



SOCIAL WORK STUDENT DIARY by Marisa Gorry

There are some of us who are fortunate enough to choose our career. I am a fortunate one. I have worked in many different industries but over time, none have been satisfying.

In 2002, I began a Bachelor in Social work as a distance education student with Deakin University. Despite extensive reading and study, I never had a 'real' concept of what the work entailed. I was simply passionate about doing something that was making a positive difference in the lives of others.

I am now 'technically' in my 3rd year of study (3 children later) and have just faced my biggest career challenge.

I have successfully completed a massive 70 hour field placement at FamilyCare; a non-profitable welfare agency that services the Murrindindi and Mitchell communities. FamilyCare provides many programs free of charge. They include case work with children and their families, Child FIRST information referral and support program, Families First, Bushfire referral team, parent child program (sleep and settling), No interest Loans scheme, the Disability Support Services, Carers support Services and the Men and Relationships program.

During my placement, I experienced a wondrous and exhausting journey of learning and professional development. The FamilyCare staff were all very helpful despite being time conscious. I felt safe and supported by a highly skilled team of professionals in often difficult and challenging tasks. I gained a great deal of 'practice wisdom' and a greater understanding of the Australian social work values such as integrity, respect and ethical practice.

Best of all, the field placement validated my personal belief of viewing everyday experiences through a strength based, solution focused lens. This is the agency's focus for supporting clients and their families and I confirmed that it feels natural for me to support others with this view.

I am very fortunate to continue on as an employee at FamilyCare, assisting families as part of the Child FIRST team, supporting them through challenging times to achieve their own successes and find solutions. Studying and working and being a mum of 3 young children is far from easy but it is possible and with new found confidence, I dare to dream! I am very happy to chat with anyone considering a career in the welfare sector. PH 0417 133 409. Anyone wanting to know more about FamilyCare's services (03) 5735 4600.

NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Lachi: For a huge improvement with his maths. Well done!



HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL MAJOR FUNDRAISER BUSH DANCE

SATURDAY 13th AUGUST 6.30pm

MAFEKING SCOUT PARK

\$20 per adult or \$40 per family

Includes dinner and dancing, music provided by Jim Davidson (not Terip Jim!)

Mark this date on your calendar, gather friends together for a fun night! We would really appreciate support from all members of the community, not just the families of the school. If you are a community member and feel you could help us that would be fabulous. There are lots of exciting jobs like doing the dishes, serving food, if you are really lucky, cooking food. Don't be put off by this list, there are lots of ways to help, just ring Meagan next term 57969208 and have a chat.

CRAZY HAIR DAY reached new highs this year. Luke and James went where most people fear to tread and these permanent results were nothing short of amazing, or was that alarming.



WELCOME TO ISSUE 20

Please send articles to mirandayorston@bigpond.com or ring on 57969261

There will be no Granite News for the next two weeks. Please remind friends and neighbours that they can receive The Granite News by email. Just send me the address, it's as easy as that and you receive it early, each week and in colour.

Remember that there is no charge for advertisements or articles in the body of the newsletter, again, just email them to me.

BURNT CREEK GETS A COMMUNITY ACTION GRANT FOR LAMBING GULLY ROAD

The Caring for Our Country program provides a small number of grants for local groups up to \$20,000. Eight were allocated for 2011/20102 in the Goulburn Broken Catchment area.

Burnt Creek submitted a biolink project for revegetation plantings along a section of Lambing Gully Road as a joint project with the Whiteheads Creek Landcare Group. Rather to our surprise we were successful and received \$16,000. As the funding is for 18months, two seasons plantings are possible. The Whiteheads Creek group did some work in the area last winter but losses were quite high due to waterlogged soils.

Lambing Gully Road, and its extension as Telegraph Road to the Goulburn River to a point where horses and coaches could cross the river on a rock bar, is most unusual. The entire 22km corridor from Avenel to the River is a three chain (60m) wide corridor not the usual two chain wide. It was surveyed to provide a higher country route in the early days as an alternative to the road on the flatter country which was prone to flooding in winter and after storms.

This section of Lambing Gully Road is little used and provides a good connection between the granite country of the Hughes Creek valley and the ironstone landscapes of the Whitehead's Creek Valley.

A planting afternoon is to be held for Seymour schools planned for Friday 29th July and the main planting effort is for Sunday 11th September.

By Sandy Mackenzie,
Burnt Creek Landcare.

COMMUNITY WHAT'S ON CALENDAR - JULY 2011

Week beg 11th July	TERIP TERIP MOWING ROSTER Geoff & Jan Penny Mark Ireland
Week beg 10th July	WHITEHEADS CREEK- TARCOTBE RFB TRUCK Barry Roworth Anthony Wallis
July holidays	FREE events at our libraries during the July school holidays. EGYPTOLOGY EXTRAVAGANZA! Come along and listen to an Egyptian tale and make your own pyramid and Tutankhamen mask! Enter our Tutankhamen colouring competition sponsored by Book City Shepparton. Prizes, gift certificates and ribbons will be awarded. All activities are FREE! For more information contact 1300374765 Violet Town Library Friday 8 July 3.30pm-4.30pm Euroa Library Wednesday 6 July 10.30am-11.30am Nagambie Library Tuesday 12th July 1.30pm-2.30pm
Friday 8th July	'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.
Saturday 9th July	ACRYLIC ON CANVAS Join Thea Day for a workshop on from 10.30am until 4.00pm. This will be a casual and friendly workshop covering many aspects of painting acrylic on canvas including techniques, styles and shading. People with all abilities and experience levels are welcome and from all age groups from 10 years. Materials will be supplied, however feel free to bring your own materials from home. The day is free and lunch will be supplied! Phone: 03 5797 3070 Email: yeacom2@virtual.net.au Location: 5 The Semi Circle, Yea, Victoria, 3717
Saturday 9th July	Black Market 10am - 12pm: Swap & sell your home produce at this local food exchange and "open garden". This month it's being hosted by Richard Telford and Kunie Yoshimoto, at 'Abdallah House', 1a Abdallah Road, Seymour. Richard Telford will give a tour of Abdallah House, an urban example of low impact living with design features that include: a home grown deck, cool cupboard and cellar, passive solar design, food production, rain-water harvesting and grid-interactive solar electricity. Contact Paul Macgregor on 5797 0229, diversity@diversity.org.au , or visit www.abdallahhouse.com
July 9 and 10	Euroa Community Cinema —"The Hangover Part 11" — This is another fun movie from the boys who gave us the "night before the wedding disaster" some time ago! This time they are in Thailand at a luxury beach resort. Determined the same thing won't happen again—they go for a quiet beer around a fire on the beach and the next thing you know they are in Bangkok much the worse for wear. This is not serious cinema—but we all enjoy a laugh at some one else's expense.
Saturday 16th July	MASQUERADE DINNER AT THE TERIP TERIP REC RESERVE 6.00pm for sherries followed by a Spit Roast. This year's theme is Masquerade, and there will be prizes for the best masks. Tickets are \$20 per adult, or \$50 for a family. Tables can be booked for the dinner. RSVP, to Kate Wright (5790 4148), by 1st July is essential. We look forward to seeing you there!
Saturday 16th July	FREE Circle of Friends Scrapbooking & Card-making A group of dedicated cardmakers and photo scrapbookers! Every 3rd Saturday of the month. Gold coin donation for heating and tea/coffee supplies. Room use free! BYO lunch and scrapbook/card making supplies. Share ideas, have a laugh, create lovely pages and cards together! Time: 10am—4pm Phone: 03 5797 3070 Fax: 035797 2860 Email: yeacom2@virtual.net.au Web: www.yea.com.au/commhouse Location: 5 The Semi Circle, Yea, Victoria, 3717
16 and 17 July	Euroa Community Cinema - Pirates of the Caribbean 4 : On Stranger Tides" (3 stars) Johnny Depp is back as Jack Sparrow! He is off to find the fountain of youth which of course takes him and his crew on a major journey with lots of amazing adventures when they go head to head with Blackbeard and his daughter who are also seeking the same thing. How can this movie fail to entertain? It may not challenge the intellect but then not every movie has to really.
Sunday 17th July	PRUNING with Rebecca Bowles Learn how to prune in theory, then have a go yourself! Theoretical and practical hands on experience on the day. When: from 11am until 1pm Cost: \$5 / head Where: Yea Community House classroom plus out in the field Phone: 03 5797 3070 Fax: 035797 2860 Email: yeacom2@virtual.net.au Web: www.yea.com.au/commhouse Location: 5 The Semi Circle, Yea, Victoria, 3717
Friday 22nd July	On the Couch Join Leanne Pleash to discover what books are new on the shelf at the Yea Library! (and also on the 12 August 2011) 10am—11.30pm
Monday 25th July	AGM notice for TCC- Tablelands Community Centre AGM 7.30pm All welcome
Thursday 28th July	MENTAL ILLNESS IN THE FAMILY 9.30am–1.00pm followed by lunch Seymour Racing Club 55 Kobyboyn Road, Seymour Join us for a forum to discuss how we can provide support to families where there is a family member who has a mental illness and work together to promote good mental health. Our speakers include: There is no cost to attend this forum. Morning tea & lunch will be provided. RSVP by: Monday 25th July For any questions or to RSVP contact Naomi Zandt-Mazzone nmazzone@familycare.net.au Mobile: 0458 837 267 Ph: 57341000

Classifieds & Community Notices

GOULBURN RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL VISITATION STATISTICS

The Goulburn River Valley region benefited from strong visitation during the first quarter of 2011, according to Visitor Survey Data released this week. Statistics for the January to March 2011 period reflect a 5.6% increase in domestic overnight visitors compared with the same time in 2010. Visitors to the region spent over 1.6 million nights in the region, an increase of 12.8% when compared with the same time last year. Goulburn River Valley Tourism Executive Officer Amanda McCulloch says the strong visitation could be attributed to high water levels in the Goulburn River.

"This had a huge influence on visitors traveling out of Melbourne and regional Victoria to see water levels, greenery and wildlife not seen in our region during years of drought," adds Ms McCulloch.

The most popular activity undertaken by visitors was visiting friends and relatives (51.7%) followed by eating out at restaurants (38.6%) and general sightseeing (23.7%).

Domestic daytrip travel to the region was down 1.0% on March 2010 figures with nearly 1.8 million daytrip visitors coming to the region. For more information please contact Goulburn River Valley Tourism Executive Officer Amanda McCulloch on 0488 776 733.

BOOK REVIEW

The Book of Fame – Lloyd Jones

The Age called this book, "starkly beautiful" and even though it is about the 1905 All Blacks tour of Britain I would have to agree that the description fits perfectly. I must also admit that although I have tried to understand the rules of Rugby, even borrowed a basic book about it once, it still strikes me as a fairly brutal and uninspiring game. However Jones has written about the tour, and the Kiwi boys who played in it, with love and awe and the simplicity of the text only enhances the melding of history and imagination. "People stopped them in the streets. 'Mr Gallaher, Mr Gallaher, sir. How does it feel to be famous?" "The pyramids are famous, son." Understated and original - like the team who scored 830 points and conceded just 39. A great read.

By Pauline Roberts

FOR SALE

2 male black and tan kelpie puppies from excellent working parents. \$150
Contact Tash or Pete 57969244

FOOD & WATER SECURITY Rapidly Becoming Issues of Global Concern

A number of authorities and commentators have been re-visiting the issue of population growth, global food security and consequent conflicts and the role Australian agriculture might have in addressing this looming challenge.

Two recent books by Australian authors provide compelling reading. They include comprehensive references and are titled: "The Coming Famine" - The global food crisis and what we can do to avoid it. Julian Cribb - CSIRO Publishing - 2010 and "Thirsty Country" - Options for Australia, Asa Walquist - Allen & Unwin - 2008

The Director of the UN Environment Program (based in Kenya), Dr Achim Steiner has highlighted the realities in a recent issue of the New Scientist (16 April 2011). The heading for his article was "FOOD or BIODIVERSITY?"

He makes the following points:

Millions of people in Africa live in unremitting poverty and hunger - the only way to alleviate their misery is through agricultural development ... the tension between agriculture and conservation is not unique to Africa ... the UN's Food & Agriculture Organisation estimates that over 1 billion people go to sleep hungry every night ... greatly increased food production is needed the world over. By 2050 the global population will grow from 7 billion to between 8 and 10 billion ... Demand for cereal, oil and sugar crops will double by then as more people will consume more calories and meat and biofuel production expands. Land, water and fertilizers are already in short supply in many areas an area nearly the size of Russia may have to be brought into production to meet this challenge in the next 40 - 50 years. The disparity between demand for food and the world's capacity to produce it under current restrictive trade barriers was the key issue for the G20 agriculture ministers when they met in Paris recently.

The French Minister, Bruno Le Maire, has highlighted other consequences of the 21st century being "the century of hunger" including "tidal waves" of refugees from Africa and the Middle East and political instability and armed conflict within and between countries.

Policy makers in Australia need to provide a better balance between supporting farm production and securing and enhancing biodiversity if Australian agriculture and farmers are to make a significant contribution to the challenge of feeding and clothing the world.

By Sandy Mackenzie, Burnt Creek Landcare newsletter.

NEW HIGHLANDS WEBSITE

The Highlands website has been redesigned, thanks to Jono Rumbold. The new graphics look terrific and the site is easy to navigate around. You will find the old Granite News issues, although sadly we are missing some earlier editions.

As with the previous website, there is a section for each community group including the Highlands hall committee, HiArts, CFA, spinning club, Ramblers and others.

Jono would really appreciate it if the leaders of these groups could become regular contributors. For anyone who would like to contribute news items, etc please email Jono

jr@omnipotent.com.au.

Here is a link to the new site
<http://highlands.org.au>

Thank you to Highlands Landcare for paying for the hosting of this site.

NEW TAX REFUND FOR SCHOOL UNIFORMS

From July 1 eligible families will now be able to claim school uniforms as part of the Education Tax Refund (ETR).

Parents will be able to claim up to 50 per cent of the cost of uniforms in addition to the existing education expenses included in the scheme, currently up to \$390 per child each year for primary school kids or \$779 per child each year for those in secondary school.

Working out what uniform items can be claimed has been made simple. If the uniform is recommended by a school and it identifies students as being from that particular school, then it can be claimed.

So start keeping receipts for uniforms purchased from the 1st of July so you can include them in your claim next year.

Parents or guardians entitled to Family Tax Benefit Part A for one or more children in school are eligible for the refund. Parents are also eligible if their child receives another payment, such as Youth Allowance, Disability Support Pension or ABSTUDY Living Allowance, but would otherwise be eligible for Family Tax Benefit Part A. For more information visit www.australia.gov.au/educationtaxrefund

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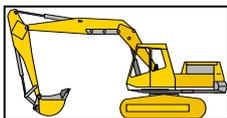
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