

# The Granite News

Whiteheads Creek  
Hughes Creek  
Caveat  
Highlands  
Ruffy  
Terip Terip

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## Notes from the Black Range - an occasional series

Ten years ago, when I was commuting between Melbourne and our Black Range Retreat I started writing a journal to record my observations of the coming and goings of birds, the constantly changing sky, the flowering of plants, clouds, and trying to work out the pattern of the weather.

Maybe it's a habit I picked up from my father who jackedarooed in southwest Queensland and then spent some years of his farming life in the Wimmera. Here he reckoned he could tell when we were in for a bit of a dry spell. His predictions were based on years of watching the sky day in and day out, the utterances of Indigo Jones, the long-range forecasting guru of the day, and the collective wisdom of men talking over stockyard fences at sales, or afterwards in the pub. Weather was and still is serious business.

On the other hand it could be that I still have the mind set that expects four distinct seasons, as if I was living in the northern hemisphere. A North American friend once told me, that every year the salmon would swim upstream past this cabin on the same day of every hour.

For years I'd wait for the autumn rains before planting trees and shrubs, only to find the ground too hard one day and too cold the next. It's a long time since I have gone sloshing through the gully in gum boots on a nearly winter walk, or had to detour through Highlands because the highway was flooded between Yea and Yarck. I still expect that August to be the coldest month, and that when the wood ducks start flying about with bits of twigs in their beaks that spring is on the way. Some year there will be mushrooms in autumn or wildflowers in spring. There have been hardly any bogong moths flying out of the high country this year.

I am still looking for the pattern  
By Sari Wawn

## WELCOME TO ISSUE NO.14

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

## NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL BLP Focus

Our next BLP focus is questioning. We have been discussing good questions, words that start questions, the difference between questions and statements, asking interesting questions, the punctuation used in questions along with the importance of asking questions about our learning to help us learn.

We have been thinking up interesting questions to encourage us to think with our green hats on. We are helping the juniors to see the difference between questions and statements. We are being taught to ask specific questions to help us learn more about what we are doing. By Ariel

## Junior Room Report

This muddled week, we have continued our focus on questions. We have made our own questions and answers for a friend to do using some information on animals. The Preps practiced writing number to 20, Grade 1's 2D and 3D shapes and the Grade 3's have been revising addition of numbers using carrying.

## Senior Room Report

During Term one Scott Mackay taught the 3/4/5/6 students how to play cricket. He taught us skills with the ball and bat. It was very helpful because Scotty is good at cricket and he can explain things really clearly. He demonstrated different actions and showed us where we were going wrong. It was fun doing it every Thursday. We all had a great time playing cricket. THANK YOU SCOTT!!! And thanks for agreeing to teach us footy this term, it has to be better than Miranda's attempt where half the school went off with an injury in the first ten minutes.

Congratulations go to Ariel Graff who with her essay titled 'Why I Live Where I Live,' won the Central and Upper Goulburn Group of shows societies essay competition.

Ariel's essay won the competition at the Yea Show last year and was automatically entered into this next and final level. Yet again, a wonderful example of the high quality of students that the education offered at Highlands Primary School produces. Good on you Ariel!



## Student Learning Awards

Junior Room Spelling: John  
Tables: Imogen  
Reading: Walter  
Counting: John, Walter

Senior Room  
Home Learning: Kelly, Elliot, Ariel  
Spelling: Ariel, Kelly, Jack H

## Rainfall to Pasture Growth Outlook Tool

The Rainfall to Pasture Growth Outlook Tool developed by the Bureau of Rural Sciences on behalf of Meat & Livestock Australia assists farmers to estimate pasture growth in relation to rainfall, soil moisture and other climatic conditions. It can be accessed for free at [www.mla.com.au/growthoutlooktool/](http://www.mla.com.au/growthoutlooktool/)

# Classifieds & Community Notices

## Information Victoria's weblinks

[www.atoz.information.vic.gov.au](http://www.atoz.information.vic.gov.au)

Click on the AtoZ of Victorian Government websites for a complete list of Victorian Government Departments, agencies and statutory authorities. 358 sites from Aboriginal Affairs - [www.dvc.vic.gov.au](http://www.dvc.vic.gov.au) Zoological Parks and Gardens - [www.zoo.org.au](http://www.zoo.org.au) are listed.

## Chemical Risk Management Course

The course is aimed at workplace managers and successful completion of the Level III Ag Vet Chemical Users Course is a pre-requisite. This course has been designed to provide the necessary training for workplace managers (in owner - operators) to meet their obligations under the Hazardous Substances and Dangerous Goods Legislation.

Thursday 13th September

8:30am-5pm DPISeymour  
28 High St Seymour \$88/p No GST  
Includes manual & catering

## Relationships Australia FREE COUNSELLING Shepparton

For individuals, couples and families whose lives have been affected by the drought and its aftermath. While Relationships Australia is not able to assist people with financial and farming issues, we have experience and expertise in matters relating to families, children, stress, family violence, decision making, problem solving, communication, marital problems and other personal issues. Offer available until 30 June 07. More information and telephone counselling phone 1800 817 569 to pre-book an appointment

## Ruffy Store Rainfall

32.5ml last weekend, 38.5mls for April

## Free to a good home

3 red and tan kelpie pups  
Well bred, mother and father both good working dogs.  
11 weeks old and have had puppy injections. Please phone Deborah David Lawrence, Lambing Gully Road, Avon Park. Phone 57962532 or 0428331466

## Highlands Caveat CFA

Any brigade members available to cut, collect and store firewood for Mudbash THIS weekend please contact Frits Pompe 57969312 to advise him of your availability. Many hands make light work and there just might be a beer and barbecue to finish off the day.

## BITS OF BOTANY AND BIRDS

**BLACKWOOD** - *Acacia melanoxylon*, is a very common tree with broad, leathery dark green leaves, which are really flattened leaf stems, (phyllodes). It has pale yellow flowers in late spring, and a dark - coloured timber, heavy and hard, which has always been sought after for furniture etc. It is quite quick growing, and around this area, many trees appear to have died because of the long dry.



**LIGHTWOOD** - *Acacia implexa*, is a summer flowering, and is a small upright tree, with very pale yellow flowers, and curved sickle - shaped phyllodes, and also has a strong wood. It is not nearly as common as Blackwood in our area.



*Acacia implexa* "with the introduction of a figure for idealistic purpose" from: 'Golden Wattle Our National Floral Emblem' A. J. Campbell 1921 (couldn't resist this one!)

## Spinning Club

In the early 1970s, when farming incomes were disastrously low, many of us looked for ways of making a bit of extra money, and being creative at the same time. Barbara McCrabb, from Seymour, and Peg Lade, from Highlands, called a meeting at Habbies Howe. Over fifty women turned up, and we formed 2 Spinning Clubs - one for Highlands and one for Seymour. The Highlands group met in the Habbies Howe shearer's quarters, with much encouragement from the wife of the owner, Molly Webb, who started a small Craft Shop at the homestead. Later, our group met at Fernside (Lucy Chisholm) then Margaret Pompe's at Kobyboyn, then Norma Shaw's at Caveat and still meets at Jan Sporry's at Caveat. Bill Pompe made beautiful spinning wheels, and the wool was often obtained locally. Recently, we had our (approx.) 35th birthday at Anne and Emil Kopanica's at Benalla, and of the original members, Gwen Everitt, Margaret Pompe, Peg Lade, Barbara McCrabb and Ikey Hoogstra turned up, with 10 other past and present members. Nowadays, a very small group meets monthly, at Jan Sporry's, and enjoys the social occasion, as well as continuing with a variety of handicrafts. Jan's number is 57904361, and new members are very welcome.

## Caveat Church Tipping Competition

1st week of second round results:  
John & Jan Sporry, Rick McAlpin, Betty & Davis Ladbury, Bob Fairley - Gone,  
Still alive: Doug Mclean, Sammy Strong, Michael Kopanica, Jack Hammond, Quentin Pritchard, Scott McKay.

## Tennis Player needed

Terip Ladies looking for a Tennis player to play on Mondays with our local Agrade team. We play in the Euroa Comp that has teams in Benalla, Mansfield, Euroa and Terip. We have 4 members to a team, start at 11 am on Mondays and normally finished by 2.30pm (depending on travel, carpooling available). We currently have three regular players and are looking for another or two. Helen McKenzie 57904211 Robyn Richards 57904303 Thanks

## Community What's On Calendar - May/June

Thursday, 10th May	Highlands-Caveat CFA. The End of Season meeting will be held at the hall at 7.30pm. All welcome
Mothers Day 13th May	Ruffy Produce Store First Friday dinners are inside for winter. Book early PH 57904387 Mother's Day Two sittings for lunch. 12.00 & 1.30pm to cater for increased popularity.
Wed 16th May	Highlands Community Hall Committee Meeting 7.30pm at the hall.
Saturday 19th May	Highlands Community Hall Working Bee. Please join us between 9.30 & noon. Job to be done include weeding, brush cutting, mowing, planting of natives, mending of the roof of the hall & internally patching of plaster on the ceiling & walls. Bring along appropriate tools. For more information contact Judy Reid on 57969358.
Saturday 19th May	Annual Yarck Gymkhana at the Yarck Recreation Reserve Tamara 57734245
27th May	<b>International Biodiversity Day</b> Visit <a href="http://www.biodiv.org/programmes/outreach/awareness/biodiv-day-2007.shtml">www.biodiv.org/programmes/outreach/awareness/biodiv-day-2007.shtml</a>
Thursday 31st May	Come to the Caveat Church for Secret Men's Business, last Thursday of the month, includes wives, significant others, children and an assorted variety of canine companions.
Friday 1st June	Highlands Landcare represents "Bats, fascinating creatures of the Night" with Dr. Lindy Lumsden, Highlands Hall, 7.30pm
Sat/Sun 2nd -3rd June	Open week - end at the Spiteri studio/gallery "Hillcrest". "A Highlands Ramble" A Photographic Exhibition by Dennis Spiteri - consisting of photographs taken on the "Highlands Ramblers" walks since 2003.
5th Jun	<b>World Environment Day</b> Visit <a href="http://www.unep.org/wed/2007/english">www.unep.org/wed/2007/english</a>
Wed 13th June	Global Cooling Dinner Workshop 6.30pm Yea Shire Hall (See flyer for details)

### Cricket Ruffy V Highlands

#### The Rematch

The newly named MCG (McCooley Cricket Ground) was in its accustomed condition. The pitch was still concrete, the outfield was still ridged and the boundary line was still unique, as it was imaginary.

The Highlanders were massed early, seeking revenge for the mauling that they had received at the Ruffy Rec prior to Christmas and for a while it looked as though there was a complete mismatch because half the Ruffy team were lost following David Sleigh. David, who routinely has trouble with the Highlands - Caveat Ring road (after the millennium New Year's Eve party, a friend of mine, who was relying on Slugger for navigational instruction to get him from Highland to Ruffy said "I knew I was in trouble when I saw the Caveat Sign for the 3rd time") eventually found the Yuritta's Rd Interchange and delivered a team of the highest quality.

Ruffy winning the toss, batted and got away to a flyer with Freddy Haig (20) and Don Cook (25) putting on a 45 run opening stand (the average South Afri-

cane team can only dream about that). A subdued innings by Doug McLean (7) after his heroics in the Tarcombe Seconds and a cameo by David Sleigh (15) set the scene for the highest score in hill country cricket so far by Sam Murphy (36 not out).

Ruffy was set for a huge score before the tail folded following the unthinkable - a direct hit run out of the other Sam (11). Brian Leahy (1) played probably the most important innings he has ever played for the Highlands as he had been seconded to Ruffy.

Best of the Highland Bowlers was Andrew Shaw, who was out injured by a single (very big and solid) stump, and therefore didn't concede a run.

Greg Philpot (34) and Tom McCooley (13) built a solid foundation before Jono Rumbold (29 retired - he'll be onto the Highlands captain Oliver about that for a while) Ferg Wallis (13) Peter (12) Scott (12 not out) and some not at all dubious extras saw the Highlands comfortably over the line.

The best team players went to the mothers of Strathearn, who provided most of the Ruffy side (8 out of 12). Play of the day goes to Jody Cody

because she kept the nearest score book! 've ever had the pleasure to use to write up one of these games.

Best on ground went to Sam Murphy 36 runs, 1 wicket, 1 catch, some magnificent fielding and as much energy as the sum of both teams.

The Selwood/Headland Trophy for inappropriate behavior went to David Sleigh (50 - That would be years old) and Alex McKay (14 - Likewise). The judiciary regarded their actions as bringing the game into disrepute. I'm sure it is written somewhere that sledging for by the umpire is not permissible and both have been suspended until the next game!! Personally don't care if they volubly wrangle each other because it gives me a bit of peace from both of them.

Thanks to the new owners, the McCooleys for allowing us to play on the MCG - for most of us it will be the closest we'll ever get.

To the best of my knowledge there is no-one mentally deranged enough to want to play cricket again until next summer, so thanksto all who played, watched, umpired, scored and BBQ'd.



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Thank you for supporting Highlands Primary School and our community.

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## 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: 57904387

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

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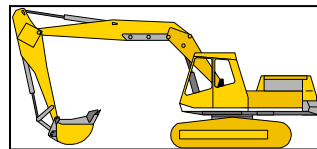
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