

The Granite News

Ruffy
Caveat
Highlands
Terip Terip
Hughes Creek
Whiteheads Creek



Interview with a Local from the Younger Generation

Naomi McLennan

As a fourth generation member involved in the family farm of Bruce and Denise McLennan, Naomi attended school in Euroa before heading to boarding school in Windsor. After experiencing a working trip around Australia formulating ideas about her future directions, Naomi was inspired to consider viticulture while working with Chris Bennett of Antcliff's Chase Vineyard. She had always loved the farm as a child and with little money in sheep, she studied viticulture for 4 years at Adelaide University. Following her study, Naomi worked for 7 years in Margaret River in Western Australia. For 3½ years she was at Voyager Estate vineyard supervising crews of people and monitoring pests and diseases before deciding to form her own business consulting to vineyards around Margaret River.

The decision to return home was about becoming involved in the family farm and to spend more time with friends and family. Naomi's time working at the Ruffy Store for a while was a bonus as she met lots of new people – both locally and from further afield. From the district being mainly farming communities in her childhood, there are now people from many different backgrounds bringing much diversity to the area. She appreciates being able to live in a rural area with such diversity.

Currently Naomi works half time on the family farm with the remainder in vineyard management and gardening. Appreciating our rural area and continuing the efforts to conserve the environment here in the Tableland are important to her. She sometimes wonders about the wider trend away from the use of the land for farming as it is part of our food bowl. Some of her favourite things include family and friends, good food and wine, music, beer and her dog Franc – not in any particular order but often together!

By Jill Davidson

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9th September, 2007

WELCOME TO ISSUE NO.30

This week's heading is Lockie Cameron's second version. Thanks Lockie. Any more headings out there? Send to miranda@activ8.net.au. Thanks again to Jill Davidson for the local interview

Just a reminder that classified advertisements are free for people who receive The Granite News. Just email them or ring 57969261

New Look for Highlands Community Hall

It has taken nearly 2 years and 4 submissions covering three levels of government, but Highlands Community Hall has been successful and we have the funds to renovate our hall and improve the grounds surrounding it.

You will soon see the changes happening. Inside a completely new stainless steel kitchen, a floor and storage area beneath the stage, new timber boxes to increase the size of the stage, the resurfacing of the timber floors, more folding tables, a new digital projector, movie screen, block out blinds and a fresh coat of paint.

Outside Matt Smith will soon begin the new timber deck at the rear of the hall. When the weather is warmer the resurfacing of the tennis/netball court will take place, a gas barbecue, fixed outdoor furniture and new sporting equipment will be installed, and shade sails will cover the deck. New water tanks, improved plumbing, a fire fighting pump and repairs to our fence will also happen.

Finally Leone Gabrielle and Highlands Primary School students will create an outdoor mural beneath the deck.

Volunteers will be needed for many tasks during this process. Watch the 'Granite News' for details.

The funding does not cover all the costs involved. We thank those community members who have already made financial donations to help improve our hall. If you would like to help financially with this project please send a donation, large or small to Sue Peterson, Secretary/Treasurer, Highlands Community Hall Inc., RMB 4616, CAVEAT 3660.

NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Senior Student Projects:

Students in the senior classroom are experiencing the challenges of working to deadlines as the end of term looms near. Antarctica projects are due to be handed in for correction on Friday, which will allow time for any alteration before they are handed to Libby on Tuesday.

Year 6 transition:

All year 6 students will be heading off to the Yea Wetlands for a whole day of emersion in Aboriginal culture tomorrow. Students will be transported to and from the wetland by Miranda and will have the opportunity to work with other year 6 and year 7 students from the Murrindindi Cluster.

Regional Director's Visit:

During the first week of term Steven Brown, the Hume Regional Director visited our school and met with a focus group to discuss the strengths, weaknesses and challenges faced by our school with a particular focus on my role as a Principal. The following is an excerpt from the most recent edition of the Regional Newsletter where Steven writes: "Allyson Milden, Principal of Highlands PS is an outstanding educational leader. In partnership with her staff and community Allyson has established a school environment that has high expectations for every young person. Jan and I conducted her contract renewal process partly by engaging in a forum of community members, school councillors, students and staff. This was a very useful process and provided some great affirmation for Allyson's Principalship".

ELF Bookwalk:

Students will be heading to Yea next Wednesday to show our support for the 'Early Learning is Fun' project. Students are asked to come dressed as their favourite book character and enjoy the opportunity to listen to stories being told and read as we wander around the main street in Yea. Parents and younger siblings are most welcome to join us on the day.

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.

Highlands Landcare

We now have 14 paid up members for this financial year. Please rush out and send the \$25 for standard membership. This gives you the right to hire the Landcare equipment. Or better still, \$100 gives you free access to the equipment! The preferred payment method is EFT to our bank account: BSB 063 545

Account 1012 2292 (include your name in the details).

Otherwise a cheque made out to Highlands Landcare or Cash to Highlands Landcare Treasurer, 2848 Highlands Road, Highlands 3660.

Thanks .Jono jr@omnipotent.com.au

The Next Whole Farm Planning Course

If you haven't already put your name down, there are still places left.

Friday 14th September
6.30pm - 9.30pm Aerial photos and Soils

Friday 28th September
6.30pm - 9.30pm Farm Water Supply and Fire awareness

Friday 12th October
12noon - 5.00pm Field Trip

Friday 19th October
6.30pm - 9.30pm Weeds / Land deg. Presentations of Whole Farm Plans Date be agreed on at the first session. If you are interested, contact Sarah Challis

Whole Farm Planning Officer
I Ph.03 57611573, Mob.0419 571 208 email. sarah.challis@dpi.vic.gov.au

For sale: young goldfish 50c each. Mainly black but some will turn gold. Not suitable for tanks. Ponds only. Phone 5796 9360.

Wanted: playpen for puppy/child. Please phone Marisa on 5796 9360

The Mental Health First Aid Program

While people often know a lot about common physical health problems, there is widespread ignorance of mental health problems. This ignorance adds to stigmatising attitudes and prevents people from seeking help early and seeking the best sort of help. It also prevents people providing appropriate support to colleagues and family members, simply because they do not know how.

In order to help people provide initial support for someone with a mental health problem, a Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training course has been developed.

This course is a 12-hour course developed in 2000 by Betty Kitchener and Professor Tony Jorm with the aim to improve the mental health literacy of members of the Australian community. It is now auspiced by ORYGEN Research Centre at the University of Melbourne, Dept. of Psychiatry

Participants receive a course manual and also a certificate at the completion of the course. Those who have completed the course have been very positive about the knowledge and skills they have acquired.

Mental Health First Aid courses are conducted in every state and territory of Australia. These participants have been very varied, including teachers, nurses, case managers, support workers, social welfare staff, employment agencies staff, personnel staff, members of the general public, and staff of many Commonwealth State and Local Government Departments. If we have 15 minimum and 25 maximum people interested, we may be able to run the course at Highlands/ Ruffy halls. It can be a 2 days or 4 evenings course.

If you are interested please email my your name and preference for specific days/evenings to miranda@activ8.net.au.

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

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

Home at Last

Peter GILLSON grew up in the Melbourne suburb of Brunswick. After joining the army, Peter was sent to fight in the Vietnam War. On the 8th November, 1965, not long after Peter turned 20, he was shot and killed. Because his body was unable to be retrieved, he was listed as missing in action. Nearly 42 years later, Peter's remains were found in a wattle grove and brought home to Melbourne for burial.

Peter's eldest brother Graham lives with his wife Elaine in Old Highlands Rd. A younger brother, Kevin & his wife Marje, from Eden Park, Whittlesea, and a sister, Lorraine Wotherpoon from Strathmore, Melbourne, are all part of the Highland Ramblers monthly walkers. Another brother who also fought in Vietnam, Robert & his wife Janet, live at Longwood.

By Lorraine Wotherpoon

BITS OF BOTANY AND BIRDS

The White-Winged CHOUGH is an almost black bird, (not to be confused with the Raven), with white wing patches. It feeds mostly on the ground and is a sociable bird, living in groups of up to ten, which consist of one breeding pair, and young from previous years. No getting rid of the kids here, and the young all help with the nest building, incubation and feeding chicks for up to four years. The nest is a large bowl of mud, often several are made before building approval is given. Groups of choughs are frequently seen on our roadsides - look up in the trees for nests.



Community What's On Calendar—September/October/November	
Week beg 10th Sep	Terip Terip mowing roster ,The Listers, Helen Mc Kenzie Both sides of Springs Road and all 4 courts
Thursday 13th Sept	TERIP TERIP REC. RESERVE AGM 8.00pm AT THE TERIP TERIP RECREATION RESERVE HALL
Thursday 13th September	It's PLAYTIME! The Mad Hatters are getting together to read through a new play. If you are interested in either an on or off stage role, let us know. We will be meeting at Susan Bennett's house RMB 4510, Caveat-Dropmore Rd, Caveat at 7.30pm. For more details phone Susan on 57904338
Sep 15th	Harmonic Singing Workshop Harmonic Singing is practised in Tibet, Central Asia, Middle East, Africa, and Alaska. By manipulating mouth and tongue to split the sound, producing simultaneously a bell overtone and a base drone. Harmonic singing is relaxing, invigorating, a meditation of joy gently massaging the body from within. Lots of laughing and fun. , 4pm, till we get tired. \$15 light supper included. Alchera 230 Gap Rd. East Longwood. Ph Leone 0500 500 088
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.
Thursday 20th Sept	Highlands/Caveat CFA Executive Meeting Highlands Hall 7.30pm
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
Saturday 22nd September	The Black Market is on again ,Drop-in and informally swap, buy or sell local produce, offer a class, music or point of view ... drink coffee and chat ...play bocce? 10am - 12pm at Rocky Passes 1590 Highlands Rd
Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd September	Farm Gates and Shed Doors, Join the growers, wine makers, chefs and producers of the Goulburn River and Ranges Region as they throw open their farm gates and shed doors and invite you in for a 'look around the back'. To download the guide to Farm Gates and Shed Door, go to ... http://www.goulburnrandr.com.au/Files/brochure.pdf
Mon 24 September	(4th Mon Month) Harmonic Singing at Leone's All welcome 0500 500 088
Sunday 30th September 2007	Strathbogie Regional Wine Tasting & Lunch, White Hart Hotel, Longwood, 3665, Contact: Carl Durnin 0425-797623, The White Hart Hotel, Longwood in conjunction with Strathbogie Ranges Wine Region will be hosting a free tasting event, featuring the wines from the Strathbogie Region. The day will commence with a lunch featuring local produce and matching wines. Tastings will be available from 2.30-5.00pm, with the wine makers in attendance to answer all your questions. A small, yet unique pocket, just 1.5hrs north of Melbourne, Strathbogie Region is home to a small number of vineyards producing highly acclaimed wines. Strathbogie's terrain is very diverse with many areas elevated, providing the wine-makers with a wide climatic variety. A long growing season is reflected in the styles of wine produced, with Shiraz and Cabernet featuring strongly. Wineries including Elgo Estate, Longwood Winery, Maygars Hill, Plunkett Fowles, Dawson & Wills and Kithbrook Estate will be represented on the day.
5th October	Highlands Landcare AGM 7.30pm Highlands Hall. David Middleton is our guest speaker. He was the senior vet at Healesville Sanctuary and set up the interactive animal hospital. He will be talking about this, and other general wildlife issues.
8th October	Next meeting of Scribblers, Leone 0500500088. All welcome
Mon 22 Oct	(4th Mon Month) Harmonic Singing at Leone's All welcome 0500 500 088
26th October	Highlands Landcare General meeting. Time to be arranged. The Limnology students from La Trobe University have offered to take community members to the bogs to discuss their findings. This will be followed by a BBQ and talk by Tammy Weaver on Underground water. Ring Jenny Webb PH 57969236 if you need more information. All welcome.
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.
Friday 14th Dec	Highlands Community Christmas Breakup. Format to be decided. Put the date in your diaries.