



NEW STRATHBOGIE RANGES CMN STARTS

A small community group met in mid December 2010 to start working on the establishment of the brand new 'Strathbogrie Ranges Conservation Management Network Inc.'

We are now an incorporated body with a Statement of Purpose and an ABN. This means that the Strathbogrie Ranges CMN can now apply for funding grants in its own right and set up a bank account.

Statement of Purpose

1. To help optimize conservation of the biological diversity of ecological communities in the area known as the "Strathbogrie Ranges CMN area"
2. To help maintain or enhance viable remnants of the ecological communities throughout their distribution on public and private land in the Strathbogrie Ranges CMN area.
3. To help protect, restore and re-establish threatened ecological communities in the Strathbogrie Ranges CMN area.
4. To contribute to the maintenance of ecological processes and the dynamics of the ecological community across the landscape in the Strathbogrie Ranges CMN area.
5. To help to increase the protection status of sites within the Strathbogrie Ranges CMN area; in particular for those with threatened ecological communities that are under-represented in the public reserve system.
6. To promote sustainable land management that protects biodiversity within the Strathbogrie Ranges CMN area.
7. To enhance community ownership and encourage ownership of the local environment within the Strathbogrie Ranges CMN area.
8. To provide a network for all land managers, groups interested in conservation, environment, biodiversity and land management as well as other interested stakeholders.
9. To integrate conservation into management by empowerment with knowledge and resources.
10. To share knowledge between landholders, scientists, conservation planners and managers.
11. To encourage consistent and/or complimentary management across sites.

The CMN covers areas within the boundaries of the Hume HWY, Midland HWY, Maroondah HWY & Goulburn Valley HWY.

Members can include any community members interested in biodiversity conservation: Landcare, Trust for Nature, Land for Wildlife, Field Naturalists, Birds Australia, Environmental Groups, Euroa Arboretum, Australian Plant Growers Society, Artists and Historians, VFF, Traditional Owners, plus representatives from government agencies: DPI, Parkvic, DSE & CMA. The GBCMA have granted \$25,000 for the establishment of the CMN in 2010/2011.

An expression of interest has submitted by the committee to the GBCMA for funding of a part time facilitator in 2011/2012. Closing date for this EOI is Friday 21st January 2011.

It is now time to plan directions and activities for the coming year.

The next meeting will be held on Saturday 5th February. 12.30 pm at the Euroa Arboretum

We will begin with a BBQ lunch and drinks which the CMN will supply. (Please let us know of any special dietary requirements) then continue with an informal meeting in the afternoon to discuss the next stages in our development.

Please bring your ideas and passion about the conservation of biodiversity in the Strathbogrie Ranges and share them with us. Contact Janet Hagen: 57 904268 or jhagen@harboursat.com.au

RABBIT RIPPING HOURS EXTENDED

Rabbit ripping hours **must** be totally completed by the 28th February 2011. If you have not used all your hours by then you will lose them, use it or lose it. Please contact Edwina asap if you know you won't be able to use all your hours so that she can reallocate them.

Hughes.creek1@gmail.com

HCCC SPRAY UNITS

The Ruffy spray unit (1,000 Lt) is now at Don Cook's place. It has to be returned after every use, not passed on to the next person so that it can be maintained properly. It is just getting a new motor and pump so should be running well. Other spray units are at Habbies Howe— Scott McKay (900 Lt), Tarcombe— Rob Hayes (450 Lt) Michael Kopanica (600Lt)

WELCOME TO ISSUE 1

Welcome back to the fifth year of production of The Granite News.

A special thank you to the GBCMA for their Community Education Grant of \$1500 towards the production of TGN. We couldn't do it without their support and the support of our advertisers on the back page. If you use one of these services please tell them that you read about them on our back page so that they know that it is a worthwhile way to publicise their service, thank you.

There are only 4 spaces left on the back of the newsletter which is fabulous. Thank you so much to all the people who have chosen to join us and to help keep this newsletter alive.

I have been unable to track down the new postie, despite over 6 hours of waiting in the hot sun so I still don't know if he is going to be prepared to deliver TGN in the Highlands area. Hopefully I will know more this week. Fingers crossed.

Please send articles to miranda@omnipotent.com.au or ring on 57969261

Common Onion orchid *Microtis unifolia*

This orchid has been more common this summer than I've ever seen before. In December we had hundreds growing in our paddocks and in the bush. Unfortunately, it's probably the most boring orchid known to man. The plant consists of a stalk from about 20cm to 50 cm in height and one grass or onion-like leaf blade. The dozens of tiny tubular green flowers with insignificant petals hug the main stalk on all sides. The plants can still be found but both stalk and flowers are brown now.

By Louise Currie



COMMUNITY WHAT'S ON CALENDAR - FEBRUARY 2011

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Fortnight beg 7th Feb | TERIP TERIP MOWING ROSTER Geoff & Jan Penny Mark Ireland Both sides of Springs Rd and all four courts |
| Week beg 13th Feb | RUFFY RURAL FIRE BRIGADE ROSTER George Noye 57904246 0432928301 UHF CH 15 |
| Now until the 7th March | LEONE GABRIELLE painting and sculpture exhibition at the Ruffy Store, 26 Nolans Road, Ruffy. Open Fridays from 11.30am, weekends and public holidays from 8.30am to 6pm T (03) 57904387 www.ruffy.com.au |
| Now to Sunday 13th February | GALLERY 34 34 High Street Yea, Victoria BEYOND GRIEF there is acceptance. BEYOND DESPAIR there is hope. BEYOND AGE there is wisdom, experience, know-how and leadership. The devastating Victorian bush-fires of February 2009 claimed the lives of 173 people. Since then, residents and property-owners throughout the Shire of Murrindindi have rallied together to reclaim their homes, their communities, their relationships and the landscapes they love. Many of them are senior citizens, who have demonstrated through their resilience, wisdom and sense of humour that age often means nothing more than numbers. From CFA volunteers to church-wardens, shearers to scone-makers, older members of the Shire of Murrindindi continue to play their parts in helping communities rise from the ashes. These are their portraits—and some of their stories. EXHIBITION HOURS Thursday ,Friday & Saturday 9am - 4pm Sundays 10am - 4pm |
| Saturday 5th February | YEA COUNTRY MARKET , 9am to 2pm (1st Saturday of each month) Yea Railway Park, Station Street, Yea. Contact: 0409 130 587 or yeamarket@gmail.com |
| Tuesday 8th February | YEA LIBRARY 6.30 pm has its first guest speaker for the year. Tim Whitford is a military historian whose great uncle Harry was one of 170 Australians killed in a single night in 1916 at the Battle of Fromelles. Tim works at the Shrine of Remembrance and will share with us his personal story and the story of his great uncle. I hope this will appeal to our ex-servicemen and anyone interested in Australia's military history. Leanne Pleish. |
| Thursday 10th February | SUSTAINABILITY in Action Bio-char-energy Workshop The Seymour Room, Mitchell Shire Council Office 28 High Street, Seymour Presenter: Dr James Joyce – Director, BiGchar Pty Ltd. Lunch provided. Please RSVP by Monday 7th February, 2010 for catering purposes. Contact: Annemaree Docking (03) 57346371 or Anne-mareed@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au Session 1 10:30 am – 11:15 am Background – Why green waste, forest residues and crop wastes are hard to use. Session 2 11:20 am -12:15 pm Sustainability aspects when value adding to wastes. Session 3 12:45 pm - 1:45 pm The economic sustainability of value adding to green wastes 1:55 pm - 3 pm Workshop session on projects scenarios for Local Government/Catchment Management Authorities |
| Friday 11th February | "DRINKS ON THE DECK" at Highlands Community Hall from 6.30pm. Bring food to share for a meal together and catch up with friends old and new. All welcome - especially new faces. Gold coin donation to cover power. "Don't forget the Aerogard!!". |
| Saturday 12th February | BLACK MARKEET 10am - 12pm: Swap & sell your home produce at this local food exchange and "open garden". This month it's being hosted by Candi Westney & Vitto Oles, at Rocky Passes Estate, 1590 Highlands Rd, Whiteheads Creek. Contact Paul Macgregor on 5797 0229, diversity@diversity.org.au , or Candi on 5796 9366 |
| Saturday 12th February | FREE GRANT WORKSHOP FOR WOMEN .The day-long workshop, to be held at Benalla . It will provide women with the skills and knowledge to source grants to support their communities and not-for- profit organisations. Participants will learn from other women who have been successful in applying for grants for their communities. They will also learn about identifying community priorities, identifying suitable grants, project delivery, grant administration and acquittal. The workshop will be facilitated by a range of local presenters and will include time to meet and brainstorm with other participants and seek grants online. It includes morning and afternoon tea and lunch. For more information and to book phone Fairley Leadership on 0459 211 997.9am-4.30pm, Where: GO TAFE, Samaria Rd, Benalla |
| Monday 14th. February | HIGHLANDS SPINNING CLUB The first get-together of the New Year will be at 11am. Just bring something to do, some lunch and a smiley face for a few hours of craft and laughs! Jan Sporry 5790 4361, 450 Caveat—Dropmore Road, Caveat |
| Friday 18th February | ALEXANDRA LIBRARY an essential part of your community! 5772 0349 Storytime for 3 – 5's stories, fun, activities & songs 11 – 12 noon |
| Friday 18th February | BOB VALENTINE & LAUREN GILLARD For those of you who don't know Bobby, his music is a mixture of blues, country and jazz and he loves to get everyone involved. WBGadd, 1 Queen st Avenel, 03-5796 2469 7:30 till 11:00 pm \$25 www.wbgadd.com |
| Saturday 19th February | ROCKY PASSES: The Stiletto Sisters are a dynamic and vibrant trio featuring Hope Csutoros on violin, Judy Gunson on piano accordion, and double bassist Jo To. They play luscious, exciting, virtuosic gypsy melodies, seductive tango rhythms, popular, traditional, old continental favourites & love songs from Europe and Latin America ... music to swoon by! Learn more about them at www.stiletto sisters.com Tickets \$40 ... includes Tapas plate served from 5:30 and performance from 6:30 - 8:30. Bookings 57969366 or contact@ www.rockypasses.com.au |

Classifieds & Community Notices

STROKE AWARENESS

F.A.S.T is an easy way to remember and recognise the signs of stroke:

Face – Has the person's mouth drooped?

Arms – Can they lift both arms?

Speech – Is their speech slurred? Do they understand you?

Time – Time is critical. If you see any of these signs, call 000 now

For information and advice on stroke prevention, treatment and recovery, visit www.strokefoundation.com.au or call StrokeLine 1800 787 653.

Further information on WorkHealth activities in Murrindindi Shire contact Sarah Light at Murrindindi Shire Council at slight@murrindindi.vic.gov.au or on 0427 767 378. Or visit www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au for the health check timetable.

MURRINDINDI COUNCIL DESIGNATES NEW PLACES OF LAST RESORT

Leckie Park, Alexandra, Railway Park Yea and the Flowerdale Hall site have been designated as new Neighbourhood Safer Places - Places of Last Resort in the Murrindindi Shire.

The three sites now join the already designated Eildon Recreation Reserve as Neighbourhood Safer Places – Places of Last Resort (NSPs).

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN OBTAINING ANY OF THE FOLLOWING?

Chemical Users Permit (ACUP)
Chemical Users Refresher Course
Chainsaw Operations & Maintenance

In early 2011 – February / March (to be announced) Weekends and/or Weekdays in Kilmore & Broadford
Applicants must live in Mitchell Shire to qualify for subsidy.

Cost: \$50 per person/per course
Please leave contact details and course/s interested in on attached form or send contact details to: James Nelson: Sonia Sharkey: Environmental Fire Recovery Project Officer SWG Landcare Facilitator Mitchell Shire Council Mitchell Shire Council 113 High Street, 113 High Street Broadford, 3658
Ph; 03 5734 6477 Ph; 03 5734 6312
Mobile; 0427 498 872 Mobile; 0409 515 630 *If you have a current ACUP that does not expire for some time, please conduct the course so the expiry date can be bought into line and held every 5 years, subject to funding, instead of irregularly.

BASIL (*Ocimum basilicum*)

Basil is an annual herb which grows to about 0.5m and it takes its name from the Latin word for 'king', 'basileum' as it was considered the king among plants. Basil grows wild all over the Mediterranean and is highly valued in cooking and as a medicinal herb. It can even be found at the foot of pulpits in Greek churches. Although many of us associate basil with the Mediterranean it is native to tropical Asia and Africa and has a long history in Indian traditional medicine.

Basil is steam distilled from its leaves and flowers and is a pale yellow to pale green in colour. It has an intense aniseed-like aroma due to its methyl chavicol content (40% to 50%).

Basil is a great memory and mental stimulant as it helps relieve intellectual fatigue and give the mind strength and clarity. Other uses for Basil also include digestive disorders. Massaging a blend of Basil essential oil and a carrier oil such as grapeseed over the stomach it may aid in the relief of digestive problems due to it being an antispasmodic, over the abdominal area helps relieve cramping and scanty periods. It also beneficial in the relief of sinus congestion, asthma and bronchitis. It is an uplifting oil so may be used for nervous disorders....a 16th century herbalist wrote: The smell of Basil.....taketh away sorrowfulness and maketh a man merry and glad, it expels melancholy vapours from the heart. It is especially good used in a blend for tired, tight and over-worked muscles.

Caution is needed when dealing with essential oils so for more information on the use of basil or any other essential oil please contact Megan at 'metier aromatherapy', info@metier-a.com.au or call on 0417 314 559. Megan is an enrolled nurse and aromatherapist and works from her home in Seymour as a therapeutic and relaxation massage therapist.

HELP WANTED

"Wanted, weekenders in Terip require some part time farm assistance with managing the property 2-3 days per week. Call 5790 4200 on weekends".

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BEEF HEALTH

MANAGEMENT COURSE

Anyone is welcome to attend a three-day course organised by Yea River Catchment Landcare Group (in co-operation with the Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE and DPI) on beef health management on three Mondays: 28 February, 7 March and 21 March 2011.

It will be run by Dr Rod Manning (and facilitated by DPI Beef Extension Officer, Alison Desmond), who ran the Mansfield vet clinic until 2002, and who now operates a 1100-cow enterprise, comprising a 70% cow-calf and 30% steer trading and finishing operation in Mansfield, Alexandra and Benalla. course will be held in Yea (location and time to be advised) Heifer and reproduction efficiency

Please could you register your interest/queries ASAP with Judy Brookes (stating whether you are eligible for educational funding or not) by return email or on 57 972 563.

MURRINDINDI ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY

At its first meeting of the year Council adopted its Environment Strategy (2011 to 2015). This is the first time Council has had a formal policy on the environment with the following key directions:

Protect what we have

Reduce what we take

Minimise what we leave

Share what we learn

The Environment Strategy is available on Council's website at www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au.

A WARNING NOTE

The Mafeking Rover Park was broken into and our hall vandalized between Jan 3rd and Jan 14th. It has been reported to Yea police who are investigating. Our neighbours have also mentioned that random things have been going missing from their sheds and verandas lately.

Thanks John Rowlandson



Rocky Passes



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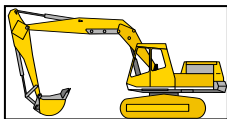
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