

The Granite News

Ruffy
Caveat
Highlands
Terip Terip
Hughes Creek
Whiteheads Creek

PEOPLE AND PLACES

When I set out to interview DEBBIE and MARO DELFATE, of PALMANOVA OLIVES, on Blue Top Road, Highlands, I was expecting to write an article on olives. But I found such a vital and interesting couple, that we went far beyond that.

Both Debbie and Maro grew up in Melbourne. Maro came from Northern Italy as a baby in 1962. His father (who was a butcher) always insisted that Maro should use his brains, and not work with his hands. So he pursued a career in Industrial Chemistry, where he met Debbie, a fellow student. Debbie's first love is History of Art, so she did a second degree, BA Hons, and PHD thesis on Bird Images in Early Christian Art. Her first job as an industrial chemist was with CUB, then onto the Dept of Chemistry at La Trobe University, where she still works in Administration. Maro, meanwhile, was working in research with Shell, and later as a sales rep. and product manager, all over Australia, Asia and further parts of the world. This was all very stressful and challenging, and they decided to buy a few acres of land where they could go for occasional weekends and shoot rabbits!

The first place they looked at was 200 acres on Blue Top Road, plenty of rabbits, but after 2 weekends they fell in love with it, and made a lifestyle change. They pulled down the derelict old house (leaving the ancient stone chimney), Matt Smith built a sandstone block house for them, to their own design, with beautiful views of their rocky hills and beyond. They planted 5 acres of olives, intending to enlarge that, but although Maro lives there full-time, and Debbie half-time, there is so much to do, battling weeds, rabbits, grasshoppers, and establishing all the infrastructure, that 5 acres is probably enough. They do not use pesticides or herbicides, and the olives are hand-picked, with the help of a compressor. They are processed at Redesdale, then the oil is allowed to settle for 6 weeks, before Maro bottles it.

Olives are supposed to produce every 2nd year, but you can trick them with light pruning. Maro hopes that some larger establishment, locally, will set up a processor, (but the smallest ones cost about \$30,000).

Fire restrictions are NOW in force.

WELCOME TO ISSUE NO.39

Please send any articles, advertisements to miranda@activ8.net.au. Just thank you to **Highlands Primary School** for printing The Granite News. We couldn't do it without you.

Both Debbie and Maro are practical, well-organized people, have worked hard in their careers to establish themselves financially, and now their dreams of doing things for themselves are coming true.

They have a small vineyard, 4 cows, chooks, a few friendly Saanen X goats, and an equally friendly Doberman.

Maro says the secret of life is to stay active mentally and physically, and they are certainly both doing that!

By Peg Lade

WEEDS

John Hammond will be out spraying weeds on our roadsides again. Please mark any weeds on your roadside to make it easier and quicker for him. Green fluoro tape is available from Janet Hagen, Ruffy Store and at Highlands Primary School, just pop in and collect a roll.

PATO

This year the Paterson's Curse is an enormous problem. One theory is that it has come in with the sheep pellets needed in last year's drought. Landowners are finding lots of individual plants in their paddocks. Another thought is that the plants were under stress last year in the drought and therefore produced a lot more seed to ensure their survival.

PLEASE go and check and pull out and bag any plants on your property. If a neighbor has plants growing, offer to help, just don't ignore it or we will be in serious trouble very quickly.

Please report any weed concerns to MirandaPh57969261

Volume 1, Issue 39

19th November, 2007

Giant Raffle

HP S is running a monster raffle. It will be drawn at the Community Christmas Breakup on Friday 14th December. 1st prize is a \$2,000 travel voucher, 2nd prize is an accommodation and breakfast voucher at Stonelea, Taggety. 3rd prize is a bed & breakfast voucher at "Bridges on Meninga" at Moama. And lots more. Call into HP S to buy tickets.

The UPPER HUGHES CREEK LANDCARE GROUP

This includes Ruffy, Terip Terip and Caveat, held a very successful evening with about 50 people last Saturday.

This was initiated by Randal Threlfall, as the last meeting was 5 or 6 years ago, and he is worried by the lack of communication between neighbours. A really delicious barbeque meal was subsidized by Landcare. Randal spoke about ways of getting rid of rabbits, and offered to demonstrate phostoxin to anyone interested. (The very next day, he was seen on Boathole Road, doing just that!)

HCCC was formed to coordinate 4 Landcare Groups - Upper Hughes Creek, Hughes Creek, Highlands and Whiteheads Creek. Two representatives from each group meet once a month, and cover a very wide range of issues. The Collaborative has found that it has much more clout to apply for funds, and has received 1.3 million in grants for numerous projects. HCCC also employs 2 facilitators, Janet Hagen, and Miranda Yorston. Part of Miranda's charter is to produce our popular weekly newsletter, The Granite News, which has a circulation of nearly 400.

HCCC has bought spray units, a ripper and other equipment, available to Landcare members for low rates of hire. Subsidies are available for chemical control of weeds, fencing of bogs and swamps, hilltops, streams and scattered trees.

A film, produced at Strathearn, Ruffy, in the 1960s, was shown by Justus Hagen, and everyone was amazed at its quality, especially as the Hagens found it a rubbish bin!
By Peg Lade

Classifieds & Community Notices

Bungle Boori/Hughes Creek Camping Reserve

Although Parks Vic and the Shire are the official managers, local landowners, CFA & HCCC members make periodic checks on the site and perform clean up works.

Site surveys highlight the area as habitat for the endangered Macquarie Perch and it has great conservation value but is becoming increasingly degraded.

Large numbers of campers (particularly during the fire season) congregate at the reserve, resulting in the site overflowing with vehicles, caravans, campers, tents, and motorbikes. The toilet block is not serviced and nor rubbish facilities exist. The creek area is littered and the bank eroded by pedestrian, motor vehicle and motor cycle abuse. Open campfires cover the site, and at peak times are left unattended. Firewood is collected on site and has resulted in habitat removal. Further degradation is compounded by the presence of pest plants and animals.

Following meetings between HCCC, Strathbogie Shire, DSE, Parks Vic and local Landholders it was agreed to limit non-sustainable activities on the site, regulate camping and encourage passive day use. A Committee of Management is to be established with the HCCC to survey and establish boundaries, undertake fencing, tree plantings, general rehabilitation works and to work with local landowners to establish off stream stock watering & exclusion zones.

Rehabilitation work should include the erection of information signs to inform the public of the history of the site, along with its conservation significance, profile of protected species and proposed rehabilitation outcomes.

The Strathbogie Shire Councilistodecommission the existing toilet block and enforce a no camping policy to allow proposed work to be undertaken. Site notices prior to the summer fire season outlining the proposed change of use, including a temporary closure to camping activities are to be posted.

The aim is to repair the degradation and promote the long-term sustainable use of the site. If you would like to become involved in the restoration of the campground or would like further information please contact the secretary of the HCCC on 57969260

By Scott Mckay

Ruffy Notes

Election day

24th November 8am - 6pm

This year Tablelands residents (and their guests) can once again vote in comfort at the Ruffy Polling place, held in the Ruffy Hall. Although the booth is located in the Indi electorate those living in McEwane electorate (south of the Dropmore road for example) will also be able to cast a vote at Ruffy. Voting at Ruffy can be a very social day as young and old catch up with each other, old school friends meet up and local affairs are discussed at length. Anyone from Victoria can vote at Ruffy. Interstate visitors need to go to a larger electoral office such as Seymour. Remember we close at 6pm the dot!

Ruffy CFA News

The Official handover of four new trucks will happen very soon. Official parties are being notified and we hope to organise an afternoon tea (or BBQ evening) for all.

Fire Restrictions are now in force: this means that the brigade will be holding training days and some evenings just so that we can brush up on our skills. Dates and times will be mailed out next week.

Thanks to Phil Brown for making the excellent Fire Danger indicator now mounted in front of the Fire shed, it looks very impressive. (Hope the hip is mending well Phil).

Justus Hagen

For Sale

Freedom Furniture beige faux suede chaise lounge \$100 [ono]. 57969366

FOR SALE

Work T Shirts, selective sizes. \$10 each or 3 for \$20
Stuart and Judy Reid: 57969358

RAINFALL

October rainfall was well below average for Terip Terip -17mms - and Highlands -21mms.

However, the first few days of November have transformed the entire district, with 27.2mms for Terip Terip and 34.6mms so far for Highlands.

PROGRESS AT HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY HALL

A small but dedicated group of people disconnected the plumbing & electricity to the kitchen & completely dismantled the kitchen and much more. Other changes are happening as well. The multipurpose outdoor area (tennis/netball/basketball) now has a great new surface, & so has part of the driveway at the hall & the CF Ashed!

Next will be lines on the court, shade sails at the rear of the hall & new kitchen cupboards. Because the kitchen will have stainless steel bench tops, which are yet to be measured & manufactured, it will take some time before the kitchen is working again. It will be worth the wait!

FREE: 6 steel framed plastic children's chairs. Contact Judy 57969358

BITS OF BOTANY AND BIRDS

The TAWNY FROGMOUTH is a master of camouflage, as it roosts by day in trees and is almost impossible to see. It becomes active at dusk, and makes a resonant, pulsing oom-oom noise. Then it is a very filmy arrangement of sticks and leaves on a horizontal branch, and the babies are almost white and fluffy when first hatched. Recently the Hagen family rescued an abandoned baby, and brought it to a Highlands Landcare meeting - it was then getting its adult plumage. Now, a few weeks later, that baby (named Oscar) is flourishing, flying around the Hagen house, and has even been taken to a library in Euroa!



Free

Corner computer desk. Imitation wood laminate. Ph 57969360

Could the lady who wanted the rooster from a while ago please ring back?? He is getting closer to the wood block and we would much prefer to give him a home. Thanks ph: 57973015

Community What's On Calendar—November/December

Weekbeg19th Nov	TeripTeripmowingroster MervPennyBruceandDeniseMcLennanCarparkandall4courts
19thNovember	HighlandsLandcareExecutiveMeetingTime. 8.15pm Location. MirandaYorston's .Allwelcome
Wednesday21st November	YeaPreschoolAGM7pmMeetandGreet.7.30pmstart.YeaPreSchool,TheSemiCircle,Yea ElectionofOfficeBearers,sessionsfor2008,collectofficialenrolmentformsand2008informationbooklets, meetmothers&fathersofnextyear'sgroups,enjoyacoffeeandsupper.s
November22nd	RuffartZAGM.ThemeetingwillbeheldattheRuffyHallstartingat8pm.Everyonewelcome.
23rdNovember, 2007	HiArtsCommunityConversation(BYOSketchingMaterials)HighlandsHallStartingwithaBBQat6.30pm (BYOMeat)RSVPMarcia57969256 Refertothewebsiteforfurtherinformation:www.hiarts.org
24-25thNovember	HIGHLANDSRAMBLERSareholdinganovernightcampon,onWoolshedCreek,upstreamof Dropmore.PleaseringPegLade -57969222 -toadviseofyourintentions.Cancelled,ifTOTALFIREBAN.
24thNovember	BlackMarketisonfrom10:00to11:30amonelectionday!Areyouinterestedinstartingacomunitygarden? Doyouhavetoomanyeggs? Doyoumakejam,chutneyorturkishdelight?Soap?AnyideasforXmas pressies? Wewillhavelocaloil,wineand garlicthismonth...andsoonsummerfruitandvegies.Comealong andbuy,swaporsell. SeeyouatRockyPasses,1590HighlandsRd ...bringachair.
Saturday24th November	BlackJackareanononsenseHardRockin'CoverbandplayingthebestClassicPubRockfromallerasAl- waysLIVEandAlwaysLOUD!!!.TheWhiteHartHotel3.00 -7.00pmFreeEntry
Sunday25th November	"TraceyDaywillbevisitingHighlandswithherfamilyonSundayat11.30am. ABBQlunchisbeingsupplied bythebrigadewithlightrefreshments. Informaladdressisrequestedbyallthoseattending. JennyWebbishandlingthecatering PH57969236ifyoucanattend/assistwithcatering. by14.11.07. Peter CreakfromRegion willalsoattendwithhiswife. WhiteheadsCreek/TarcombeBrigadehavealsobeeninvited.CouldanymembersofWhiteheadsCreekBri- gadealsoringJennyiftheyareabletohelpwithcatering.
Fri.30thNovember	AnInconvenientTruthshowing@Marmalades,HighSt.YEA,dinner&show6.30pm -8.30pm\$20tel: 57972999
Friday30Nov	PlaygroupBreakUp4.30atHighlandsPrimarySchool.Bringsaladorsweetto+share+yourownold meat,bread,utensils,chairs -basicallyeverything.BYOtrikeasthey'llallbeonsomething.Itsagoodway tomeetotherfamilieswithyoungchildrenevenifyouhaven'tbeentoourplaygroup.
Sat.1stDec	"AnInconvenientTruth"FREEfamilySHOW@2.30pm,YEASHireChambersfollowedbyJohnPettigrew's "Climateupdateanddiscussion"booking:57978283
Thurs6thDec	AnotherpreseasonHighlands -CaveatCFMeetingattheHighlandsHall7.30pm.Allwelcome.
Friday,December7	The2007StrathbogieRangesWineRegionShowDinnerandCelebrationisbeingheldattheRuffyPublicHall from7pm. TheShowspecificallyfocusesonthewinesmadefromgrapesgrownwithintheStrathbogie Ranges.TicketsfortheDinnerare\$90.00perheadandwithalimitof80places; Forbookingsorfurthertails,pleasecontactCameronAtkins,SecretaryoftheStrathbogieRangesWineRegionon0428340545,03 57985563
Sunday9th December	DanEnglandHearitliveatTheWhiteHartHotel,63HillStreet,Longwood,36653.00 -7.00pm FreeEntryt:03 -5798-5203e:white.hart@bigpond.com
9thDecember	2pmFamilyChristmasServiceattheRuffyTeripUnitingChurch.Thefamous'FirewindBand'fromViolet TownwillentertainandsupporttheCarolsinging.Comealongandenjoythiscommunityservice, followedby afternoontea
Monday10Dec	LastScribblersfortheyear 7:30pmatLeone'sBringaplatetoshare.0500500088
Friday14thDec	HighlandsCommunityChristmasBreakup.Formattobedecided.Putthedateinyourdiaries.
SaturdayJanuary5,2008	TeripTeripAnnualTennisTournamentfrom10amEnquiriesHelenMcKenzie57904211orCindyHayes 57904226

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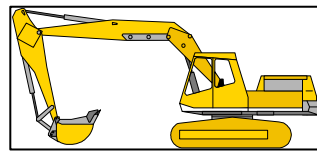
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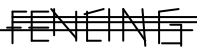
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