. Paul Wookey, well known local singer / songwriter / instrumentalist will be the support .Bookings are essential, as seats are limited. An Irish influenced meal will be served following the concert at \$25 per head. Please book on 035795 2772, and drinks will be available at the bar.
23rd Mar 8pm 24th Mar 8pm 25th Mar 4pm	Euroa Community Cinema "Night at the Museum" (PG) A bumbling security guard at the Museum of Natural History accidentally lets loose an ancient curse , causing the creatures on display to come to life ...
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
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
Sunday 25th March	Murrindindi Climate Change Network Meeting Moleworth Hall 2-6pm . Explore what we as community
25th March	HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS _ Next walk will probably be a hill-top- meet at Highlands Hall at 10-30 as usual. Enquiries to Peg Lade - 57969222, or Email pdlade@hotmail.com.
Monday 26th March	7:30pm Singing & experimenting with harmonic sounds, If you can sing or can't it doesn't matter, come and have fun , expand a boundary or two. a loose group similar to scribblers no cost involved meet at each other houses , see what songs come out of our beautiful hills and ourselves. - at Leone's 1995 Highlands Rd, Kobyboyn, Ph 0500 500 088
31st March 3.30pm Ruffy Primary School	Fresh Water Fish Circus Come along and forget about the drought with the fun fish circuses that are rolling out across the district. Amongst the attractions; • Electro-fishing • Critter displays • Freak-show tent • FUN FISHY activities for the kids • Dinner and entertainment Fishy Dinner and bush dance at Ruffy Hall from 6.30pm RSVP Cathy Olive DPI 57720278 for catering purposes

Arts in Euroa

This is the time of year to become acquainted with local artistic talent. The Euroa Art Show was held last week-end in the Old Flour Mill Gallery.

Landscapes local and further a field in water colour, oil and pastel were the dominant theme. Still life, animal and bird studies were also popular. There were less textiles and less 3D works than usual. David Kelly's poetry both visual and verbal sold well.

The mood at the opening was relaxed and informal. Tess Noonan Egan, current president of Euroa Arts, and amongst other things an artist who works with wire, reminded guests how important it is to make time to enjoy the arts in these hard times.

It would be impossible to single out any one artist for praise, but we hope to bring you more information about some of them in profiles in Granite News in the coming weeks.

Thanks must go to all the artists, the elegant and talented musicians from Strings Plus and Elgo's who supplied the wine.

BITS OF BOTANY AND BIRDS

TREE VIOLET (*Hymenanthera dentata*)

Described as a stunted shrub to small tree, which can be spiny, it often grows among rocks, but likes river banks and moist gullies. The flowers are tiny yellow bells in late Spring,

crowded on branches , and the fruits are pale grey-green to purplish berries. This native shrub is quite common in our area, but stock seem to find it very palatable, so it survives among rocky outcrops where it is inaccessible.

SWEET BURSARIA (*Bursaria spinosa*)

This is also a hardy shrub or small tree, but with a more rounded leaf, cream flowers in panicles, and the fruits are purse-like capsules, which are thin, brown and dry.

We saw both these shrubs on our last Highlands Ramble, at the Gorge on Stewarts Creek. Have a look next time you are along your creeks or on a rocky hillside.

"Goulburn Broken Dung Beetle Project. Jeff Swain has three information packages available. The project has several criteria. The most relevant is that you have a minimum of 20 - 30 beef or dairy cattle.

Contact Jeff 5796.9353."