

The Granite News

Whiteheads Creek
Hughes Creek
Caveat
Highlands
Ruffy
Terip Terip

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WELCOME TO ISSUE NO.11

Please send all information to miranda@activ8.net.au There will be no The Granite News for the next two weeks and we will return after the school holidays.

INTERVIEW WITH A LOCAL

A few weeks ago we printed an interview with Jim Davidson and now it's Jill's turn. I have repeated a little introduction for those who missed the first interview.

Amongst the many semi-retired folk living and working in this wonderful tableland 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, but required they both worked at several other things over those years. Now in semi-retirement, they are able to become part of their local communities once again.

Jill's Story

In their early years at Terip, Jill nursed at Euroa Hospital before changing to District Nursing for 14 very enjoyable years, meeting many folk around the wider district of Euroa. Tertiary studies followed in the mid '90's and for 6 years until the end of 2004, Jill held the position of Regional Loss & Grief Consultant with the Hume Regional Palliative Care Team based in Wangaratta. She provided loss and grief consultancy and education to palliative care service providers and the community, along with staff support, supervision and grief counselling.

Following retirement in 2004, she extended her part-time private practice offering services in grief counselling, training, consultancy and professional practice supervision. Jill now works from her home office but also at times services the areas of Benalla, Mansfield, Alexandra, Yea and Seymour.

NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Junior Room Report

Last week we had a week jammed full of exciting and fun activities. We cooked spaghetti bolognese and coloured fairytale scones. We completed lots of fun art activities including Easter cards, puppets and diving dolphins. Ms Mildren taught us some new Maths games that help us with number patterns and shapes. We were lucky enough to watch a short video of Roald Dahl's revolting rhymes and they were really revolting. Thanks to the other kids for going on camp!

Senior Room

3-6 Camp Report: Last week we went to Lorne. We had a great time bush walking, playing on the beach, body boarding, surfing, building sand castles and lots of other things. The best part was going to the beach. Thankyou to Miranda, Paula and Trish for making this camp really fun! By Cuchulainn

Socks Fundraiser

Appearing shortly in your mail box will be a Sock It To You catalogue full of wonderful Australian make woollen products. The school raises between \$1-\$15 depending on the price of the item ordered. Please return order forms and



money in money envelopes to school by Friday April 20th.

Thanks to Paula Lade for organising this. All money will go towards the purchase of educational software for our students.



Fairytale Fun Day

Thursday was fantastic fairytale fun day. Students came to school dressed as their favourite fairytale character and ready for a whole range of fun activities that had been planned by JSC. There was a \$2 per student charge for the day which covered a hot dog for lunch and all activities.



HPS Spotlight on John Bennett:

Full name:	John Lewis Bennett
Birthday:	July 26th
Eye Colour:	Hazel
Fav Food:	Hot chips
Fav Games:	Video games
Fav Story:	Rumpelstiltskin
Fav Person:	Ashley Whitaker
Fav Colour:	Green and Blue
Pet Hate:	Ham
Loves:	Chocchip cookies
Dream job:	Banker
Fav thing:	Things with Dad
Fav band:	Moody Blues
Fav song:	Higher and Higher
Fav place:	Apollo Bay

Classifieds & Community Notices

Highlands Ramblers

REPORT on last walk.

We had a beautiful cool but sunny day on 25th March for the HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS to ramble from "Glentannar" to the long ridge of Beulah Hill. The 360 degree views from there must be equal to any in the district - quite one of my favourite places. Then we had a lovely walk through Arthur Telford's property with a tinge of green everywhere, and back to "Glentannar" for afternoon tea in the now green garden.

PIONEER FAMILIES in HIGHLANDS - CHISHOLM

William and Ellen Chisholm arrived from Inverness, Scotland, about 1852, and settled at Emu Flat. The 4 older sons, Hugh, Peter Jack and Donald, (of a family of ten), moved to Highlands, where they lived in a bark hut near the headwaters of Stoney Creek. The parents built "Glengarry", now part of Graham Fern's property, with the next 3 sons, Alex, Rod and Jim and 3 daughters. Alex served on the Yea Shire Council for many years. Hugh married Belle Chisholm, no relation, of Fernside. His selection is now part of the Lade's property, "Gleneagles". He also bought 600 acres from Phillip Murphy, now part of Arthur Telford's and Steve Mathew's land. Peter's selection of 320 acres was bought by the MacCrackens of "Switzerland", and is now also part of Gleneagles. Jack's selection, where he was a very successful farmer fattening bullocks, was eventually sold to R.C. Webb of Habbies Howe, and then to Doug and Peg Lade as a Soldier Settlement farm after WW2. Donald married Mabel Tennant, and lived at what is now "Granite Hills" with their 5 children. Don jnr owned Glengarry for many years, and his son is Graham Chisholm of Chisholm and Shaw garage in Yea.

Just another request for exercise balls left in the cupboard gathering dust. We can put them to good use at Highlands Primary School.

If you are shopping at Foodworks, please give your points to us at Highlands Primary School, 642, thank you.

If you need some newspaper for mulching your garden, there is a big pile at the school.

Highlands Caveat CFA

WATER!!

Many people are eagerly awaiting the autumn break and are looking forward to their dams and tanks filling up.

Over the last couple of summers the Shire of Murrindindi has installed several large tanks in the Highlands area purely for firefighting purposes. Two of these are to be found on the Ghin Ghin cutting and another couple are next to the fire shed. It must be emphasised that the water in these tanks is unsuitable for stock and domestic purposes. However, the Shire has also installed a standpipe in North St, Yea and this water is available to the public for domestic consumption at NO COST to ratepayers. All you need is a water tank to park and fill. So if the long awaited downpour hasn't yet delivered, fill up in Yea!

Holiday crews

Duty crew for the week of 9/4/07 is Crew C - Frits Pompe

Duty crew for the week of 16/4/07 is Crew A - Andrew Shaw

BITS OF BOTANY AND BIRDS

Darren Gilbert's exquisite drawing of the Noisy Miner's nest in the last Granite News prompted me to explore the differences between the Indian Myna, the Noisy Miner and Bell Miner.

The Indian Myna was brought to Australia from India in the 1860s originally to control insect pests in market gardens. It plays havoc with our native wildlife and has serious negative impact on biodiversity. It is one of the world's 100 worst invasive species. The Indian Myna is a medium-sized chocolate-brown bird, black head and neck, yellow beak and legs. White wing patches are obvious when flying.



The Noisy Miner is a bold and curious bird, nectar-eating, also eats fruit and insects. It has a grey body, black crown and cheeks, yellow bill and legs and aggressively attacks larger birds. I have not seen one here but it is common in urban areas in eastern states.



The Bell Miner also has a yellow beak and legs and olive green plumage. It lives in colonies and is the well-known Bell Bird, its call being a bell like tink. There are colonies on the Goulburn River, and as well as excluding other insectivorous birds they are blamed for die off of trees due to infestations of sap sucking psyllid insects which they "farm".

I would be very interested for records of any of these birds - keep your eyes open! Peg Lade 57 969 222



WANTED

Someone locally to provide care before and or after school for one child who attends Highlands Primary School. Care is required on a part time/ casual basis.

If you think you could help please ring Nicole or Craig Stafford on 57969119

Community What's On Calendar - April/May

Week beg 2nd April	Highlands CFA crew - Crew B - Peter Roberts
Saturday 7th April	<p>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 .</p> <p>EVENING Eric Bogle Concert Euroa Shire Hall 8pm Supported by Paul Wookey Tickets \$30 each BOOK EARLY 57 953000</p>
Monday 16 April	Scribblers next meeting at Yolande's (at Neil Lade's stone house)on the hill about 4k past the school on left, towards Caveat. Be prepared for steep horrible driveway. ph. Yolande 5796 9166 or Leone 5796 9290 New members welcome
Tuesday 17 April	Mosaic Mornings at Highlands Primary School, 9am. The senior classes and I shall be working on the blue fairy which will sit in the garden. Come and learn to mosaic or share your skills, or come and Cheer us on by watching. Please bring rubber gloves , safety goggles and old clothes. We will be doing this each Tuesday morning till she is finished. any queries call Leone 0500 500 088.
Sunday 22 April 10.30 a.m.	HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS - Walk will be to Spaniaks Road, and hopefully we will explore a rugged waterfall on Spaniaks Creek, which flows into Jacks Creek. Meet at Highlands Hall
Monday 23 April - 7:30pm	Singing and Experimenting with Sound - Our first meeting, I felt like a bag of poo, Martin was tired and Adam full of beans. Had to shift up to a brighter personality. We discussed what we each want out of the group. Started off a bit shaky, fell into a wonderful groove. Each taking turns to suggest what next to sing - some examples, harmonic humming, gospel, percussion, vocal stretching, even kookaburra sits in the old gum tree, yes we can be dags. Lovely to feel the vibration of song uplift me once more. Our next meet. Please join us. 1995 Highlands Rd Kobyboyn Leone 0500 500 088.
Friday 27th April	Land holders, professionals and anyone interested in direct-seeding and seed production for revegetation is encouraged to come to a field day <u>Euroa Arboretum</u> .
Saturday 28th April	Working Bee, BBQ and sports activity: for the first Highlands Primary School family working bee of the year. Work will start at 9am with a BBQ lunch at midday followed by a mixed game of some sort- cricket, football, soccer etc. Please ensure that you keep this date free to come along and help out- many hands make light work.
Saturday 19th May	<p>Annual Yarck Gymkhana at the Yarck Recreation Reserve Enquiries Tamara 57734245</p> <p>Heather 57734281</p>

Further mistletoe reflections.

Today I walked through the Seymour Golf Course to check out the stand of dead trees I could see from the road. I found they were juvenile stringybark trees with good diverse understorey. The grass trees were stressed and had shed a lot of leaves but will make it. In the adjacent Bushland Park, which also has good understorey, two big old stringys are dead. It seems the stringybarks are faring the worst in the dry, and closely followed by the red box. The grey box seem to withstand the conditions and does not seem to attract mistletoe. In the Light Horse Park we have begun removing mistletoe from beautiful old "specimen" trees, red box. But as if to prove the rule by breaking it, a few very big grey box are dying with massive infestations of mistletoe. Seymour Golf Course, Seymour Bushland Park and the Light Horse Park combined are part of an important reservoir of box ironbark vegetation communities on the Eastern edge of Seymour. Subject to urban encroachment, they harbor many birds and marsupials, including the Specked Warbler and Diamond Firetail considered vulnerable in Victoria. A visit to the Bushland Park will show you what can happen when stock is removed from land, and it is allowed to regenerate naturally. In spite of the bush conditions that now prevail, we continue to lose trees to mistletoe. We have placed nest boxes in the park in an attempt to draw in possums and gliders, reputed to eat mistletoe leaves and flowers. You could say that what we need is "More Possums"!

I think we cannot hope to remove all the mistletoe, and will continue to lose trees already stressed from other causes. All we can do is try to save the special trees in our lives, time and money permitting. Lesley Dalziel

EXERCISES CLASSES AT THE HIGHLANDS HALL

There will be no exercise classes at the Highlands Hall during the school holidays.

Classes will start again on Tuesday 17th April at 6pm for a gentle class and 7pm for a more "challenging experience" (call that pain).

Annette Cherry is running the classes and she is great. She seems to make you hold each position a little bit longer which gives your muscles a really big stretch. Come and join us and feel the difference!