

The Granite News

Ruffy
Caveat
Highlands
Terip Terip
Hughes Creek
Whiteheads Creek

PEOPLE AND PLACES

ADRIAN and VALDAMARTIN of McLean's Lane, Ruffy, are both descendants of Port Phillip pioneers, whose selected land East of Melbourne in the 1830s. These original families owned orchards, market gardens and flower farms, supplying Melbourne with fresh produce and flowers. This heritage must be Adrian's and Valda's genes, as they are doing just that, on 30 acres, with Bio-dynamically grown fruit, some vegetables and potatoes, eggs from 200 free range chickens and fat lambs from another 500 acres.

From 1960 to 1974, they lived at Warrina South, where they grew flowers, including violets, from March to September, and peaches in the summer. To their dismay, the MMBW acquired their property, and while looking for a career change, Adrian fell into a farm job with Mr Ian Ferguson of Strathearn, Ruffy.

Meanwhile, Valda was not only bringing up a family, and a few extras, but worked in the office at Chateau Tabilk and later at Sutherland Seeds at Yarck.

To fill in any "spare" moments, Valda began her career in Quilting, spinning, dyeing and other forms of very creative craft and needlework, for which she is extremely well known, and never hesitates to share her talents.

Their daughter, Debra, came home to live in the early 90s when the Janefield Training Centre closed, and it was then that the Martins started planting and establishing their orchard. Now they have a well thought out and continuous succession of cherries, peaches, apricots, plums, apples, quinces and olives, which are harvested from mid-November until the end of April.

Adrian does night time trips to the Melbourne wholesale market 1-4 times a week, then is up at dawn to frighten away marauding birds. (The cockies do actually get the message, but not so the parrots) Pests such as earwigs, are deterred by double-sided sticky plastic wound around the base of the trees.

Some fruit is sent to a registered kitchen at Warbuton, for bottling and making jams and sauces.

Until last year's drought, now watering was done, but that severe time forced a change. Now everything looks totally healthy, and in harmony with an

amazingly hard working family.

The Martins' son, Craig, and his partner live in a new house on the property, and have been included in the enterprise for 3 years.

Tennis for Valda at Terip and Creighton's Creek, cricket for Adrian at Ruffy, outback holidays for them both, in pre-orchard days, have added to their wider range of interests. Valda has embarked on writing, and has had several articles published - wherever does she find the time!

Shed sales are available every day, and the Ruffy Store stocks their produce.

I think I should visit once a week for the next 5 months!

NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Senior Room:

Spelling: Michael, Jack H, Kelly, Elliot, Ariel

Tables: Jack H, Elliot, Ariel

Home Learning: Kelly



Junior Room:

Spelling: John, Laura, Kassie, Imogen

Reading: Kendall

Tables: Imogen

Home Learning: Laura, Imogen

Family Challenge

Using the letters in the word

Christmas

Make a list of as many smaller words as you can find. The only letter you can use twice is the letter 's' as it appears twice in the word Christmas.

TAKING 2008 ENROLMENTS NOW

Phone Allyson on 57969208

'I am so grateful to have found Highlands Primary School, and feel my children are very fortunate to have had such a great start to their educational career.' Satisfied parent.

Volume 1, Issue 42

10th December, 2007

Fire restrictions are NOW in force.

WELCOME TO ISSUE NO.42

Please send any articles, advertisements to miranda@activ8.net.au. There will be 1 more edition of The Granite News before the Christmas break. It will return when school goes back in 2008. Make sure you send me anything you want printed as apt to make sure that I can fit it in.

Here is a talk by Elliot Lade.

My topic is on **Capitalising** a topic from Building Learning Power, it is under Resourcefulness, the thinking part of learning.

The definition of Capitalising is when you use all the skills, resources and materials you have to finish your task or build on it.

Some Examples are: Talking to people that might know the information you need or people that have the skills you need. Some people you can use are Janet Hagan if you are doing your ASISTM project or something about animals and plants, CFAM members if there is something about fires you might need to know or just your grandparents whomight know something from a while ago.

Another thing is, getting information from the internet or books so you don't have to go very far. Examples in the classroom can be to show the teacher your computer work by putting it on the interactive whiteboard. Or asking the teacher if they might be able to help you on something. You can even just look around the room and look at all the posters and things that you can read to find out the answer or what you are looking for.

One other thing is to use dictionaries or thesauruses to find another word or the meaning of it.

You can even use calculators if there is a hard sum or just look through a book like an atlas if you don't know where the place is.

Classifieds & Community Notices

RABBITS AND CHEMICALS

Organize your ripping hours and chemical orders now. There is a maximum of 80 ripping hours per landowner for which Landcare provides a 50% subsidy. Chemicals include Brush Off, Weter and Round Up. Ring Miranda asap

HOUSE WANTED

A single lady is seeking a home to rent. Need not be fancy but the Highlands Seymour general area would be great. Must be reasonably cheap – may be a second house on a property? No stock, one polited dog. Contact Lyn Bradbury on 57969103 with offers or suggestions.

Willow Removal

HCCC will organize a small willow removal program next year. Priority will be given to waterways at the top ends of the catchment, where the problem starts. If you would like to be included, please send me your details including a rough estimate of the size of the problem, thanks Miranda

ANGLICARE VICTORIA FUNDING PROGRAM FOR YOUNG FEMALE STUDENTS

Anglicare Victoria invites applications for one-off funding to help meet the education expenses of girls and young women in the Hume region who wish to continue their study and have been impacted on by the recent drought and/or fires.

The grants are available to assist with the education of girls and young women between the ages of 6 – 19 who are full time students and who intend to continue with their study after 2007. Further information regarding this grant is available from:

Suzanne Don Leonard (Community Development Manager)

Anglicare Victoria (Hume Region)

0357219088 or 0400192987

NO EXERCISE CLASS

Exercise classes will resume again in the Highlands shall after the Christmas school holidays.

ESCAPED

TWO black sheep from a property in Caveat. Please contact Sylvia if you have seen them 0417101614. Tempted to include to include a lamb recipe here but decided it was in bad taste.

BITS OF BOTANY AND BIRDS

COMMON BRONZE WING PIGEON.

There seem to be an unusual number of Common Bronze wing Pigeons around lately – may be their young have fledged and they don't want to leave home just yet.

This bird is a medium sized pigeon, with very beautiful patterns on its feathers – hard to see unless you get close. It is a ground feeder and takes off with a clatter of wings. It builds a scanty platform of twigs for a nest, and its eggs are like white marbles. Its call is not unlike that of a Tawny Frogmouth – a monotonous and repetitive "oom". It has NO crest



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FOR SALE

Neo/Danex Foxhound puppies
6 weeks old. Great companions and guard dogs. Also very good with kids or for hunting. Parents on view \$200
Pete & Susan AH: 57969192

HIARTS Community Art 'Patchwork'

We have some extra 6 inch x 6 inch canvases available for those of you who would be interested in painting, sketching, crocheting, knitting, bead-ing or collaging, etc as small pieces to add to our group art 'patchwork' based on the theme 'my special place', to be displayed at the March 2008 exhibition.

Please call Samon 57969275 if you would like to have one, or are curious and might like to try! Many of us doing it are not expert artists (well, not yet) and welcome everyone's effort in making this piece truly unique! (Children especially.)

Episode 2

Gerry Martin has written about his experiences for his old school, Wimborne Infant School. Last week was Episode one. Here is the next episode.

On my first day at Wimborne my mother dropped meat The Evans Road entrance. Maybe "dropped" is too strong, levered or pushed me in! All those railings and the huge gate, it reminded me of prison.

We were introduced to our teacher, Miss Bird. She was shaped very much like a Christmas pudding, and amazingly always laughing and happy. Are your teachers like that?

Arriving at school after a rather violent air raid, we found the school had received several hits and was still smoking! We were sent home until the arrangements could be made. Another minus for old Hitler from my mum, she was livid!!

I'd walk to school via Priory Crescent and Winter Road. Used to stop at the sweet shop in Winter Road and buy a farthing worth of aniseed balls or my favourites, Gobstoppers. They used to change colours as you sucked them. On hot days the brown paper bag they came in got very, very sticky in your pocket and used to attract other things like a dried out newt, an apple core, glass marbles and a half dead frog. All excellent things to trade at school, you know. I once swapped a broken ruler for a half sucked gobstopper. And... I got 3 more colours out of it!!! Mmmmm.

We had a competition for who could bring the biggest piece of shrapnel to school. Funny enough they banned that after Keith Sinnett brought a live bomb to school one day.

At home my mother was a member of the Red Cross. We would come home to the smell of washing tub, full to the brim with used bandages. And Mum at the sink scrubbing the mona old scrubbing board, a corrugated iron thing. They were rinsed, dried and ironed with a flat iron heated on the gas stove. My job was to turn the handle of the rewinding machine, then pack them in a box to be collected.

My mother was a good catholic. In the shelters she used to walk up and down during the raids sprinkling us with Holy water from a very ornate bottle. Many a time we came out soaked to the skin. Must have done something 'cos at least we came out safe and sound.

Let me know if you would like some more episodes next year, Miranda

Community What's On Calendar—December/January

Weekbeg10th December	TeripTeripmowingrosterHelenMcKenzie TheListers Carparkandall4courts
Monday10Dec	LastScribblersfortheyear 7:30pmatLeone'sBringaplatetoshare.0500500088
10thDecember	TablelandsCommunityCentrelastmeetingfortheyear. 7pmattheRuffyPrimarySchool.BYOeverything,BBQprovided.Comealongandhearwherethe groupisuptoandenjoythesocialoccasion.
11thDec	InternationalMountainDay –Visit www.fao.org/mnts/intl_mountain_day_en.asp
Wed12thDec	KarenOliverisleavingYeaPreschoolandwewouldlikeeveryonetocomeandsaygoodbye.YeaPreschool from1pmtto2pm.Comeandhaveacuppa.ForfurtherdetailscallVickyMcMaster57972957
Friday14thDec	HighlandsCommunityChristmasBreakup.Formatbeingdrawnupnow. PaulaLade,asHighlandsSchoolCouncilpresident,willMCtheevening. SharynShawhasadirectlinewithFatherChristmas.Hehasaskedallparentstoleavetheirchildren'spresents,clearlylabelledattheprimaryschoolbeforethenighttomakesureheknowsjustwhoiscoming. IfyouwouldliketobeincludedontheagendapleaseemailMirandaaseveryoneismostwelcomeand encouragedtoparticipateinsomeway.RaffleticketsforHPSwillbeavailableatthedoor.
Saturday22nd December	CricketmatchRuffyVSHighlandsatRuffyRecreationalGround3pmstart.BBQfollowing. BYOeverythingRingAndrew57904297orDoug57904387
24thDecember	ChristmasEveChurchService AChurchServicewillagainbeheldintheCaveatChurchat5.00pmonChristmasEve. Allarewelcome. ItwilltaketheformofthetellingoftheChristmasStorytogetherwithcarolsinging.
Friday4thJanuary	1stFridayBBQattheRuffyProduceStore.Remembertobooksotheycanhaveenoughtucker.
SaturdayJanuary5,2008	TeripTeripAnnualTennisTournamentfrom10amEnquiriesHelenMcKenzie57904211orCindyHayes 57904226

Can you play carols on the Keyboard?

Wearelookingforsomeonewhocan playcarolsonakeyboardfortheChristmasEveChurchService. Ifyouhave yourownkeyboardthatwillbeeven better. 5pmDecember25th. ContactStuartReid57969358.

RAINFALL

Highlandshad67.6mmsforNovember, making650.8fortheyearsofar,and Terip'stotalforNovemberwas64.6. Decemberhasstartedwell,withafew welcomestormseverywhere.Talkabout thetopics!

Highlands Landcare members

Ifyouareafinancialmemberof HighlandsLandcare,pleaseput uponeofourattractivesigns whichareavailablefromJono 57969344



"MerinoMarbles"(SheepManure) Greatforyourgarden\$3.00each
bag
\$2.50eachbagif10+bags
Deliverybyarrangement
PhoneEllioton57969276

Cricket.

Weareplanningtoplaycricketatthe HumeAndHovellGroundatStrath Creek(www.humeandhovell.com.au) onSaturday22ndFebruary2008. Thecostforthedayis\$55 head whichincludesLunchandtea andyouhavetohaveyourown whites.Thisisauniquecricketing experience.Pleasecontacteither DougMclean57904387or ScottMcKay57969259.



Is anybody interested in being part of a wine appreciation group?

Wearehopingtohold regulareveningsatthe Ruffystorestarting soonforthosewhomay wanttoshare, discuss andlearnallthings wine.Weareaimingfor agroupofnomorethan teneachoccasionsoif thishasyourinterest pleasecontacteither ChrisBennett –57 904338orNaomi McLennan -57904132 toexpressyourinterest orgetfurtherdetails.



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Need to book, call Helen or Doug

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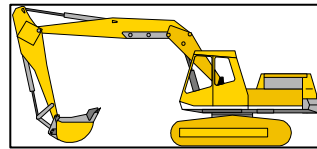
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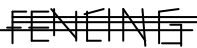
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