

The Granite News

Ruffy
Caveat
Highlands
Terip Terip
Hughes Creek
Whiteheads Creek



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INTERVIEW WITH A LOCAL

CHRIS BENNETT of "ANTCLIFFE'S CHASE" vineyard, at CAVEAT.

Chris was born the only child of John and Nonie Bennett, spending most of his childhood in the suburban "bush" of East Ringwood, where he got his first taste of country. He was a foundation pupil at Yarra Valley School, and a holiday at Yarra Glen re-enforced his love of the bush. After a trip to Europe with his parents, Chris did a 3-year farming course at Dookie College. He became involved in re-planting the College vineyard, and trips to and from Melbourne became explorations of back roads which was how he discovered Caveat. He decided that there was his destiny. Two years of travelling and working in Europe and USA followed, Chris's father retired early and they planted 14 acres of vines at Caveat. Some locals told them they "would never grow vines here!", this being the first vineyard in the area. The Fernlea vineyard, close by, was planted soon after. Riesling, Cabernet, Chardonnay and Pinot Noir were planted, and have been extremely successful, in spite of the challenges of infertile soils and a harsh climate. Chris realised he would not get big crops, but has achieved a good balance, and a profitable enterprise. He prunes himself, (until I get sick of it, says Chris), then employs a local team. Picking is done by hand, and Chris makes all his own wine. Marketing is via cellar door, some to retail outlets, and Chris started an Australia-wide "Scarecrow Wine Club" which is a good marketing ploy.

Chris's best mate, his father, John, died in 1985, and Nonie still lives in the main house.

Chris said the best thing in his life happened when he met Susan, they married, built a house, had the biggest vintage ever, and by the end of that year, Chris's 40th, the first of their 3

WELCOME TO ISSUE NO.27

This week's heading is from Lockie Cameron. He has sent two versions, which I will include over the next 4 weeks. Please send all information to miranda@activ8.net.au

children was born.

Chris was initially astonished and delighted by the easy acceptance into the Caveat and Highlands communities, in fact, one neighbour on meeting him on the road for the first time, immediately invited him to dinner!

Chris is a member of H.C CFA, and on the Finance committee of the Highlands School. His passion and hobby is golf at Strathbogie, where his 2 older children sometimes act as caddy. A good and happy man!

BITS OF BOTANY AND BIRDS

ACACIA (Wattle) is the largest genus of flowering plants in Australia, with about 985 species, ranging from *Acacia aculeatissima* (Thin-leaf Wattle - a ground hugging species) to tall forest trees.

SILVER WATTLE is our local most common species, which is coming into its golden glory along the Goulburn and other local rivers. It is critical habitat for gliders and possums, and is also a food plant for caterpillars of native butterflies and moths, which in turn attract insect-eating birds such as the Scrubwren. Wattle is our National floral emblem, and part of Australia's Coat of Arms.



NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Enrolments

HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL is calling for enrolments for 2008. If you are looking for a school that provides individual learning programmes, a stimulating, exciting curriculum in a safe and secure environment, you must come and have a look at us. Call Allyson Ph 57969208 to make a time that suits you.

SMALL CLASSES, BIG IDEAS

Children as Authors Winners

Congratulations to Laura and Kassie who won their category- best illustrations, in the Children As Authors competition with a book titled 'Is the Ambulance Coming?' Congratulations also go to Walter and John who received an honour in the category of best story line for their book 'The two Miners'.

Focus on Bullying

Staff and students are putting the spotlight on bullying. Students and staff will be creating some common language and understanding around this topic. HPS is a zero tolerance zone for bullying!

Learning Journey Writing

Each Friday, all students are asked to reflect upon their learning over the week and make an entry into their Learning Journey books or Journals. Here is one from Imogen last week: Yesterday in Yea we went to pottery and I learnt that you need to make sure there are no cracks in your pot. In Maths this week, I learnt that a trundle wheel is easier to use to measure the oval than string. This week we went to Peg Lade's house to do some ponding. I learnt new things about creatures that live in the dam like: boatman, dragonflies, damselflies and lots of others.

Classifieds & Community Notices

HCCC SPRAY EQUIPMENT

The spray equipment costs \$33.00 per day to hire or you can pay \$100 pa for unlimited use. Please report any damage and DON'T fix it. Steve McAlpin is the "approved" spray unit fixer NOT YOU! It is OK to join broken hoses using the tol box supplied parts but that's it. AVOID EMBARRASSMENT, if you owe for past borrowing, you need to pay up before you borrow again.

Equipment is kept with the following people:

Janet Hagen Michael Kopanica
Rob Hayes Scott McKay

News from the Highlands/ Caveat Road Committee

Following our contact with the Shire and the Community Meeting in July there have been some positive developments.

The Shire has agreed to seal a 200 metre section of Dropmore Rd. on the bend near the Kopanica property and a 200 metre section of Gum Rd some 2.2km from the southern intersection with Highlands Rd (Fernleigh end).

It is hoped that weather permitting etc. this should be done in December 2007.

It would seem that the shire will also alter the Gum Rd. Highlands Rd intersection into a proper T junction.

The Road Committee is presently in discussions re the clarifying the names of roads, particularly in the Caveat area. Eventually a community consultation will need to take place before it can be finalised. Conversations are also taking place to rationalise and improve the road signage throughout the area. Indicator posts are also soon to be placed on the bends of the Ghin Ghin Rd. This should help in fogs. For any further information contact Roads Committee Convener Stuart Reid 5796 9358.

RUFFY PRODUCE STORE

The store is open on Friday for lunch (from 11.30 am) and Saturday, Sunday and public holidays for breakfast (from 8.30 am) and lunch. First Friday Dinners are on each first Friday of the month (surprise, surprise) Conferences, conjugations and any other big bash, give us a hoi

Sad News

Albert Penny of Terip Terip passed away in Euroa last Thursday after a long illness .

Albert was a founding member of Landcare in the district , starting with the Ruffy - Terip Rabbit Action Group . He was the VFF representative on the Granite Creeks committee and later a regular attendee of Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative committee meetings. Albert was an astute observer of nature as well as a shearer , fencer , bee keeper , tree planter and farmer . St David's Uniting church at Terip Terip was also a big part of Alberts life.

Our thoughts go to Joan , Francis , Stella and Mervin and the rest of Alberts large family.

More Sad News . Peter Leigh of Ruffy passed away last Friday at the age of 61years . Peter and Margie Leigh have run the popular Nampara Leigh holiday cottages for many years. He will be greatly missed by his family .

NOTICE OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Residents and ratepayers are advised that a Special Meeting of Council has been scheduled for Tuesday 28 August 2007 at the Alexandra Council Chambers commencing at 1:00pm The purpose of the meeting is the adoption of the 2007/2008 Council budget.

Council's 2007/2008 Draft Budget Report is available for public comment. Copies of the Budget are available from the Alexandra, Yea and Kinglake Council Offices, the Eildon Resource Centre, Marysville Visitor Information Centre and online at www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au. Any person proposing to make a written submission on a proposal contained in the Budget must do so before 12noon on Friday 25 August 2007. Submissions should be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, Murrindindi Shire Council, P.O. Box 138, Alexandra, 3714.

"When Insults have Class"

"He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends."-- Oscar Wilde
"I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play, bring a friend... If you have one."-- George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill
"Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second...if there is one."-- Winston Churchill, in response

Grundfos Pressure Tank. Model PT8. \$200.00 Pls. phone 57908670.

SUNDAY IN THE BASIN



Kevin , John , Samantha . Roger, Neville, Mathew and James

Members of Whiteheads Creek Landcare Group recently gave Roger Lilley a neighbourly hand with stage one of his project to rehabilitate parts of his property at the end of the Old Ghin Ghin road, in a locality known as the Basin.

Roger had collected 65 species of plants suitable for the area carefully following the revegetation guides. Each tube was coded with numbers that needed to be matched to a numbered stake, which marked the position for planting. This proved very challenging to the planters as they searched "Planting Area 3" for A16 or B24, rather like a treasure hunt. This greatly hampered our usual planting speed especially David's. Extra tall stakes and plastic guards were used to deter vermin. Weed control will keep Roger busy for many years to come.

Thanks to David Freeman, John Thompson, Neville Ford, James Matters & Janet from Landcare, planting areas 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 & 8 were completed on Sunday.

HPS STUDENT AWARDS

Senior Room:

Tables: Kelly, Elliot, Ariel

Spelling: Michael, Jack H, Kelly, Ariel, Yasmine

Junior Room:

Tables: Walter

Spelling: John, Imogen, Kassie

Reading: Emillie,



Community What's On Calendar - August/September/October	
23rd-24th August	La Trobe students will be conducting a Limnological survey. A group of 2nd year Environmental Management will be staying at "Kobyboyn" and doing an extensive study of the plants in three bogs in Highlands at Roger and Jenny Strong's, Peg and Doug Lade's and Steve McAlpin's. Interested community members are invited to attend the 'Kobyboyn' shearers' quarters on the evening of 23rd August to talk to students and staff and discuss specimens found.
Sat. 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. Tickets on sale from Glen 57904318 until sold out. Doors open 7.30pm
Saturday 25th August	HiArts – "Arts and Ideas Conversation" HiArts will hold its first Arts and Ideas Conversation in the Highlands Hall from 10.30am to 3.30pm. Morning Tea and a light lunch will be served. Cost \$10 per person. These conversations will centre around the theme "What is Art (for)? A number of artists have been invited to present a sample of their work followed by informal discussion. There will be an opportunity to explore an aspect of the Highlands landscape. Participants are advised to include strong shoes/boots/
Sat. 25th Aug	BEAM Mitchell Environment Group Dinner & Guest Speaker Night 6.00pm-9.30pm A talk given by popular author Leon Costermens on plants, plant communities and their relationship with general habitat. Tallarook Mechanics Institute Hall, Tallarook. Cost: adults \$30 children under 16 \$20. For catering purposes RSVP by Fri 17th August. Ph. John Brissett on 57841970 or Caroline Morris on 57841177.
Sun 26th August	Highlands Ramblers Walk .NEXT WALK will be following Kopanica Creek from Antcliffe's Chase to the Dropmore Mineral Springs. Meet at Highlands Hall at 10.30 am , or at Antcliffe's Chase front gate at 10.45. Enquiries to Peg Lade 57 969222.
Thurs 30th August	Secret Men's Business, Caveat Church. There will be a demonstration of the Rodex Bunny Blaster
August 31-Sep 3 .	Euroa Community Cinema— "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" Fri & Sat 8pm . Sunday 4pm
Saturday 8th September	Basic Cheese Making Course - Back by popular demand -in this day workshop you can make your own cheddar, wensleydale, fetta, parmesan, gouda or haloumi cheese! Just bring an ice cream container so that you can take your finished product home .Times : 10am - 3 pm Cost :\$70 (includes lunch)Venue :Euroa
Friday 21st September	HCCC AGM and the theme is "Ten Things To Do With A Rabbit". (Date especially chosen so weekenders can attend!) Thoughts from Sammy Strong on bunny usages- what about garden/landscape elements?! Bronzes from roadkill , 'gnomabbits', dried and made into pavers? Paw inserts in outdoor furniture?
5th October	Highlands Landcare AGM 7.30pm Highlands Hall. More details coming but it should be very interesting.
26th October	Highlands Landcare Executive meeting, 8pm. Jenny Webb's place PH 57969236 if you need directions. It was great to have Brien Cook and James Simonsen at our last meeting, all welcome.

Name	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5
GREG	SWANS	MAGPIES	CATS	SAINTS	ROOS
SCOTT	SWANS	CATS	MAGPIES	EAGLES	ROOS
RICK	SAINTS	CATS	MAGPIES	EAGLES	SAINTS
JAN	CATS	SAINTS	EAGLES	DEMONS	SWANS
JOHN SPORRY	CATS	MAGPIES	TIGERS	BOMBERS	ROOS
DOUG	SWANS	CATS	CROWS	BOMBERS	DEMONS
MICHAEL	SAINTS	SWANS	CATS	LIONS	ROOS
CHRIS	SAINTS	CATS	SWANS	MAGPIES	EAGLES
JACK	DOGS	CATS	CROWS	BOMBERS	MAGPIES
QUENTIN	SAINTS	POWER	CROWS	EAGLES	ROOS
DAVID&BETTY	CATS	SAINTS	SWANS	MAGPIES	EAGLES

Caveat Curch Tipping at end of 19 and then there was only 4 Greg, John, Michael, Chris