

# The Granite News

Whiteheads Creek  
Hughes Creek  
Caveat  
Highlands  
Ruffy  
Terip Terip

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## HELEN McDougall, of Ruffy Produce Store.

Helen was born in Melbourne, and brought up as an only child, by lovely adoptive parents. After finishing Art School at Swinburne, her first job was in the front room at Georges, where she was involved with beautiful clothes. Then came a stint with TAA ground staff, and on to World Travel in Sydney. Helen and her partner, David McDougall, opened the first successful Jeans shop in Sydney, and then moved to the Central Coast. There they rehabilitated an old stone house and bred horses as a side line. After 10 years, Helen and her 2 sons, aged 9 and 10, came back to Melbourne. Helen's parents had died, and she decided to look for her roots and her biological family. In a dentist's waiting room Helen read about a man called Alistair and his partner, who were running Sage's Cottage (or Baxter Provender). She decided that was exactly what she wanted to do, and at the same time, Alistair was looking for his biological family. Eventually, they got together, and discovered that they were brother and sister, and that they had the same cook books and even utensils! Alistair and Helen found 6 acres at Highlands, and built a house there. Helen established a local gardening round. Alistair bought a restaurant in Yea called "Le Beret", the name of which he changed to "The Hat". When Alistair died suddenly and tragically, Helen continued with the restaurant and called it "Helen's". However, it was in the wrong place for the times, Yea being in its Fast Food Phase. Helen then started making pickles and jams. About this time, she met Doug Maclean, the Ruffy shop was for sale, and they "moved into town"! Now, Helen says she is doing the "Alistair bit", and being encouraged and supported all the way by marvellous Doug. Helen's greatest joy at the Ruffy Store is what she calls "knitting it all up" - meeting people and introducing them to each other, and getting huge pleasure from it all. And so are we!

## WELCOME TO ISSUE NO.9

Please send all information to  
miranda@activ8.net.au



### Student Learning Awards:

Junior Room  
Home Learning: John

Spelling: Imogen

Tables: Imogen, Jeremy

Senior Room Home Learning:  
Michael, Elliot, Yasmine

Spelling: Michael, Jack H, Kelly, Ariel,  
Yasmine

## NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

### School Council Elections

The number of nominations was less than the number of positions vacant, therefore Sharyn Shaw and Elly Fisher have automatically been elected to School Council for 2 years. We thank these two parents for again, committing their time and intellect to the betterment of our school.

### Junior Room Report

Last week we focussed on the fairy-tale called The Three Little Pigs. We did a play about the book, we talked about the characters, and the Preps and 1's made the 3 Little Pigs Houses. In maths we made some sums about fairytales and did some weighing of straw, sticks and bricks. The best part of last week was doing the play.

By Imogen and Jeremy

### Senior Room Report

Maths challenge cards are designed to test your problem solving skills, there are 6 colours and we have extensions to do if we like any of the cards in the boxes and we have to write down the answers in our maths books like a mathematician. We can work alone or together but we have to write by our selves. By Kelly

## HiArts Catering

A HUGE thanks to all those parents who assisted with this event. Through catering from Saturday night we were able to raise approximately \$450. Congratulations and thanks to those students who turned up at their rostered times and through selling raffle tickets raised \$263.10 which is added to the \$19.30 gathered in the donations box, giving JSC a profit of \$282.40 for the weekend. It was particularly pleasing to see some of our senior students: Jack, Elliot and Ariel spend a large part of their weekend assisting at this event. Special thanks goes to Paula Lade for her enormous efforts in coordinating every aspect of this fundraising event! We will be discussing this year's event and thoughts on next year at the next school council meeting. If you have any suggestions or comments please pass them on to a school council member.

## Building Learning Power

Students and staff are currently focussing on the BLP disposition of Managing Distractions which forms part of Building Resilience- being ready, willing and able to lock onto learning. Students have been participating in class discussions, drama activities and creating posters to help everybody manage their distractions. We all know that if you are aware of what can distract us from our learning and how to best manage this we are able to stay more focussed and get the most out of the learning opportunity. What managing distractions mean to our students: Keeping your hands to yourself and not fiddling. You can ignore people who are fiddling and making sounds- Jeremy

A way to manage a distraction is to ignore it- Imogen  
You can move away from somebody who is distracting you. Two people talking to me at the same time distracts me from listening- John

It is difficult to manage distractions when you are trying to do your learning- Laura



## Classifieds & Community Notices

### HPS Spotlight on Kaylam Kirkham

Birthday: July 28th  
Eye Colour: Hazel  
Fav Food: Chicken, chips and nuggets  
Fav Games: Space and video games  
Fav Story: Bob the Builder  
Fav Person: Nanny  
Fav Colour: Orange and green  
Pet Hate: Snake  
Loves: Brian my dog



Q. Can you think of five words beginning with DW ?  
Dwarf, dwelt, dwell, dwelling, dwindle,

Palindrome is a word or phrase that reads the same backwards as forwards. (e.g. rotator, nurses run)

Q. - Can you think of a palindrome phrase starting with "M" ?

### Jobs to Do

#### Pest Control

It's rabbit and fox control time again—join in a coordinated program or do your own. Rabbit numbers have been building up with the dry conditions and many landowners are experiencing bigger rabbit numbers than we have had since Calici Virus was introduced. Remember that oat-baiting is recommended with follow-up burrow fumigating and/or ripping. For more information go to [www.dpi.gov.au](http://www.dpi.gov.au) or call Janet Hagen on 57904268

### Highlands Landcare members

If you are a financial member of Highlands Landcare, please put up one of our attractive signs which are available from Jono 57969344

Michael Kopanica sent in this useful site for measuring silos. Go to ([www.kotzur.com/silocalc.html](http://www.kotzur.com/silocalc.html)) and there's an online calculator to do the job for you.

Rain in Terip Terip last Thursday night 10.8 beautiful mms. Highlands had 7.8mm but that was up to 10.5 mm by coffee time on Friday.

### Scattered Trees Group

This group of local landowners is working hard to prepare a submission to the federally funded Envirofunds. It will be asking for money to complete an audit on the health of our scattered trees and to trial different methods to preserve and restore them. If you would like to know more about this group, ring Jenny Strong PH 57969213

Indoor Soccer has started at Yea High School stadium. 4pm Mondays Ring Terry Redding if you are interested in joining in. PH 57972710

### ENERGY SAVING TIPS

Get off standby : Turn off all the electronic equipment and appliances in your home that are not being used or are on standby. Computers, televisions, stereo equipment, phone chargers, DVD or video equipment - you can find out more about this from WWF at [www.wwf.org.au](http://www.wwf.org.au)



### Highlands CFA

Welcome aboard to two new members - Henry Wallis and Andrea Whitaker. Henry is aiming for a pair of banana overalls and Andrea is intending to become involved with the Community Fireguard programme. Speaking of which if you missed out on attending the Fireguard meeting last Saturday then contact Leanne Pleash 57969200 for further information.

Also any RSVPs for the Region 12 Family Thank You Day on Sunday 15th April need to reach Pauline 57969301 before March 26th.

### EARTH HOUR

7.30pm to 8.30pm

Saturday March 31, 2007

Earth Hour is a fabulous opportunity for you and your family to do something about climate change. On one night, in one hour, more will be done, more will be demonstrated, and more will be learned than through a hundred 'talk-fests'. And you can help make it happen.

What is Earth Hour?

It sounds simple, but it is very, very dramatic. At 7.30pm on March 31st 2007, we will be encouraging companies, government departments, individuals and families to turn off their lights for just one hour. If we meet our objectives during the first Earth Hour, the savings in green house gas emissions will be the equivalent of taking 75,000 medium sized cars off the road for one whole year! Now that's something worth doing.

Why?

The facts are alarmingly clear:

The climate is changing! The 10 hottest years on record have occurred since 1990. In fact 2005 was the hottest year since record keeping began. (Australian Bureau of Meteorology)

Almost 70% of Australia's greenhouse gas emissions come from energy production. (ABS)

More than 95% of the Great Barrier Reef will have been destroyed by 2050 if carbon dioxide emissions aren't reduced. (WWF-International)

One million species worldwide are facing extinction due to climate change. (University of Leeds)

But not everybody listens to the facts. Earth Hour is your opportunity to demonstrate how a simple change in our way of life could change, and help save, our planet.

The goals of Earth Hour:

Households : Most of us use unnecessary electricity. Appliances on standby, old style light bulbs, lights left on when we're not using them. Earth Hour will help us all to realise just how simply we can make a dramatic impact upon global warming (and our own power bills). We will see it in action.

What you can do:

Sign up to Earth Hour and Pledge to turn off your lights on March 31st from 7.30pm to 8.30pm by logging onto [www.earthhour.org](http://www.earthhour.org)



## Community What's On Calendar - March/April

Week beg 19th Mar	Highlands CFA crew - Crew C - Frits Pompe
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 groups can do to combat climate change . Plus " Greenhouse Alliances " of Victoria presentation . For further information contact Rita Seether 57 747 617
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 <a href="mailto:plade@hotmail.com">plade@hotmail.com</a> .
Sun 25 March	CFA Notice "Yea Group Training. Activity: Relay pumping including collar tank. Location: Limestone Time: 0900 hours Brunch: Provided after activity Attendance: Confirm to Matthew Noonan (5797.2545) NLT Fri 23 Mar 07"
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
Thursday 29th March	Hughes Creek versus Highlands Cricket match at Caveat Church Grounds (Dome) 2pm This is SERIOUS. Ring Scott McKay ph 57969259 or Brian Tolley 57969244. Highlands Landcare is sponsoring the Secret Men's Business BBQ afterwards 5.30pm
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
Saturday 7th April	Easter Events In Euroa AFTERNOON : Free Concert in the Sevens Creeks Park 1.30pm Featuring Jo Jo smith, Damien Neil, Wombat Mountain Revellers & Special Guest Appearance by ERIC BOGLE. Bring a chair, food and drinks available. This is an alcohol free event. EVENING Eric Bogle Concert Euroa Shire Hall 8pm Supported by Paul Wookey Tickets \$30 each BOOK EARLY 57 953000

## BITS OF BOTANY AND BIRDS

### SILVER BANKSIA (Banksia marginata)

The Silver Banksia grows as a shrub to a small tree. The leaf margins have small serrations, and the flowers occur in cylindrical spikes, 50-100 mms long. The seeds are attached to a woody cone, and propagation can be from seeds or cuttings. The only naturally occurring specimens that I know of, in our area, are in a creek gully at Dropmore, at the Bottom Falls on Stoney Creek, Highlands (very hard to get to!), on the old Yarck cutting, and some fabulous old, old trees on the road near the Ruffy Recreation Reserve. Many specimens grown from local seed have been planted on the roads near Highlands, and I have a healthy tree in my garden, which is much loved by honeyeaters. Banksias were named after Sir Joseph Banks, who collected the first specimens in 1770. (Peg Lade)



### Agricultural Chemical Users Permit (ACUP)

To use restricted chemicals a person must hold an ACUP or to be under direct supervision of an ACUP holder

#### How to Apply

1. Different chemicals require different training.

For methyl bromide the 'Fumigation using methyl bromide' course must be completed.

For pindone concentrate the 'Pest animal management course' course must be completed.

For any other type of use restricted chemical a DPI recognised course such as the Agsafe Personnel Accreditation course, ChemCert Agvet Chemical Training Course or another DPI recognised equivalent must be completed.

To find out what organisations offer these training courses and where they are run, contact TAFE colleges, VCAH colleges, Chemcert or Agsafe.