

The Granite News

Whiteheads Creek
Hughes Creek
Caveat
Highlands
Ruffy
Terip Terip

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Floods and Landcare in Whiteheads Creek

In the early 1970s, a once-in-a-100 years rain event occurred in the Whiteheads Creek and Hughes creek catchments, when up to 10 inches of rain fell overnight.

Richard Wallis, then a young man, recalls the dramatic events of the next day. His parents were in New Zealand and his grandfather, Alf Wallis of "Fairholme", rang him to say "bring the horse, there's water all over the flats and the sheep are stranded on an island!"

Richard arrived on his motor bike, which he promptly lost in a deep hole of water and he had to swim out to get the horse anyway. These floods and the resulting enormous damage to land and property led to Gough Whitlam, then the Prime Minister, providing federal funding to the catchment for sowing down and planting trees on the re-charge areas in the hills.

A meeting was held at Alan Coulson's and Jock Wallis became the first president of the first Landcare group to be formed. Joan Kirner, then the Victorian Premier, was very supportive of the projects over a number of years. Bruce Radford also supplied a great deal of help from the relevant department.

Landholders throughout Whiteheads Creek were very involved in the tree planting and battering of gullies, also the creation of corridors of trees from road to road.

Funding also became available to sow huge re-charge areas with perennial grasses, especially on the bigger properties such as Kulaba and the Coulsons. With "newer" settlers on smaller blocks taking the issues to heart, the work continued with a great deal of social involvement as well as hard work, and the results are clearly visible today.

By Peg Iade and Richard Wallis

WELCOME TO ISSUE NO.20

Please send all information to miranda@activ8.net.au
I would like to especially thank Yea Primary School for copying The Granite News for the past month while HPS organizes a new photocopier. We do appreciate your generosity. I would also like to thank the folders of the newsletter, particularly Yolande, who comes every week, thank you for your community spirit and support. I seem to be printing earlier and earlier in the week so get articles in asap

Dennis Spiteri's Photographic Exhibition

Below are just two of the photographs from Dennis's exhibition. Don't miss out on seeing this beautiful record of the Highlands rambles' walks, it is an inspiring collection. Ring Dennis on 57969373 to arrange a time to visit before the 30th June



Peg and Jean Lightfoot at Jack's Creek.



Doug Lade walking across Beulah Hill

RABBIT RIPPING

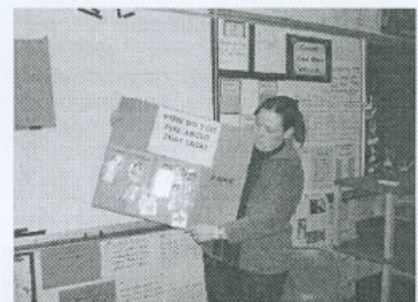
You need to make a commitment before the end of the financial year, for the 50% subsidy, ring Janet now 57904268

NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

As many of you will already know, we are using a learning model called Building Learning Power this year.

This model identifies four key learning dispositions—Resilience, Resourcefulness, Reflectiveness and Reciprocity, the new four Rs of learning. They can be developed by everyone, regardless of 'ability', social background or age. We can think of dispositions as being like groups of 'learning muscles'. Just as we can build our physical muscles by the right exercise, so we can exercise our learning muscles to develop their strength and stamina. Developing the dispositions that make for success as a life long learners equates to achieving a good level of all-round learning fitness.

Below is a photograph of Allyson Mildren running a session for part of the Murrindindi cluster on different ways to incorporate the learning capacity, meta learning into the classroom.



This week we are concentrating on the learning capacity, NOTICING. When you use this learning muscle you.....

- * notice how things look, what they are made of, or how they behave
- *are patient, knowing that details may take time to emerge
- *can identify significant detail
- *get a clear sense of what, before starting to think why or how

Classifieds & Community Notices

The Impact of Groundwater Use on Australian Rivers

The report by Dr Richard Evans, a Senior Research Fellow with L&W Aust and Principal Hydrologist with Sinclair Knight Merz, closely identifies the mechanisms that link rivers and groundwater and the implications for water use and planning. It can be accessed at the Land & Water Australia website www.lwa.gov.au/index.aspx

This will be of particular interest to those people who attended the U3A talk by Professor Lance Endersbee AO last week in Seymour. He was the Dean of Engineering and Pro-Vice Chancellor of Monash University.

He presented a compelling argument that the world's groundwater is being mined to exhaustion and that the hydrologists' promise that it can be replaced by seasonal rainfall is fatally flawed.

WHOLE FARM PLANNING COURSE

We need 12 to run this great course and have 6 names so far. 4 to 5 weeks, starting Sat. 3rd August, \$220 per property, Farm Biz subsidy for 50%. Ring Janet 57904268

Mobile Muster - reminder

Recycle your old mobile phone in June and Mobile Muster will plant a tree for you for free. Mobile Muster and Landcare Australia Ltd aim to plant and maintain up to 100,000 native trees - offer is valid to 30 June 2007. Further information can be accessed at www.mobilemuster.com.au OR Ph: 1300 730 070

Forthcoming Environmental Days for June - July

Schools Tree Day - to be held on Fri 27 Jul. Visit www.planetark.com/campaignspage.cfm/newsid/17/newsDate/3/story.htm

National Tree Day - to be held on Sun 29 Jul. Visit www.planetark.com/campaignspage.cfm/newsid/17/newsDate/3/story.htm

A detailed list of information for all environmental dates for 2007 can be accessed at the Australian Government Dept of Environment & Water Resources website www.environment.gov.au/events/index.html

Free to a Good Home

2 comfy rolled arm chairs in light coloured fabric.

Call Stuart & Sonya on 9699 1601

Ezy Electrical Services

Another local business worth knowing about...

Ian resides in Yarra Glen and if he can get enough work to live in Ruffy permanently he will... which means he will be more available as time goes on, especially when there is an emergency!!! He can be found in the Yea and Alexandra paper, as he services anywhere from Yarra Glen to Bonnie Doon.

He does domestic, commercial and industrial electrical work, which includes, house, sheds, pumps etc.

Ian's contact number is 0408990487

TERIP TERIP COMMUNITY DINNER
SATURDAY 11TH AUGUST, 2007
AT THE REC RESERVE
6PM FOR SHERRIES AND NIBBLES
MEAT SUPPLIED, BYO DRINKS
\$15 PER PERSON
\$5 FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
PLEASE COULD YOU BRING
A SIDE DISH, SALAD, OR DESSERT?
RSVP, WEDNESDAY 8TH AUGUST
LU CRAVEN - 5790 4011
FRANCES LAWRENCE - 0432 324 929

The Highlands Scribblers meet monthly to share their writing. Here is Yolande's work from last month.

Beware of the spoodle...

Chloe is Miranda's dog; she spends some time at my place every now and then. She is a darling little woolly terror. Let me tell you what happened on a very early Monday morning.

Chloe wakes me up, asking to go out. Half asleep I open the door, leave it ajar, return to my very warm, very seductive bed and blissfully go back to sleep.

I dream of being in Paris, in "Fauchon", delicacies surrounding me. I get to the counter where truffles are displayed in a wicker basket. Even in my sleep I can smell their earthy smell... but a cold nose brings me back to Highlands. My little friend is obviously very happy, all smiles and waggy tail. She brought me a present. It is on my pillow. She pushes towards me a very pungent, rain-resurrected cow pat... Thankfully, I do not like truffles.

CAVEAT FOOTY TIPPING

3 tipsters left in after this last weekend - Scotty, Jan and Michael. Scotty's system of supporting anyone except Melbourne may be unravelling!

Highlands/Caveat CFA

A big thank you to all those wonderful brigade members who either cut wood and/or sold firewood or rattled buckets at the front gate of Mudbash during the Queen's birthday weekend. Thanks to your dedicated efforts the Highlands/Caveat CFA raised over \$2,600 to help extend the fire shed. A special mention to Gareth Antrobus, who although not a brigade member, put in long hours chopping and selling wood, as did Les gates. Many thanks fellas! By Paula Roberts

BITS OF BOTANY AND BIRDS

CORREA REFLEXA (Common Correa, or Native Fuschia) is a very hardy shrub, growing to 1.5m. and the only species naturally occurring here. It has green, or red and green bell-shaped flowers, for a long period from May to September. It provides nectar for Honeyeaters, and seeds for other native birds. Wallabies seem to love nibbling at it, but it thrives on pruning. There are a number of plants near the top of Rantin Robin Rocks, and scattered throughout the bush on our plateau. Correas do very well in gardens and make a wonderful low hedge, and there many species to choose from in plant nurseries. At the Highlands School, the path is lined with Correa bauerianii or Chef's Cap.



Community What's On Calendar - June/ July/ August

Sunday 24th June	Highlands Ramblers. The NEXT WALK will be in the Highlands area. Meet at the Highlands Hall at 10.30 a.m. Enquiries to Peg Lade - 57 969222
Thursday 28 June	Playgroup at Leone's 10am -12pm 0500 500 088 New members most welcome
Friday 29th June	Highlands/Caveat CFA meeting 7.30pm Highlands Hall. All welcome
Saturday July 14 th	Session 1 "Picture Show Man" 1977. In 1920s Australia a travelling showman brings moving pictures to country towns. Session 2 "Newsfront" 1978 A tribute to Australia's newsreel filmmakers. Yea Shire Chambers, open with drinks and nibbles at 6.30p.m. The first screening is at 7.00 p.m. after which we enjoy supper. The second film follows at around 8.30 p.m
SATURDAY, 21ST JULY	WORKING BEE!! TO ERECT NEW GARDEN SHED AT THE TERIP TERIP RECREATION RESERVE AT 10 AM FOLLOWED BY A SAUSAGE SIZZLE ALL WELCOME COME ALONG AND HAVE A FUN MORNING!!
Sat.3rd August	Whole Farm Planning course begins for Highlands- Ruffy group
Monday 6th August	Highlands Landcare Executive meeting, Jenny Webb's place, 7.30pm All welcome
Saturday August 11 th	Session 1 "Acquitted by the Sea"1940. An ultra short crime film with an ironic twist. "Paths of Glory" Stanley Kubrick's moving study of the insanity of war. Session 2 " An American in Paris"1951. Gene Kelly and Leslie Caron star in this musical built around a Gershwin score. Yea Shire Chambers, at 6.30p.m.
SATURDAY 11TH AUGUST	TERIP TERIP COMMUNITY DINNER AT THE REC RESERVE, 6PM FOR SHERRIES AND NIBBLES MEAT SUPPLIED, BYO DRINKS, \$15 PER PERSON, \$5 FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN, PLEASE COULD YOU BRING A SIDE DISH, SALAD, OR DESSERT? RSVP, WEDNESDAY 8TH AUGUST LU CRAVEN - 5790 4011 FRANCES LAWRENCE - 0432 324 929
Saturday 25th August	RuffArtz "A Season of Saturdays" presents Sanfona. All shows begin at 8pm at the Ruffy Public Hall and delicious cakes and coffee are available at interval.
Friday 21st September	I know this is a bit ahead but it is not to be missed. The HCCC AGM and the theme is "Ten Things To Do With A Rabbit". There will be an opportunity for everyone to participate so mark it in your diary now.(Date especially chosen so weekenders can attend!)

FREE HARDWASTE DISPOSAL

Due to the implementation of recent Worksafe Guidelines discouraging the manual handling of waste, Murrindindi Shire Council has recently resolved to discontinue its hard waste collection service to properties within the municipality.

Following on from the free disposal of green waste offered by Council last November and to further assist residents in ensuring their properties are kept clear, Council is giving residents the opportunity to dispose of hard waste material free of charge.

This is available at the following Transfer Station sites on the dates listed:

YEA - Saturday 30 June & Sunday 1 July 2007.

Only hard waste material (such as scrap metals, white goods, furniture, timber, empty paint tins, mattresses etc) generated from properties within the Murrindindi Shire will be accepted free of charge and residents must present a current "Tip ID Tag" or a copy of a current rates notice to the transfer station attendant on arrival as verification.

Watch out for the Wallabies

A number of Rock Wallabies have been hit on the Ghin Ghin Road lately. Please take care and look out for these shy animals. Normally they show a lot of road sense but you obviously can't rely on this. A shortage of food brings many of our wild life onto the roadsides and into greater danger at this time of the year.

PATO CHOPPER SPRAYING

If you are spraying Paterson's Curse this year, you need to book up your chemicals with Wales Rural Traders ASAP or send your docket to Janet to receive the 50% refund.