

# The Granite News

Ruffy  
Caveat  
Highlands  
Terip Terip  
Hughes Creek  
Whiteheads Creek

I know this is quite long but I thought in these anxious times when we are all looking at the sky and hoping it's not going to be the same as last year, that this was a great talk.

What do you think?

## Janet Hagen's Report HCCC AGM 2007

"Well we survived 2006/07. We are all still here together.

Every thing looked nearly dead by the end of summer, then it rained and suddenly everything looked nearly alive. And it looks like the cycle has not changed for the coming year.

**Creative, Clever, Courageous people live here.** Look around tonight - many talents, many skills, bright and crazy ideas.

When I read the personal profiles in the Granite News, I am so impressed by the wealth of talent and, depth of experiences & diversity of backgrounds our community has.

Everyone has an interesting story.

None should under rate themselves.

Peg will eventually interview all 450 households in the catchment. What a social exercise!

The collective knowledge of our community is incredible.

**Last year was our year of planning and looking after each other.**

The drought taught us many things.

Some very scary things. Farmers were hit very hard but they managed. They learnt to do many things differently.

They changed the way they operate and will have to rethink their approach to making a living off the land again & again in the future.

The implications of Climate Change are becoming apparent to everyone. It is critical to react to the changes we are experiencing.

**This year let's start considering a range "Scenarios for the Future"**

Imaging what our catchment could look like in 20 years time. Picture what we want. Work towards getting there.

Prof. Allan Curtis Social Research at Charles Sturt Uni said on Wednesday "50% of rural properties will change hands in the next 20 years".

No surprise there, when property values continue to rise and farm incomes continue to drop. But who will be buying these properties? How will they earn a living? How can farming remain viable?

**What will happen when our biodiversity and water assets become more valuable than farm production?**

All the landscape change that has happened in Australia has taken place in less than a life span of a single organism. eg an old mess-mate or grey box tree.

We have a remnant landscape, bits left here and there. What will our cultural landscape look like? Think of Europe with 1000 years of years of civilization. Rural life is treasured. Natural things are valued. Sure they have stuffed a lot up but we learn from their mistakes.

What could Ruffy look like in just 20 years time ... Will we ever stop battling with the environment, drought, fire, flood, pests, clearing and tidying?

Each one of us would have different **ideal scenarios** but many bits will overlap. The common thread will be that we all want to live here.

Most of us probably don't want things to change a great deal, all of us want the change to be for the better.

### How can we do this?

One answer is through our landcare groups and the projects they undertake. Plus we need the continued support of the CMA and other government departments and even private funding sources.

**Highlands:** Zooming ahead, lots of activities and passion.

**Whiteheads Creek:** Celebrating 20 years of existence in October, struggling with changing demographics of a Rural & Urban mix and a community that heads to larger centres for socialization. They report low interest in landcare but .....everything they run is successful.

**Hughes Creek:** hanging in there, doing what they always do. Getting closer to solving the camping ground issue and restoring the middle reaches of the Hughes Creek. This has been their main focus.

**Upper Hughes Creek:** Fizzled out a bit in recent times but plan a revival led by Randal. More social get togethers. The new TCC looks like getting off the ground now it has the backing of the shire. Landcare will be taking a leading role in this project and will be provided with a permanent base, office and display area and educational activities.

We are creating the future now. I feel confident I am in the right company to create something special.

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8th October, 2007

## WELCOME TO ISSUE NO.34

We don't normally have The Granite News in the school holidays but there were a few urgent articles to send out so I thought it was worth the effort. Please send any articles, advertisements etc to [miranda@activ8.net.au](mailto:miranda@activ8.net.au).

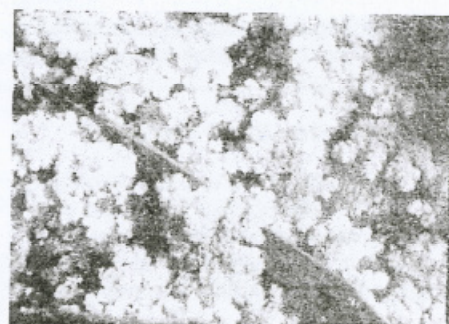


**A FIELD DAY TO DEMONSTRATE PROFITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE WAYS TO MANAGE STEEP HILL COUNTRY** Where: Pyalong Recreation Reserve Northern Highway, Pyalong VicRoads Map 639M2

When: Friday 26th October 2007 from 9:30am to 2:30 pm Lunch provided  
RSVP by Friday 19th October for catering Contact: Peter Mitchell, DPI Broadford 5784 0622 or 0409 432 498

## BITS OF BOTANY AND BIRDS

**AZOLLA** is a floating or semi-aquatic perennial herb, which is actually a fern, and is showing up on still water or sluggish back waters of creeks, now. Its roots are free-hanging in the water. Sometimes the entire surface of a dam is covered with Azolla, but it is not a weed, and is not detrimental to the water or to stock. Our local species is *Azolla filiculoides*, var. *rubra*, or Pacific Azolla.





## Classifieds & Community Notices

### Tastes of the Goulburn

Saturday, October 27th

provides an opportunity for visitors and locals alike to taste the wines, gourmet foods and produce on offer in the region, all at the one site, with entertainment to suit all members of the family. For the children there is story telling, a magician, making woodwork creations, a jumping castle and an animal farm, just to name a few, while the adults can enjoy the opportunity to sample wines and treats available. Musical entertainment throughout the Station platforms will also ensure that everyone finds music to suit their tastes.

For the first time this year, the Seymour Agricultural and Pastoral Society will be holding a free display in the adjacent VRI hall on being water wise and gardening sustainability in tough times in conjunction with Landcare and the local gardening club.

Among all these activities will be the heritage trains which will be leaving the Station each hour to provide lots of fun for children and adults alike, all for a fare starting at \$6.00. Heritage trains will also be able to bring people from Avenel on the first three train of the morning, leaving Avenel at 10.20 a.m., 11.20 a.m. and 12.20 p.m., with the last train of the day leaving Seymour to take visitors

### HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS

Our walk on 23rd September to the PEAK was another great experience, with 19 participants. After crossing Hughes Creek on logs, (the children of course, ran across like rabbits, and the grey heads were thankful for helping hands), We climbed a long ridge to the top, where we ate our lunch in the lee of huge granite boulders, and absorbed the wonderful views in all directions. It was downhill all the way back to the cars, with a few wombat runways allowing us to wriggle under electric fences!

The next walk will be in the Switzerland Ranges area on October 28th. Meet as usual at the Highlands Hall at 10.30 am. Enquiries to Peg Lade 57969222.

For November (weekend of 24-25th) we are planning an overnight camp on Woolshed Creek near Dropmore. Andrew Shaw has found a PERFECT place, a flat sheltered area, with a permanent dam in the creek, easy to get to, and a spectacular walk planned for the Sunday. Please ring me - I hope lots of you will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity for the end of 2007.

### Dr Tamie Weaver

Tamie will be a guest speaker at the Highlands Landcare General Meeting on the 26th October. We thought it would be useful to know a bit about her before the talk.

Tamie has more than 20 years experience as a hydrogeologist. She holds an MSc in hydrogeology from the Univ of Wisconsin, USA, and a PhD in Hydrogeology from the Univ of Waterloo in Canada.

She has taught undergraduate, postgraduate and professional short courses in hydrogeology and contaminant behaviour for over 15 years and has supervised over 60 honours and postgraduate students in hydrogeology and contaminant transport.

After 13 years as a lecturer in the School of Earth Sciences at Melbourne University, Tamie returned to the consulting industry in February this year, working for URS.

Her consulting experience has involved assessment of contaminated sites, the design and management of municipal landfills in Australia. Tamie has also consulted for the State and Commonwealth governments, reviewing hydrogeological issues associated with existing and potential waste management facilities and contaminated sites. In all of this work, her focus has been primarily on understanding groundwater flow and the movement of solutes and contaminants in complex systems and long timeframes: critical issues for groundwater and environmental management.

### Vocal Nosh

Community singing in Yea All welcome. Ditch the TV- raise your voice Do you love singing for its own sake?

If so, come and spend a couple of hours in a free and fearless environment, sharing simple songs, friendship and SOUP.

**Don't you think that you have to have a good voice?**

It doesn't matter! This is about fun and good health, not about performance. Learn and sing simple and beautiful songs.

**Dates:** Third Monday of the month

**Time:** 6.15pm to 8.15pm

**Place:** Scots Presbyterian Church Hall (Station Street, opp railway station)

**Cost:** gold coin donation

**Contact:** Adam Denis 57969200

Jo Miller 57973071

### Whole Farm Planning Day

12th October 12.00pm – 5.00pm

**THEME:** Field Trip Pastures / Biodiversity with Brad Costin, Bertrum Lobert, Sarah Challis and Greg Bekker Individuals are welcome to join in even if you are not doing the whole course. \*\*\*PLEASE BRING\*\*\*

- Pasture samples for identification (bring leaf, stem & seedhead/flower)

- Suitable clothing and footwear for out in the paddock

Native Vegetation & Biodiversity Management

- Benefits of trees and shrubs in rural landscapes

- Promote "Protect, enhance and revegetation" concept

- Successful tree establishment and aftercare techniques

- direct seeding, tube plantings

- Shelterbelt/plantation design & layout

- Wildlife & biodiversity issues

- Useful native vegetation & biodiversity management references

- Ecological vegetation classes

- Grants available to landholders

Plant Identification

Dung Beetles

Field Trip to look at Vegetation & Biodiversity Management

Pasture & Grazing Management

Pasture species selection

Pasture renovation & establishment techniques

Chemical & Fertiliser Use

Grazing Management strategies (introduced & native species)

Paddock sizes/layout

Weed control within the pasture

Using pasture to control weeds

Demonstrate pasture and grazing management options and manage-

### Rainfall for September

We have had one of the driest Septembers on record, with 36mms for "Glentannar", Highlands, making 562.4 for the year. Terip had 29.8 mms for September, making 451.6 for the year.



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

Week beg 8th Oct	Terip Terip mowing roster Geoff & Jan Penny ,Neville & Sue Debney Car park and all 4 courts
8th October	Next meeting of Scribblers, Leone 0500500088. All welcome
Monday, 8th October	ELECTORATE OF MCEWEN CANDIDATE FORUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE 7.30pm to 9.30pm Yea Shire Hall The Murrindindi Climate Network invites you to attend a public candidate forum on climate change for the Federal Electorate of McEwen
WEDNESDAY 10 OCTOBER	Magic of Laughter Series - FREE Euroa Cinema – Bury Street, Euroa  Presented by The Australian Unity Retirement Living. The Beneficial Aspects of Positive Humour in Our Lives with Don Jones At 2pm – 3pm followed by afternoon tea Contact: Mary or Kaz. Ph: 5795 0001 Freecall : 1800 635 956 - Bookings Essential  Violet Town Honeysuckle Creek Walk Go for Your Life 10am Seniors Walk along the creek to the Violet Town Market where you can rest and listen to music by PJ Bronson (country singer) before heading to the Violet Town Community Supper Rooms for Devonshire Tea and music. Presented by CWA. Contact: Mary Bourke 5795 0001 or Pam Ellis Mob: 0418 571 419 for details FREE for Walkers!! All Welcome  Quilt Exhibition - FREE By June Gilchrist. Violet Town Community Hall 10.00am to 3.00pm
Thurs 11th October	Special Highlands/Caveat CFA meeting 7.30 at the Highlands Hall
Mon 22 Oct	( 4th Mon Month) Harmonic Singing at Leone's All welcome 0500 500 088
Thursday 25th October	Waterwatch Spring Bug Surveys with Glenda Woods Learn more about aquatic invertebrates with our local expert. 9.00am Hughes Creek at Picnic Ground number 1 .Hughes Creek Rd . Just off the bitumen coming from Seymour .  Sunday 28th October (tentative date)1.00pm Creighton Creek at John Nielsen's property 3.00pm Creighton Creek at Jim Shovelton's property These dates/times may change slightly, so if you are thinking of joining me, please ring and let me know on either my home phone 57972417 or my mobile 0428321545. Bring gum boots or waders, reading glasses if you use them, a hat, blockout etc .Helpers always welcome .Look forward to catching up with some of you at some of the places listed above.
Saturday, October 27th	Tastes of the Goulburn at the historic Seymour Railway Station and surrounds. 10am to 4pm. See article on page 2
Sat. 27 Oct.	Black Market 10am - 12 Too many eggs, chokos, silver beet, etc. SWAP, BUY, or SELL with others. Sing a song. Share a story, be spontaneous. Relax enjoy the morning Rocky Parses, 1590 Highlands
October 28th	Highlands Ramblers The next walk will be in the Switzerland Ranges area . Meet as usual at the Highlands Hall at 10.30 am. Enquiries to Peg Lade 57969222.
Friday 16th & Saturday 17th November	Spring is sprung, The grass is riz Time for some more Mad Hatters' biz! Yes it's on again! Another Mad Hatters' production written by the prolific, the entertaining, the amazing Susan Bennett. When: performances on - mark your calendars now. Where: the usual 'theatre' Highlands Hall. What: "Life with Kiri" Kiri being a spoilt, middle-aged cat! Good fun, good food (BYO) good company. Tickets available soon.
26th October	Highlands Landcare General meeting, The Limnology students from La Trobe University have offered to take community members to the bogs to show their findings. Meet at the Highlands Hall at 3.30pm This will be followed by a BBQ Dinner at 6pm, meat and bread provided, bring a salad to share. BYO plate, cutlery and drinks. The talk by Tammy Weaver on Underground water will start at 7pm. The La Trobe students will then give a formal presentation at 8pm and are happy to answer any questions. Ring Jenny Webb PH 57969236 if you need more information. Please come and support this interesting evening.
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.
19th November	Highlands Landcare Executive Meeting Time. 8pm Location. Jenny Webb's. All welcome
Friday 14th Dec	Highlands Community Christmas Breakup. Format to be decided. Put the date in your diaries.