

The Granite News

Ruffy
Caveat
Highlands
Terip Terip
Hughes Creek
Whiteheads Creek



Highlands Primary School
3025 Highlands Road
Highlands 3660

Ph: 0357969208
Mobile: 0429969208
FAX: 0357969307

Volume 1, Issue 28

27th August, 2007

Award for Janet Hagen

Ruffy resident Janet Hagen was awarded the Hubert Miller Perpetual Trophy at the Upper Goulburn Awards dinner in Mansfield last Friday.

Named after well respected Trawool farmer Hubert Miller, who had an association with waterway management and natural resource issues for forty years and served on several committees and Authorities, the award recognises a member of the community who has shown outstanding commitment to community engagement in natural resource management activities in the upper Goulburn catchment.

Janet Hagen is a long serving member of the Hughes Creek catchment area and has been instrumental in encouraging landholders to be better land managers.

Starting with the rabbit buster program Janet sought and gained funding to assist with pest animal management and harbour destruction in the Hughes Creek area, with great success and huge gains for participating landowners.

In her own words Janet says she has never refused assistance to any landowner who has shown the will to improve the sustainability of their property through pest plant and animal management.

Nominated by the Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative, Janet has been proactive in community engagement in the Ruffy area for over 25 years and was responsible for major tree planting projects showing enormous energy and dedication to every project she tackled.

The Upper Goulburn Implementation Committee congratulates Janet on her achievements and believes she is a most worthy recipient of the Hubert Miller Perpetual Trophy.

By Poppe Davis

Photo: Hubert Miller (left) and Janet Hagen with the Hubert Miller Perpetual Trophy.

WELCOME TO ISSUE NO.28

This week's heading is from Lockie Cameron. He has sent two versions, and I will include the other one in the next 2 weeks. Please send all information to miranda@activ8.net.au. It's time to thank the people behind The Granite News, Peg Lade for her Bits of Botany and Birds and her interviews with locals, Jan Gardner and her mother and Yolande for folding.



HPS STUDENT AWARDS

Senior Room:

Home Learning: Jack H, Kelly
Tables: Jack H, Elliot, Ariel
Spelling: Michael, Jack H, Kelly, Ariel

Junior Room:

Tables: John, Laura, Daniel, Walter
Spelling: John, Daniel, Cuchulainn
Reading: Emillie,
Counting: Kendall
WHAT'S ON

Wed 29th Aug Transition at Yea High
Wed 5th Sep Yr 6 Transition- Bunjil Day

Thur 6th 9yrs and above Athletics
Fri 7th SCHOOL PRODUCTION
Wed 12th: ELF Book walk in Yea
Mon 17th: ASISTM presentation day

NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Focus on bullying:

Due to the importance of regular discussion around the wellbeing of our students we have put the spot light on bullying for the remainder of this term. This is NOT to say that we have a problem with bullying at HPS but as with all schools- there is a hint of it from time to time.

By putting the spotlight on bullying we are working at developing life skills for students to help them manage in challenging situations and to find an assertive voice for themselves or others!

One of the many aims of the sessions was to develop a common response to the questions: What is bullying? and What is a bully? Students collaborated and developed the following common responses- What is bullying? Bullying is any verbal or physical abuse that makes us feel unhappy. What is a bully? A bully is a person who makes people feel unhappy by using verbal or physical abuse.

Students participated in role plays that helped to identify the difference between assertive and aggressive behaviour and language and we have begun the journey of developing a school wide strategy towards bullying.

Transition is an important time in our grade 6 students' school life. Below is a photo of Ariel Graf enjoying the company of some new friends.



Classifieds & Community Notices

John Deere tractor 2140. 2,500 hours. \$15,000.00

Hardie Sprayer. 400l. tank. 8m. wide. Extra hose. \$1,200.00

Electric tipper trailer. 8'x 10' \$3,000.00. Phone 5790 4225.

Hughes Creek Waterwatch Team



Hughes Creek Waterwatch Team have been monitoring the water quality in the creek for 5 years. They collect data on turbidity, which is the amount of sediment being carried by the water, ecoli levels and annual phosphorous and chemical levels. This week they received new EC meters to measure salinity levels. Kirsten Hogan, Waterwatch Coordinator, trained them on the use of this new equipment. The Hughes Creek at Bungle Boori had a reading of 280 units which is much the same as readings taken in 1992 at that spot, anything below 800 is considered to be low in salinity, by contrast the water in Whiteheads creek at Kulaba gate has a reading of 10,000 us. Members of the team are Jan and Rob Hayes, Marg and Brian Tolley, Janet Hagen.

Landcare

There will be a demonstration of the Rodex Bunny Blaster at 4.00 pm at the Strathnaver Shearing Shed Cnr Gums Rd and Dropmore Rd on Thursday 30th August. Come and see the latest in rabbit control, that should prove very effective in our rocky granite country. It will also be a good chance to have a quick look at the pasture trials on Michael's property across the road and a great excuse to go to Secret Men's Business at Caveat Church afterwards. For Further information contact Scott McKay 57969259

POETRY ANYONE?

Please read this:

Dear Sari, The Poets Union (Sydney), with assistance from the Literature Board, is touring a couple of poets through regional Vic and NSW from Sep 2 to Sep 9: Petra White (Vic) and Angela Stretch (NSW). They would be available to be in the Euroa/Benalla area on Monday 3rd Sept. Would there be people in your neighbourhood who would be interested in being involved in either a workshop or reading with Petra and Angela? No costs would be involved.

Regards, Martin Langford Poets Union 02 9482 7110 / 0404 882 374 I received this email, and am interested to find out how many people would be interested in taking part in a poetry event. I have no idea how they got my name, but I guess these people are around our way after taking part in the Melbourne Writer's Festival and can't tell you anything about either of the poets, but it may be just the focus we need to meet and talk about poetry in general, and get some feedback on our ideas and our own work. I have made a tentative arrangement with The Ruffy Produce Store to meet in their new room, if we go ahead. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE LET ME KNOW ASAP 5790 4352 AND I'LL GO AHEAD AND ORGANIZE IT, THEN SEND YOU THE FINAL DETAILS. IF YOU KNOW OF ANYONE ELSE WHO MAY BE INTERESTED, PLEASE PASS IT ON.

Cricket.

We are planning to play cricket at the Hume And Hovell Ground at Strath Creek (www.humeandhovell.com.au) on Saturday 22nd February 2008.

The cost for the day is \$55 head which includes Lunch and tea and you have to have your own whites. This is a unique cricketing experience and anyone who is interested please contact either Doug Mclean 57904387 or Scott McKay 57969259.

WEATHER

A quite serious thunderstorm whipped through part of Highlands at approx. 3a.m. on 17th August. At Glentannar (Official Weather Bureau gauge) 22.4 mms was recorded, and less than 3 kms away, 36 mms fell with large hail, which was still there 12 hours later. The fuse on a power pole was blown out, meanwhile only 7.6 mms of rain fell at Terip Terip.

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

Highlands Hall approved

Deputy Prime Minister Vaille has advised NEVACC that he has approved \$56,222.00 from the Regional Partnerships programme to upgrade the Highlands Community Hall so that this small rurally isolated community has a meeting place and retains its local identity. Fantastic!

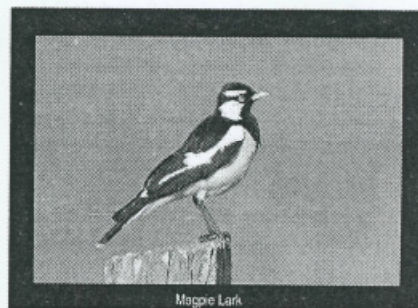
More information from Judy Reid coming soon.

BITS OF BOTANY AND BIRDS

MAGPIE LARK (Mudlark or Pee-Wee)

Probably everyone is familiar with our black and white Mudlarks, so called because of their beautifully made bowl-shaped nests of mud. But how many people notice that the male and female are different? The male has a black throat, whereas the female has a white front. To remember which is which, think of the female who wears a white apron, - (politically incorrect!)

Often, Willie Wagtails will build their cobweb and fibre nests in the lower branches of the same tree, so watch out for this, as real estate in the bird world is taken up this spring.



Caveat Footy Tipping

Greg, John, Michael & Chris are all still alive. However only Chris can win if the Eagles get up against St Kilda and the Roos go down to Carlton.

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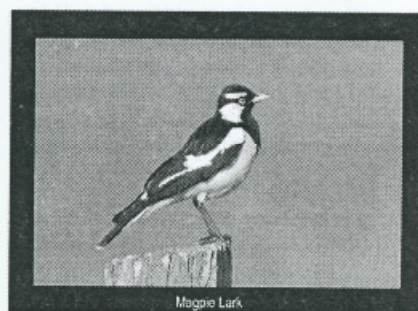
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Community What's On Calendar - August/September/October

Tuesday 28th August	RARE TOTAL ECLIPSE The partial eclipse will begin at 6.52pm, with a total blackout from 7.52pm to 9.22pm. A lunar eclipse can only occur at full moon when the sun, Earth and moon are perfectly aligned. When in the Earth's shadow, the moon sometimes appears red. The last total eclipse was on the 16th July, 2000. There will be telescopes set up on the Ikea car park in Richmond for the public to view the eclipse.
Thurs 30th August	Secret Men's Business, Caveat Church. There will be a demonstration of the Rodex Bunny Blaster. More details on page 2
August 31-Sep 3	Euroa Community Cinema— "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" Fri & Sat 8pm . Sunday 4pm
Friday 7th September	Highlands Primary School PRODUCTION. Highlands Hall.
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 Community Education Centre. Contact : 57 952 777
Sunday 9th September	Spring Creek Road, Alexandra. 9am – 3pm It's on again! Join one of Victoria's leading herpetologists, Peter Robertson, in the hunt to find this elusive lizard. Past volunteer surveys of this kind have increased the known population of the Striped Legless Lizard dramatically. Outdoor clothing and footwear required. BYO lunch. For more information and to join the hunt, please contact Bertram Lobert, on phone 5790 8606.
Sunday September 16	9.30 – 4.30pm. Know your Natural Treasures Bus Trip run by BEAM Mitchell Environment Group. Bus trip showcases many of the environmentally significant sites within Mitchell Shire. Bus leaves Mitchell Shire Hall in Broadford. BYO food, hot drink and chair. Contact Barbara Moss 57842524 or mitchell.moss@iinet.net.au for bookings and further information.
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? A detailed insert will be included next week.
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.

MOUNT TICKATORY – RUFFY

Mount Tickatory must be one of the more unique situations for a dwelling - tucked in on the North side of the 604 metre mountain, with lovely views to Good Morning Bill and beyond. The South side of Mt Tickatory slopes steeply down to the beautiful gorges of Hughes Creek, and the mountain is covered with Eucalypts, wattles and MANY granite boulders. There are perched bogs, tree ferns, native birds and animals and a huge and venerable Wedge-tailed Eagle's nest.

The house was originally built by Tony and Margaret Nicholas, who bought the land from Robin Summons part of Marling Park). Tony brought blocks of limestone from Mt Gambier, and did most of the building himself. He and Margaret established a water-saving

garden, mostly with natives, and also nut and fruit trees. They built a swimming pool from a stock tank.

Jan and Rob Gardiner bought the property 8 years ago. They extended the garden, added on to the house, planted about 3000 trees, (mostly Blue Gums and Shining Gums), and put in a 1-acre vineyard. There they planted Pinot Noir, Temporamillo, Sagrantino, and Sangiovese, an award winning wine. Jan does most of the work in the vineyard, which is irrigated from 2 spring-fed dams.

Rob has a most unusual business, which he originally established in Geelong, and thanks to his engineering and other skills, it has grown considerably. The business is essential, but not glamorous, and is an Odour- Control system, wherein Rob supplies chemicals to waste water systems, mainly sewerage. Magnesium hydroxide is used, which lifts the ph to 8 or 9,

the sulphides which cause the odours are then retained in solution, and Bingo! No smell and no corrosion. What an intriguing and interesting set-up! Rob has 2 big trucks, makes the tanks, sheds and does all the installation necessary, himself. His son was the main driver of trucks, but has now gone to W.A. Rob is re-thinking the enterprise, and has decided to sell Mt Tickatory and move nearer to a main highway, where he won't have to negotiate narrow, gravel, private roads, often at night.

We all hope they don't move too far away !

The name "Tickatory" (according to Nigel Sinnott's book of Place Names) is from the aboriginal "tickera" - marshmallow weed. This plant is not indigenous to our area, but possibly refers to the Hemp Bush (Gynatrix pulchella) which does occur here.