

The Granite News

Ruffy
Caveat
Highlands
Terip Terip
Hughes Creek
Whiteheads Creek



Interview with a Local Doug Maclean

Doug grew up in Mitcham when it was very much an outer eastern suburb of Melbourne. Holidaying as a 10 year old with a family friend (a soldier settler at Lake Bolac), Doug pestered his parents to let him spend following school holidays there. Attracted to anything about farming, he developed his own vegetable garden at home, kept chooks and covered his expenses by selling vegetables and eggs to his mum and willing neighbours!

Qualifying as a wool classer, he worked across NSW, Victoria and Tasmania until the desire to farm saw him farm labouring at Nhill. Correspondence courses in Farm Management led to management jobs in S.A. culminating in managing Bungle Boorie for 12 years.

He established Maclean Rural Service for consulting and farm management while managing 'Bingara' in Ruffy, and after this, he and Helen McDougall bought the closed Ruffy Pantry. Busy with his consultancy, there was no thought of opening a coffee shop. However, their interest in quality local produce, food and gatherings, led to the Ruffy Produce Store opening on Grand Final weekend 2002 with the grand sum of \$86-00 takings for Day 1! Monthly barbecue dinners followed with one local commenting "it's like having a group of friends over for dinner at home but we don't have to wash the dishes!" Continuing his farm consultancy and though hectic at times with the Store, Doug admitted with tongue in cheek that Helen is the boss, and the Store keeps him off the streets at weekends!

He's had a totally new experience with the Store, believing it is good to be challenged and learn new things. He said he's never been so busy but enjoys the whole experience. His long term love of sport still manifests because when he takes a day off, he said there is nothing better than Ruffy beating Highlands at cricket!

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WELCOME TO ISSUE NO.29

This week's heading is Lockie Cameron's second version. Thanks Lockie. Any more headings out there? Please send all information to miranda@activ8.net.au or ring on 57969261

Thanks to Jill Davidson who has stepped into Peg Lade's shoes while she is away. It's fantastic to be spreading the load so competently.

I have heard on the grapevine that there are a number of weekenders around Ruffy who aren't receiving The Granite News. If you know of anyone, please send me their email address and I'll pop them on the mailing list.

Feedback on Granite News heading. Issue 24 heading matched with issue 28 rocks. Any more comments?

Just a reminder that classified advertisements are free for people who receive The Granite News. Just email them to me or ring them through.

Thanks again to the HCCC for making this newsletter possible.

HPS Past Student Success Stories

It was a great thrill to read that Allison and Alex Rumble have been awarded the prestigious Principal Endeavour Award at Yea High School. This award is "designed to recognise students who are highly engaged in their studies". Congratulations to Allison and Alex who have continued to foster their love of learning!

On the same topic of past student success, a message came through from Frances Smythe in Tasmania that also highlighted the exceptional educational opportunities our students face. "Alister has said that he is finding his maths easy this year and he reckons it's because Miranda used to give them harder work last year - he is proud of the fact that he did work that was above his year level and he obviously believes it has paid off".

Junior Room
Tables: Daniel, Laura,
Spelling: Laura, Imogen

NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

National Science Week

On Tuesday we did experiments for national Science Week. The first one I did was flight with Brett. We made a jet out of a balloon that was tied onto a straw that was threaded onto string. We didn't tie up the balloon because we needed to let it go at the end to make the jet move. Then we looked at static electricity. We had to blow up a balloon and rub it onto a t-shirt or on the carpet, this made static electricity. The static electricity made paper dance. Then we moved onto sundials with Di. We got a sheet of paper with numbers that are on the clock on it but we had to change them. Then we got a triangle and stuck it on and took them outside and pointed them north. Wherever the shadow was pointing, it would tell the time. The last experiment was making paper bangers with Ms Mildren. We got a sheet of A3 paper and folded it in lots of tricky ways. Eventually it turned into a triangle. We held one corner and swung it very hard- if you did it right it would make a loud BANG! It was a great afternoon. By Imogen Grade 3

Year 9 Advance Students

We welcome James and Kris for Yea High who will be spending the week with us as part of their Year 9 Advance Programme. The boys will be running sport sessions, generally helping out around the school and in the classroom and organising a healthy lunch for students on Friday.



Michael absorbed in his ponding excursion with Glenda Woods

Classifieds & Community Notices

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

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

Anyone for pottery?

If any person is interested in learning pottery in Yea one evening a week next term please contact Sharyn, we need 10 people before we can book a night, so please ring 03 57904297, we have 6 interested now.

Upper Hughes Creek Landcare

It has been suggested that a meeting of the Upper Hughes Creek Landcare should be called to generate interest and involvement by locals.

A field day/social day was proposed but it would need someone from the area to organise excavators, spray units, bunny blasters etc, BBQ and a talk on how to promote involvement in this Landcare group.

If you agree with this suggestion please contact Randal Threlfall PH Bus Hrs. 0427100783 or Janet Hagen PH 57904268 with your Landcare Ideas.

HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS.

Once again more than 40 Ramblers gathered at Antcliffe's Chase, to walk along Kopanica Creek to the Drop-more Mineral Springs. Moss covered granite boulders, treeferns, a wedge tailed eagle's nest, koalas, kangaroos, echidna digs, (maybe bandicoots? I'm not convinced!), orchid leaves, but no flowers yet, tall eucalypts, and then into open pastures and to the Mineral Springs. It was a lovely warm day, and the kids enjoyed the creek where it flows over a steep granite slope. Afternoon tea at Susan Bennett's for those not in a hurry, and thank you to those who got us back to our cars, and to Andrew Shaw for leading. Next walk will be to "The Peak", North of Hughes Creek. Meet at the Highlands Hall on Sunday 23rd Sept, or 10.50 at Brian Leahey's front gate. Enquiries to Peg Lade 57 969222.

Free to good home: x1 young bantam rooster. Beautiful colours. Ring Natalie on 5797 3015

Just in case you thought they weren't serious.....

Many of us have had a visit from the D.P.I as part of the Highlands Rabbit Eradication Programme. We then received a Direction Notice, requesting Rabbit control works to be undertaken. Here's a quick update from a court case from last year's programme. The matter was heard in the Seymour Magistrates Court and the landowners were fined \$500 each and ordered to pay \$3013.94 in costs. They were also placed on a 12 month undertaking to comply with any notice or direction issued by the Department. So support this important programme and help make Highlands a rabbit free zone.

Cricket.

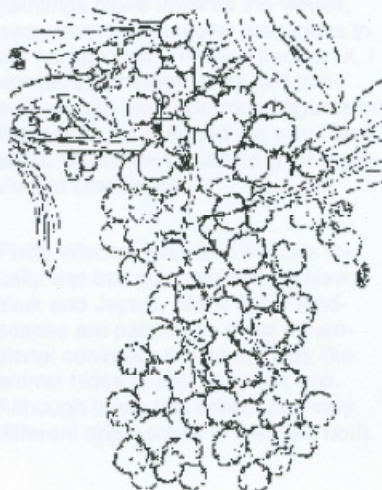
We are planning to play cricket at the Hume And Hovell Ground at Strath Creek (www.humeandhovell.com.au) on Saturday 22nd February 2008. The cost for the day is \$55 head which includes Lunch and tea and you have to have your own whites. This is a unique cricketing experience. Please contact either Doug Mclean 57904387 or Scott McKay 57969259.

Celebrate Landcare Week 3-9th September 2007

To celebrate Landcare Week we will give anyone who colours in the picture below six different wattles to plant in their garden.

Bring your picture to Highlands Primary School on Thursday 6th September or Old Ruffy Primary on Saturday morning 8th September to collect your trees. Contact Janet 57 904268

Week of the Wattle

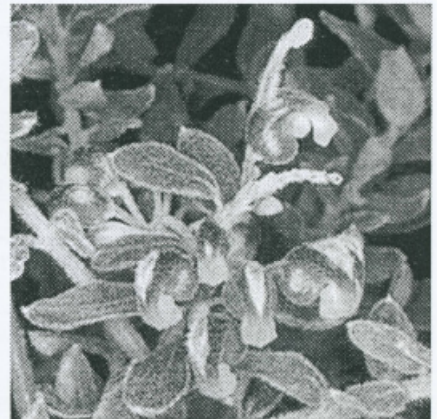


Grundfos Pressure Tank. Model PT8. \$200.00 Pls. phone 57908670.

BITS OF BOTANY AND BIRDS

ALPINE GREVILLEA (Grevillea alpina)

Grevilleas are not well represented in our tableland country, in fact I only know of one place, on the Old Highlands Road, where Alpine Grevillea grows. It is common and very variable in other parts of the catchment, -can be a prostrate shrub or grow to 2 metres. It has red and yellow flowers from late winter to early summer. It is a good nectar source for honeyeaters, moths and butterflies. It grows well in gardens, and is well worth planting.



Flu Vaccinations

Flu, colds and hay fever have similar symptoms but if you have fever plus two of the following, it may be flu— aches and pains, sore throat, headache, cough.

Flu is highly contagious and spreads by coughing, sneezing and touching contaminated objects and transferring germs to the respiratory system. (I wrote this just before getting the damn thing!) Ask your healthcare provider about flu vaccinations or visit www.flushots.com.au

To give away

(well nearly, a contribution for the injections would be appreciated!) 2 lovely border collie X Labrador puppies, 12 weeks old. 1 black and white female, 1 cream male. Ph 57922370

Community What's On Calendar—September/October/November

Euroa Thursday 6th Sep 2:00pm-5:00pm	Join Gwyn Jones a leading agronomist in the methods of biological farming. What is your paddock trying to say? Let's listen to our soils and plants while Gwyn takes us on tour of discovery in soil auditing. When you look at your soil and plants what should you be looking for? What do the soils and plants tell you about the health of your pasture? Are soil tests the best starting point? These field days will help to answer some of the bigger questions regarding soil health and pasture development. Come along and be challenged by what you see and hear. Directions: From Moglonemby Rd which runs North South between the Murchison Violet Town and Euroa Shepparton Rd turn west into the Moglonemby Hall Rd. The field day begins at the Moglonemby Hall. RSVP for catering purposes please contact Norman Tozer 0409 130 813 or perags@activ8.net.au
Friday 7th Sept	Highlands Primary School PRODUCTION. Highlands Hall.
Friday 7th Sept	First Friday Dinner at the Ruffy Store Need to book. Helen, Doug or whoever answers 5790 4387
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
Thursday 13th September 2007	TERIP TERIP RECREATION RESERVE INC Notice of Annual General Meeting 8.00pm AT THE TERIP TERIP RECREATION RESERVE HALL
Sunday 16th 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 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@inet.net.au for bookings and further information.
Friday 21st September	HCCC AGM and the theme is "Ten Things To Do With A Rabbit". Contact Miranda if you would like to attend PH 57969261
5th October	Highlands Landcare AGM 7.30pm Highlands Hall. More details coming but it should be very interesting.
26th October	Highlands Landcare general meeting, Limnology students will be showing us what they have discovered in our bogs, BBQ and talk by Tammy Weaver on UNDERGROUND WATER . Ring Jenny Webb PH 57969236 for more information.
1st November	HCCC Exec Meeting Whiteheads Creek Hall, next to CFA shed 8.00pm. All welcome, come along and hear all the exciting activities that this group is involved in, it is a really dynamic group and an easy way to find out what Landcare is doing for you.

Art and Ideas

Last Saturday, at Highlands Hall, twenty people watched Linda Robertson turn a blank sheet of paper into a dramatic figure drawing in about two minutes. Then Philip Wischer gave an overview of Western art history and an understanding of the place of the artist in today's society. This was the first Arts and Ideas Forum – an adventurous plan conceived by the HiArts committee.

As Linda worked on building up the figure from its outline, she stressed the importance of spontaneity in her work. She explained that she looks for the figures emerging out of the background, the same way a sculptor looks for figures buried in the stone,

before they set to work to release them. her approach may be the reason why the primary figures in her paintings move towards the viewer, away from the shadowy presences in the background. Thinking back on it, I wondered whether Linda had consciously put the background figures in the picture, or changed the way I look at art. Check www.hiarts.org for a preview of Linda's work.

Philip Wischer lives and exhibits locally and has also exhibited in New York and Japan. Many of his landscapes are painted on three dimensional canvases that to me look like animal hides or part of a rock wall. Although these two artists took very different approaches to their art, both

spoke about the many and mysterious ways in which we all express creativity. They also made it clear that the days of artist as an erratic genius have gone. Art is a commitment to a long, demanding journey.

After lunch, the group walked up the to the Rock Cliff Hills – except for the few Peg Lade expertly drove to the site, avoiding every rock and pothole while delivering an account of the history and geology surrounding us.

Bringing our new insights out into the landscape was just the thing we needed to begin reflecting on our newly enriched ideas about the way we see our world.

More forums are planned, so watch this space for information. Sari Wawn