

The Granite News

Whiteheads Creek
Hughes Creek
Caveat
Highlands
Ruffy
Terip Terip

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Volume 1, Issue 13
April 30th, 2007

WELCOME TO ISSUE NO.13

Please send all information to miranda@activ8.net.au. Peg Lade is taking a well earned break during May.

Thanks Sarif for stepping in to write some articles and to interview a few interesting locals.

Could someone please offer to deliver the 90 Ruffy newsletters from Highlands Primary School to the Ruffy Store during the weekend and put 32 newsletters in Geoff Penny's mailbox for Elliot over May?

You will be rewarded by Helen and Doug with a delicious coffee on your arrival at the Ruffy Store.

I do need to warn you that I decided to leave my computer and venture out and deliver them myself a few weeks ago. Harri had told me about the sensational breakfast, especially the muesli, rhubarb and yoghurt sol combined with breakfast and caught up with a friend from Euroa. That was so much fun that I was still there when another wave of friends arrived for coffee and then it was silly to leave before lunch. I finally returned home about 6pm having had the best day.

INTERVIEW WITH A LOCAL

and a bit of History

MICHAEL KOPANICA is the current Chairman of the Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative, and lives at Caveat, on Hughes Creek. (Probably this is the area where Terip, Ruffy, Caveat and Highlands all meet!) Michael's grandparents, John and Mary Kopanica, came from Czechoslovakia in 1928, and settled on 42 acres. Other families who came at the same time were the Razgas, Hlinkas, and Yurittas. John and Mary had 4 sons - Arnold, Joe, John (who had land near the Ruffy Boathole), and Emil, who is Michael's father.

NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Student Learning Awards

Junior Room

Spelling: Kassie
Tables: Imogen

Senior Room

Home Learning: Everyone!
Spelling: Jack H, Mick, Kelly, Ariel, Elliot, Yasmine
Tables: Mick, Jack H, Elliot, Ariel

Senior Room Report

In maths we played a game called 1 to 9. It has been challenging and fun. How to play: you get 9 pieces of square paper and you write 1 to 9 on them. After that you put them into a cross in any order you want but there has to be the same number of pieces in each row.

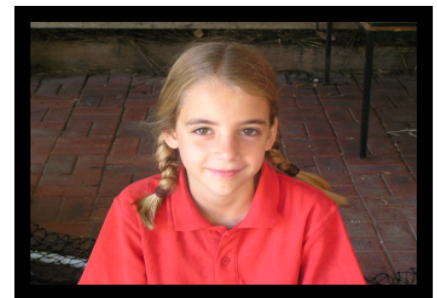
When you add up the two lines it should add up to the same number. There are lots of different answers.

By Yasmine

Emil married Anne Hlinka in the Caveat church, and they lived in their parents' original house, before building a new home in 1970. Emil and Anneretired to Benalla, and Michael now has 600 acres of very picturesque country on the South side of Hughes Creek, where he grazes sheep and cattle. He has also established a vineyard, (Shiraz) and a winery. Michael works with the Dept of Sustainability, and Environment at Seymour and Alexandra, and his two sons are at Universities, Jo doing Agricultural Science, and Aaron doing Events Management. Michael is always looking to the future, and to preserving the land for the next generation, with the concepts of Landcare and Biodiversity in the forefront of his activities.

Junior Room Report

This week we made a question board because we are talking about questions. We made different questions and statements and put them upon the board. In Maths we have been focussing on shapes by finding shapes in the classroom and bringing them onto the floor. We also did some writing about shapes. In MACC we made our own red bags and put pictures on them. By Kassie



HPS Spotlight on Kassie Shaw

Fullname:	Kassandra Rose Shaw
Birthday:	30th December
Eye Colour:	Brown
Fav Food:	Ice cream
Fav Games:	Monopoly
Fav Story:	Uncle Mick's Magic Tricks
Fav Person:	Imogen
Fav Colour:	Light Blue
Pet Hate:	Tomatoes
Loves:	Chickenschnitzel
Dream job:	Nottoo sure yet!
Fav thing:	Mum and Dad
Fav song:	Unfaithful - Rhiannon
Fav place:	Lorne

Classifieds & Community Notices

Maternal and Child Health Line – 13 22 29

The Maternal and Child Health Line is available to all Victorian families with children from new-born to school age. Qualified maternal and child health care nurses will provide information, support and advice about child health, nutrition, breastfeeding, maternal and family health and parenting. The line is an anonymous service available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The number is 13 22 29. The service can connect Culturally and Linguistically Diverse families to female interpreters from the Translating Interpreter Service, and is also available to hearing or speech-impaired callers who have access to the National Relay Service (NRS).

Sustainability Victoria

www.sustainability.vic.gov.au

On October 12 2005, Sustainable Energy Authority Victoria and EcoRecycle Victoria joined forces to become Sustainability Victoria to deliver environmentally sustainable outcomes for energy, materials and water, across all sectors of the Victorian economy and community. Great recycling information and extensive list of practical resources and publications are available on this site.

HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS

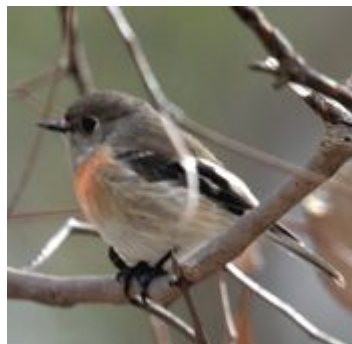
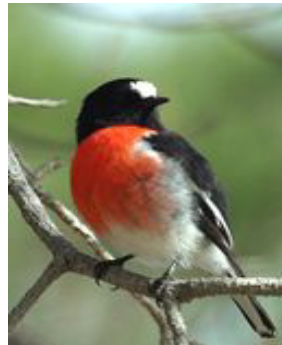
One of our best, and most rugged walks, took 23 of us along Spaniak's Road, where left four cars near the pine plantation. Brian Bowring, who jointly owns most of the land we were on, led us across creeks, down steep and rough hills to the Spaniak and Jack's Creek Falls. An absolutely beautiful spot, with huge granite boulders and still a good flow of water. There, we were surprised to see a group from the Melbourne Men's Walking Club, and they were equally surprised to see us. It was VERY steep, with lots of ups and downs, before we got back to our cars, but a very satisfying and interesting day. Thanks, Brian.

Free to a good home

3 red and tan kelpie pups
Well bred, mother and father both good working dogs.
11 weeks old and have had puppy injections. Please phone Deborah David Lawrence, Lambing Gully Road, Avenel. Phone 57962532 or 0428331466

BITS OF BOTANY AND BIRDS

The SCARLET ROBIN is a small plump flycatcher with a jet-black back, throat and crown, a scarlet breast and a white patch on the forehead. It also has a white wing stripe. It enjoys eucalypt woodland with open understory and plenty of leaf litter. Females have paler pink upper breasts.



The

FLAME ROBIN has a bright orange breast and throat, with a white lower belly and undertail. The back and top of the head is dark grey. The female is mostly grey-brown with a pale buff wing stripe. Flame Robins live up to about 1800 m above sea level, and in winter, they move to lower and more open areas. We often see them sitting on stumps or fences and often at the tops of our hills.

Keep an eye out for both species as winter approaches, and see if you can tell the difference.



Rainfall

Following the promising good rains at the end of March, our hopes were dashed for a good break. Now, Terip has had another 3.8 mms and Highlands has had nearly 6, which is just keeping the grass growing. By the time you get this G.N., we should have had lots more!

HPS Request

Just another request for exercise balls left in the cupboard gathering dust. We can put them to good use at Highlands Primary School.

If you are shopping at Foodworks, please give your point to us at Highlands Primary School, 642, thank you.

If you need some newspaper for mulching your garden, there is a big pile at the school.

Socks Fundraiser: Please ensure order forms and money are placed in money envelopes and returned to school no later

Highlands Caveat CFA

Any brigade members available to cut, collect and store firewood for Mud-bash THIS weekend please contact Frits Pompe 57969312 to advise him of your availability. Many hands make light work and there just might be a beer and barbeque to finish off the day.

The End of Season meeting will be held at the hall on Thursday

10th May at 7.30pm. All welcome.

Ruffy Produce Store News

Next Friday 4th May: - First Friday dinner comes in side through winter. Book early! 57904387

Mothers Day 13th May: - Two sittings for lunch. 12.00 & 1.30pm to cater for increased popularity.

"Get to the Ruffy Store anyway you can" On Anzac Day we had 4 for lunch who arrived by helicopter, landing on Bill & Judy Eddy's helipad.

Rainfall Report A6 m uninspected, welcome fall on Saturday afternoon.

Community What's On Calendar - May/June

Weekbeg 30th April	Highlands CFA crew - Crew CFritz Pompe
May 6th 2 to 5pm	Dear Climate Networkers and friends, An invitation to the Murrindindi Climate Network Workshop. After a very successful Murrindindi Climate Network workshop on March 25th, we are pleased to invite you to the second workshop to be held on May 6th, 2007 from 2 to 5pm at the Molesworth Community Hall. The formation of the Murrindindi Climate Network demonstrates that there is a significant interest in climate change in our community. As this issue affects our community on many levels, it is exciting to have such wide participation. Your contribution to the forthcoming workshop will therefore be greatly appreciated. For catering purposes we kindly ask you to RSVP by May 3 rd , by email: jennekek@yahoo.com, or phone (03) 57722465.
May 18th	Poppe Davis, Dryland Community Liaison Officer Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority, will be visiting HPS during Salt Week to conduct classroom presentations for the children. She will be there on May 18th at 11am for the salinity story and water testing.
Saturday 19th May	Annual Yarck Gymkhana at the Yarck Recreation Reserve Enquiries Tamara 57734245 Heather 57734281
Sunday 27th May	The Next HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS Walk will be, somewhere in the Black Range area. Meet at the Highlands Hall at 10.30am., or Terip Terip tennis courts at 10.50am

Media Release Ben Hardman MP

**Member for Seymour
20/04/07**

EXPANDED DROUGHT ASSISTANCE FOR FARM FAMILIES

ELIGIBILITY rules for a municipal rates subsidy have been amended to help drought-affected farmers across Victoria.

The Member for Seymour, Ben Hardman, said that farmers receiving Exceptional Circumstances Relief Payments (ECRPs)/Emergency Payments (EPs) from Centrelink could now obtain a prorata subsidy, according to the date on which their payments started.

Agriculture Minister Joe Helpers said the new rules were:

Farmers must receive ECR relief for emergency payments to be eligible for the subsidy;

Eligible farmers who have paid their rates before starting to receive ECRPs or EPs cannot claim a refund from their council;

The prorata subsidy applies during the first rateable year in which a ratepayer received the payments, regardless of when they actually pay their rates;

Farmers who have paid some of their rates by instalment before starting to receive ECRP or EP can claim a refund or reduce instalment, depending on the prorata subsidy granted; In subsequent years the municipal subsidy is available to farmers who, at the time of paying their rates or at some time in the previous 90 days, were receiving ECRP or EP payments from Centrelink.

Mr Helpers said encouraged farmers seeking EC assistance to contact Centrelink or the Drought Assistance Hotline on 132316 to discuss their eligibility as soon as possible.

EXERCISES CLASSES AT THE HIGHLANDS HALL

Classes have started again on Tuesday nights at 6pm for a gentle class and 7pm for a more "challenging experience" There are a consistent 6 people going to the 7pm class which is great. The 6pm class is very erratic! Usually there are 3 but rarely the same ones!

Annette Cherry is running the classes and she is terrific. She is driving all the way from Glenburn to be here but it's hard to justify for only 3 people. She will decide after next week whether it is worth the effort.

Come and join us and enjoy these classes close to home (We don't want to have to drive into Yea every week like last year!)

You'll feel the difference!

Tennis Player needed

Terip Ladies looking for a Tennis player to play on Mondays with our local Agradet team. We play in the Euroa Comp that has teams in Benalla, Mansfield, Euroa and Terip. We have 4 members to a team, start at 11am on Mondays and normally finished by 2.30pm (depending on travel, carpooling available). We currently have three regular players and are looking for another or two. Helen McKenzie 57904211 Robyn Richards 57904303 Thanks

Caveat Church Tipping Competition Betty and David Ladbury became the first people in 2 years to tip 4 clear winners in a row. They took home an exorbitant amount of money. Join and come to the Caveat Church for Secret Men's* Business, last Thursday of the month. *includes wives, significant others, children and an assorted variety of canine companions.

Envirofunding Round 9

Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative and Highlands Landcare have applied for funding in the latest round of Federal Funding.

We have put in an application to establish a totally indigenous arboretum next to the hall and CF Ashed. Peg and Doug Lade have kindly offered to donate some of their land for this important project.

16 landholders have also applied for funding to fence off paddock trees which are sadly disappearing from our landscape and will not survive without our help, fingers crossed

The Granite News acknowledges the following sponsors.

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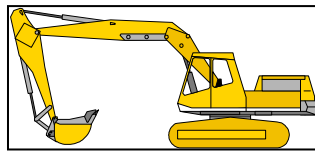
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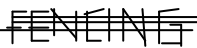


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