

# The Granite News

Whiteheads Creek  
Hughes Creek  
Caveat  
Highlands  
Ruffy  
Terip Terip

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Volume 1, Issue 15  
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## INTERVIEW WITH A LOCAL

### Kendalee, a garden for all seasons.

One of my first meetings with my neighbour Helen McKenzie was in her garden, her favourite place to be if she's not on a tennis court. The garden at Kendalee has been tended by Helen with heart and soul for over 45 years. During that time it has grown and changed to accommodate the family and the seasons.

Of course it includes a tennis court; there is also a rock pool; the 'Market Gardens' were given over to a pet lamb and an orphan calf this year, but in most years produces vegetables by the barrow load. There is also an aviary, and the peacocks, whose cries float up the hill on still nights, and a pet cemetery.

In the leaflet Helen prepared for the Open Garden Scheme recently, she noted that there had been some losses during the drought, but she is hoping that many of the plants that she subjected to some 'serious pruning' with a chainsaw will revive. After all, this garden has survived many a tough summer, storms and winds in its time.

The garden may have been a little short on flowers this year, but now the trees taking on their autumn colours show little sign of the stresses and the recent rains have revived them many ground covers left to struggle on by themselves during the dry times. All around the house and in the large fernery, Helen has kept her pot plants with grey water, and with much delight I noticed that she had also made many of the pots. My favourite was the separator bowl painted green, and decorated with a design of nasturtiums on the side. As Helen says in her notes, "You will see that this is a simple garden that has grown a little at a time most definitely not a designer's job."

## WELCOME TO ISSUE NO.15

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

Of course that's what makes it that much more interesting. As Helen also says, it's a garden of love she's happy to share with people. Helen's amazing energy and spirit are an inspiration to us all. Visiting Kendalee on the recent Open Day, I was reminded yet again of how much Helen and Donna have contributed over the years to the community.

### And here's a Post script from Helen:

Thanks to all those people who came and enjoyed my garden, fully understanding the tough times we have endured over the past few years.

Thanks to Coral for bringing her patchwork display for all to enjoy, also Kylie for the lovely plants and which filled a double carport with so much colour and encouragement to keep replacing and planting.

Thanks to our local wine growers Alec and Marion Rowan for the delicious wine tasting. The selection of wine was won by Yvonne Fisher from Longwood and it was her birthday too.

So many thanks to our local cooks who made scrumptious cakes and other goodies for our visitors. The proceeds from their efforts will be of great benefit to the Terip Recreation Reserve.

## NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

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 pointstous at Highlands Primary School, 642, thank you.

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

## Tablelands Community Centre

Progress so far: The committee has been meeting fortnightly at the Ruffy school.

John Furlanetto is doing a great job moving us ahead through the correct channels.

Don Cook has compiled a draft "strategic discussion paper" on the community's proposals for the future use of the school.

Matt Pfahler from the Department of Victorian Communities will help the committee to apply for a planning grant to employ a consultant to develop a business plan for the project. Jim Davidson has been liaising with the Department of Education.

The committee will be meeting with Mr Radcliff on 17th May to discuss the property.

Teachers from Euroa and Highlands Primary School have met at the school to discuss the sharing of the contents.

Getting the local shire to support our project is the next challenge.

We need them to become sponsors for our grant applications.

Leanne Pleash from Murrumbidgee Shire has been supportive and the committee will be making a presentation to Strathbogie Shire councillor on 22nd of May.

Next TCC meetings Monday 14th May & Monday 28th May 8pm at Old Ruffy PS. Interested people welcome. By Janet Hagen



I know this picture is rather small but can you guess what it is? Who can come up with an appropriate title?

## Classifieds & Community Notices

### Infoxchange

[www.infoxchange.net.au](http://www.infoxchange.net.au)

Works for social justice and equality by empowering people through access to information communication technology. Runs social initiatives such as GreenPC – the supplier of affordable refurbished computers; Infoxchange Service Seeker – Australia's most extensive community serviced directory; and Grassroots Networking – a social enterprise working to strengthen community capacity.

Help we need roughly 4 or 5 whitish or cream tiles (can be broken) for the blue fairies face. Please drop off at school or Leonie's 1995 Highlands Rd.

### Tennis Player needed

Terip Ladies looking for a Tennis player to play on Mondays with our local Agrad 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 2.30 pm (depending on travel, carpooling available). We currently have three regular players and are looking for another or two. Helen McKenzie 57904211 Robyn Richards 57904303

### Highlands/ Caveat Fireguard Update

The initial Highlands Fireguard groups met on Saturday 21st April 2007 at the homes of Peg Lade and Andrea Whitaker. Under Alex Caughey's guidance we walked around the outside of the houses assessing their defensibility. Considering their orientation, condition, surroundings, garden layout and plant choice, we looked for potential fire hazards (especially ember attack and gas bottle vents), and discussed how these might be minimised.

The groups compared the merits of generators vs petrol pumps during power outages (and the need for a generator that inverts sine waves if you want to run a computer!), tested the effectiveness of water pistols for putting out embers in trees, roof spaces and other hard to reach places, looked at different torch types (noting that the head-based ones leave hands free), and compared the benefits of listening sets vs UHF radios (the latter being useful for partner stalking



### Conservation Volunteers Australia 'Better Earth Project' at Hughes Creek .

Team leader: Brian Anderson.

Team members: Titus from California, Jenny from Malaysia, Gareth from England, Amy from Yorkshire (the rocky Tarcombe hills reminded her of home) and Wendy from Malaysia.

Five international volunteers spent a busy week working on Landcare Projects in Ruffy from the 30th April to 4th May. They picked up rubbish from the Hughes Creek camping and picnic grounds, collected water sam-

ples for Saltwatch month, gathered seed for future revegetation projects and planted 800 trees at Tarcombe to replace fatalities in last year's Green-fleet plantations.

This hardworking crew enjoyed their cosy accommodation at Nampara Leigh in Ruffy.

A highlight of their visit was seeing our wildlife especially the koalas. We scored 5/5 on their report card and this will hopefully lead to more CVA crews visiting. They were great workers. (Best wishes to Peter Leigh who has not been well lately and to Margie who has spent many days in Melbourne while Peter was in hospital)

to one another around the house, or talking with neighbours). Andrea also had a "Super Blaster" hose (made by Ladco) that clicks into a normal garden hose to produce a high pressure stream, which was most effective.

Fireguard is not about producing fire fighters, just residents who are more prepared.

While neighbours may agree to work collaboratively, they are not responsible for one another.

It is vital to have a 'stay plan' and a 'go plan', and being prepared to activate either given the circumstances.

Radiant heat kills people, ember skill houses (as a general rule)

Fires can come from many directions, but 90% of the time will come from the North or North West during the day and South West at night, so these are the areas to keep most clear.

The process continues on Saturday 26th May. If all goes to plan, the Lade Rd group will visit Steve McAlpin's, at 10 am, and the Old Highlands Rd

group will visit June and Brian Beecham's, 334 Old Highlands Rd, at 1 pm. Caveat gets its turn on 2nd June 2007, kicking off at Jan & John Sporry's, 450 Caveat/Dropmore Rd at 10 am, and Judy & Stuart Reid's, 'Kadumbra' property, Fassifern Rd at 1 pm.

Topics to be covered next time include information, map preferences and phone trees. New participants are welcome at any session; existing participants will continue to work through their BSP Worksheets, prior to preparing a full Fire Plan. I have some additional homework about sourcing sand bags for protecting plastic pipes and risers, along with some desperate clearing, cleaning up and planting before we walk around our place!! My thanks to all those who are offering their houses for meetings and assessment. For more information about Fireguard, please contact me on 5796 9200 or [lee@consonant.com.au](mailto:lee@consonant.com.au) Leanne Pleash, Highlands/Caveat Fireguard Coordinator

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

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, brushcutting, 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
Tuesday 22nd May	Goulburn Broken Soil Health & Dung Beetle Project "Bison" at Euroa Farm Walk Witness Winter Active Dung Beetles in Action. 10am - 12noon Special guest speaker: John Feehan of Soilcam Canberra. Free BBQ Lunch Venue: "Tinten" 10kms out of Euroa on the Euroa - Merton Rd. RSVP Bertram Lobert 57908606
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>
Sun 27th May	Highlands Ramblers Black Range Walk. 10.30am Highlands Hall or 10.50am Terip Rec.
Monday 28th May	Singing and harmonics Leone's place 7.30pm All welcome and it's slot of fun!
Thursday 31st May	Come to the Cave at 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 presents "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 - photographs taken on the "Highlands Ramblers" walks since '03.
Sat/Sun 2nd - 3rd June	UFOs Unfinished Objects, Highlands Hall. 10am - 4pm Talk to Pauline if you would like to join her to finish off all those crafty things that you have been meaning to finish for years. Ph 57969301
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 6th June	Yea High School Year 7/2008 Parent Information Night 7.30pm
Wed 13th June	Global Cooling Dinner Workshop 6.30pm Yea Shire Hall

### La Mama comes to Ruffy

Once Upon a Barstool & Trio  
Ruffy Hall Saturday 26th May  
Bookings 57904318

Fresh from seasons at the famous La Mama theatre in Carlton, these two very different onemans shows will astound you with their virtuosity and skill.

### Once Upon Barstool

Lovers of all things Irish can continue to celebrate the grand Gaelic tradition of story telling with this new one-man show by Felix Nobis.

Best known for his work as a television actor for his roles as Dr Simon Lloyd in the second series of MDA (ABCTV), and Rob Griffin in JANUS (ABC). Nobis is midway through

completing his PhD in medieval storytelling at Monash University, where he also teaches. Immigrating here from Liechtenstein as a child in the early 1970s, Nobis says that despite being one of the few people in the world with no Irish blood this hasn't stopped him from being fascinated by the Emerald Isle's rich culture and history. In 1995 Felix moved to Ireland where he lived until 2004. He performed extensively in Cork at the Granary Theatre and the Everyman Theatre. In 2004 the Cork Fringe Festival commissioned him to write a piece about Irish/Australian immigration and the first draft of Once Upon a Barstool was produced.

"This is unique theatrical territory"  
Irish Times

### TRIO

Dina Ross' play Trio enjoyed a sell-out and critically acclaimed season at La Mama before touring Adelaide and country Victoria. Trio will tour Europe and USA in 2007. Dina's plays have appeared in Short & Sweet, on ABC Radio National and BBC Radio.

As a lover of jazz and classical music, Dina Ross wanted to write a symphony for voice - a play where music and the actor's performance blended intimately.

Acted by Chris Bunworth TRIO examines the life and death of virtuoso violinist Karl Munch through the eyes of an unholy trinity - his disgruntled twin brother, his entrepreneurial agent and his gay lover, on the evening of a memorial concert in his honour.



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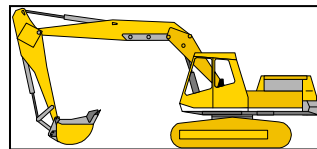
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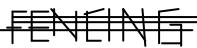
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