

# The Granite News

Whiteheads Creek  
Hughes Creek  
Caveat  
Highlands  
Ruffy  
Terip Terip

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## INTERVIEW WITH A LOCAL

### SARI WAWN

Sari was brought up in the Wimmera, with farming parents, who moved on to Tylden and then Real Estate in Melbourne. Sari was educated at Clyde Girls' School, and then she said it was probably a big mistake to start a Law degree at Melbourne University. She married an academic when she was very young, had two children, and they all moved to America - another big mistake, says Sari!

Back in Melbourne, she finished an Arts degree, married an architect, and taught Humanities at State Secondary Schools. Sari's parents were of the generation who did not think higher education was important for girls, and her only options seemed to be journalism, modelling or teaching, whereas her first choices were painting and writing.

However, she met Bernie McMahon while they were both teaching, and they starting looking for a retreat within 2 hours drive of Melbourne. The property on the Black Range at Terip had an old hut on it, and they first built a shed, using their own chain saw. Gradually, this developed into a charming and creative dwelling, they found they were spending more and more time up here, and have now lived full time at Terip for more than 5 years.

Sari taught Creative Writing at the Euroa Community Education Centre, and published a book of poetry with Euroa Arts.

In the holidays, she wrote her own journal on "Landscapes", her obsession. She has now collaborated, and exhibited, a series of stunning Landscape images, with Susan Fell-McLean (a textile artist,) and Peter Ward (a photographer), and Sari's own creative writing captions. Bernie teaches English at Yea Secondary College, and their beautiful and secluded surroundings are a drawcard for their combined family of 4, with 6 grandchildren under the age of 6.

## WELCOME TO ISSUE NO.12

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

### RICK MCALPIN RURAL FENCING

Rick McAlpin has lived at Caveat all his life. He runs sheep and cattle at Fort William, which was originally his great grandparents' property. It was one of the very early settled places in the district, the first Fort William house being built by the McAlpin Brothers in the 1880s. As a young man, Rick worked in the Pilbara, W.A., for about 3 years, during which time he married Margaret Brougham from Meipoll. They now have 4 adult children, and one grandchild, none of whom live locally. Since the 1970s, Rick has worked at fence contracting and pasture renovation, as well as running his own farm, and is highly regarded by his clients.

## NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

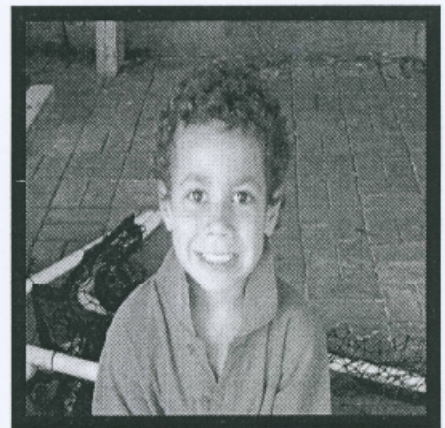
### Junior Room Report

We have had some movement in and out of the Junior room. We have farewelled Jeremy and welcomed Daniel. This term we are introducing a new program called VIP. Students in the Junior room will take it in turns to be the VIP (Very Important Person) for a week. During their week, students will share their personal interests and things that are special to them with the other members of the class. This programme helps to develop greater self confidence and to give students a better understanding of each other and their interests.

**Big News!: On the holidays Ms Mildren and Brett went to Tasmania and got engaged. Ms Mildren was very, very excited and so was Brett! By the P-4's**

## HPS Spotlight on Walter Geffert:

Full name: Walter Tahlmo Geffert  
Birthday: November 1st  
Eye Colour: Brown  
Fav Food: Carrots  
Fav Games: T-Ball  
Fav Story: Gods & Goddesses  
Fav Person: John Bennett  
Fav Colour: Red  
Pet Hate: Diarrhoea  
Loves: Smashing rocks with a hammer  
Dream job: Miner  
Fav thing: Crystals  
Fav song: Rock This Party  
Bob Sinclair  
Fav place: Movie World



### Senior Room Report

Every Tuesday, last term the grades 4/5/6 did art with Leone Gabrielle. The past few weeks we worked on the story called Pinocchio because we have been making a statue of Pinocchio and the blue fairy. So far we have made birds and the design of the statue. I think I speak for every one when I say we enjoy it and are looking forward to completing our statues in the next few weeks.

By Jack Mitchell

## Classifieds & Community Notices

### Living alone in rural Victoria

Researchers at La Trobe University are conducting a study of Australian housing trends with a focus on the growing number of people living alone.

We're particularly interested in contacting rural women because of the considerable gender and geographic differences in patterns of living alone.

If you live in rural Victoria, and are willing to talk to us about these issues, please call Jody Hughes on 0422980782 or email at jody-hugs@gmail.com We would really appreciate it! We are planning to visit rural / regional Victoria in April and June of 2007 and could arrange to call or to meet in person.

### Domestic Violence and Incest Resource Centre (DVIRC)

[www.dvirc.org.au](http://www.dvirc.org.au)

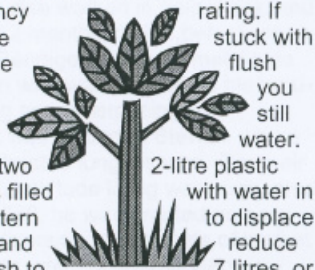
DVIRC is a state-wide service which aims to reduce and prevent family violence by providing education to improve service and policy responses, and by assisting people who have experienced abuse.

### Water efficient appliances

Can make a real difference. If you don't have a dual-flush toilet, now is a good time to get one.

A half flush uses 3 litres of water and a full flush uses 4.5 litres in the latest water-efficient models. This is considerably less than an old cistern which uses 11 litres. Choose a dual flush toilet with at least a four star water efficiency rating. If you are stuck with a single flush toilet, you can still save water. Place two 2-litre plastic bottles filled with water in the cistern to displace the flush water and reduce 7 litres, or install a flush regulator that stops flushing when you do.

A single flush toilet uses 40-60,000 litres of water in an average household. Replace it with an efficient dual-flush toilet and save up to 42,000 litres per year.



### Highlands Caveat CFA

Don't forget the Queen's Birthday Weekend will herald the arrival of an amazing assortment of vehicles and Rover Scouts as the annual Mudbash event takes over Mafeking Park.

The Highlands/Caveat RFB has always manned the gates and rattled buckets for donations as one of its sources of fund-raising. This year the brigade will also be selling firewood and we need your assistance! If you know of any fallen trees that need removal and would be suitable for firewood this season OR if you would like to assist on the first weekend in May (5&6th) sawing and collecting this wood please advise Frits Pompe 57969312 ASAP. Any offers of a large tip truck to transport the wood would be most appreciated.

### Exercise Classes

If you don't use it you loose it, so come along and get fit and feel better, Tuesday nights 6pm for the gentle class, 7pm for the more challenging experience! Highlands Hall. Be there!!

### Bits of Botany and Birds

#### WHITE-BROWED SCRUBWREN.

A very common, quiet but fussy little bird is the White-browed Scrubwren. It hops briskly on the ground and in the undergrowth, and becomes quite tame in gardens. It is mostly dark olive-brown above, with dull rufous belly and rump. It has a blackish mask, with a white eyebrow, and a white curving band under the eye. The nest is a side-opening ball made of loose twigs, grass and leaves, and is often found in such places as an old coat in the shed, or a hanging tin, hanging basket, old tyres, etc.

If I leave the back door open, they will hop in when I'm not looking, and appear quite unperturbed until they can hop out, having eaten a few insects on the way!



### Sowing the Future Field Day at the Euroa Arboretum

Land holders, professionals and anyone interested in direct-seeding and seed production for revegetation is encouraged to come along to a field day on Friday April 27th at the Euroa Arboretum.

Direct-seeding is now regarded as the premier technique for the broad scale re-establishment of native vegetation.

Come and hear the latest thinking on the design of restoration projects and discuss the issues with some of the industry's leading practitioners.

Demonstrations of direct-seeding of native grasses will be a feature of the day, as well as demonstrations of direct-seeding of trees and shrubs, seed production methods and seed collection techniques. How the Goulburn-Broken Indigenous Seedbank functions will also be explained.

The program starts at 9.30am and ends at 4pm with lunch and refreshments provided free of charge.

To find the Euroa Arboretum, exit the Hume Freeway on the Melbourne side of Euroa and head into Euroa. We are the first gateway on the right after you come down off the ramp.

Please RSVP by Monday April 23rd for catering purposes Jim Begley 57 611574 or Sally Mann 0427 127399

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.

### 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 23 rd April	Highlands CFA crew - Crew B - Peter Roberts
Wednesday, 25th April,	<b>The Annual Terip Terip Anzac Day Memorial Service will be held at the Terip Rec Reserve commencing at 9.00 am It will be followed by a complimentary morning tea, all are welcome. Please advise Daryl or Anne Cox on phone 5790 4345 for catering.</b>
Friday 27th April	Direct-seeding and seed production for revegetation 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.
<b>28 April – 13 May 2007</b>	<b>Bright Autumn Festival</b> <b>Exhibitions, street parades and special events. Gala Day is 5 May, with bands, street stalls, craft displays and the Autumn Festival Parade. More information</b> <b>Phone 5755 1073 or visit</b> <b><a href="http://www.brightautumnfestival.org.au">www.brightautumnfestival.org.au</a></b>
18 – 20 May	Women on Farms Gathering - Shepparton "Rural Women on the Mooove"; Gala dinner, fashion parade, multicultural entertainment, fantastic workshops, inspirational speakers, farm and business tours.
Saturday 19th May	Annual Yarck Gymkhana, Yarck Recreation Reserve Enquiries Tamara 57734245 Heather 57734281

### The NOYE family of RUFFY

In 1863, Robert Noye, (born in Cornwall in 1839), arrived in Australia, following his elder brother George, who was working at the goldmines at Eaglehawk.  
Robert also worked in goldmines, and spent 12 months in N.Z., before returning to Bendigo, where he met Annie Watson who was to become his hard-working and enterprising wife.  
Robert was mining at Stawell, where he contracted lung disease. Open air and high altitude living was suggested, so in 1880, he was granted an occupation licence for 320 acres of land at Ruffy, as was his brother George.  
Robert and Annie's family was then 4 boys and 2 girls, the youngest being 6 weeks old when they arrived at "Rosehill", Ruffy, after 15 days of travelling in a dray and a wagonette, with a cow and calf in the convoy.  
Annie established a very successful dairy, while Robert's main aim was to

clear the land, with the help of his children, who now numbered seven.  
Robert's health improved for a few years, but he died in 1901, and Annie continued to run and manage the farm. The children acquired more land in their own names, and their early training and the example of their parents, has certainly been passed on to the later generations.  
One of the sons-Tom Noye, who married Marj Walker, had 6 children, all well known in the Ruffy district,-Dawn (Artridge) who was tragically killed in a car accident, Henry, Millie (Cummins), Helen (Mackenzie), Pam (Sprunt), and Marj (Lee).  
Helen's youngest grandchild is Kendal Richards, who is in Prep Grade at Highlands Primary School. The Noye descendants have married into many of the Ruffy families, in fact, Ruffy would not be the same without them, and it is impossible to mention them all.

### Highlands V Hughes Creek

On an unpredictable slow turner of a pitch with the occasional rearing ball from a good length, runs were at a premium at the Caveat Church Cricket Ground on Thursday. It was tailor-made to suit the Highlands spin bowlers, who unfortunately couldn't turn a piece of wood on an expensive lathe. They were unable to take full advantage of a strip that hadn't just been doctored; it had had major surgery and was still in the recovery room when the first ball was bowled.

Although the Highlands held Hughes Creek to only 91, they were only able to score the equivalent, which means we have had the first tie in really important cricket since West Indies V Australia in 1961.

The Hughes Creek bowling attack was held together by either, the "Cindy Hayes identical quintuplets" or in complete contravention of a very ignorable set of rules, Cindy bowled unchanged for most of the innings (she was covering for her father-in-law, who claimed crutching as a legitimate excuse for not representing his valley-everyone knows that sheep aren't an excuse they're a life sentence!)

The game at one stage turned ugly when Brian Tolley, who is obviously reading Steve Waugh's book on mental disintegration, took sledging to a whole new level when he verbally hit his own team.

The performance of the wicket keepers was (as Bruce McAvaney would say) "something special". Scott McKay had to have 2 backstops and Tim Hayes used the younger legs of Doug McLean to cover for his lack of mobility.

Best for the Hughes Creek were the hamstrung Maffa, Doug the Ruffy store grafter and some bloke called Marcus Hill (steward's enquiry there!). It was a more even performance (mostly ordinary) from Highlands with only Adam standing out with 27.  
Play of the day was a toss up between John Hammond playing under an assumed identity of Jack, who got the Highlands away to a good start with 13 before being deceived by flight, length speed and a rock in the pitch. Tim Hayes wiped the bails off as if in slow motion (in fact they had to speed up the instant replay) or Colin Webb being caught at first slip by Doug after a deflection off the stubby held by wicket keeper Tim Hayes.

However it has to go to Jono Rumbold who stroked a casual 11 before getting himself out to set up the first tie in Thirsty/thirty cricket.