



THE GRANITE NEWS

APRIL 7TH 2008

VOLUME 2

ISSUE 9

WHITEHEADS CREEK • TERIP TERIP • CAVEAT • RUFFY • HIGHLANDS • HUGHES CREEK

INTERVIEW WITH A LOCAL

Mervyn Penny

The Penny family are part of Terip's history, and here is Mervyn Penny's story:

I have lived in the Terip district all of my life. As a boy, I lived on my father's farm which is on Penny Lane. I started school when I was 5 years old. Dad drove us, myself, my two brothers and sister 6 miles to the Terip School (No 3169) in an old Nash (Reg No 44959) and we walked home. When Albert and I got push bikes we dinked Stella and Neville home. Terip was the only school I went to.

After my school days I worked on the farm milking cows, ploughing, cutting and pressing hay. Dad had the contract of pressing hay in the Terip and Ruffy district for many years.

When I was 18 I went out shearing sheep around Euroa, Avenel and Highlands, and I did that for 50 years. In the autumn and winter I trapped rabbits and sold them.

I played cricket for Creighton's Creek and was wicket keeper and opening bat. At 29 I took up tennis and I am still enjoying going to practice every Thursday night.

Jennifer and I have been married for 49 years and have two sons, Craig and Ross, and they both live in the district. I am semi-retired now and taking life a lot easier. I am looking forward to spending some more time on writing my memoirs.

Post Script. Mervyn not only turns up for tennis practice every Thursday, but he also turns up for every match, all through the summer season, and a few years ago, he was a member of the winning team.... and here's a poem that Mervyn found in one of Macca's (as in Australia All Over) books, and wanted to pass on for others to enjoy:

Magpies

Magpie singing like violins or piccolos or flutes

Perhaps that's why they always fly around in dinner suits

They dress up like musicians in white tie, shirt and tails,

And give their own renditions of serenades and scales.

Thanks Sari and Mervyn

NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

End of Term Awards:

Home Learning: Laura, Michael, Jack, Kassie, Kelly, Imogen, Jarrad, Cuchulainn, Emillie, Walter, John, Lachie and Kendall.

Spelling: Kelly, Jack, John, Jarrad, Lachie and Walter

Tables: Michael, Imogen, Jack, Lachie, John, Kassie and Laura.

Reading: Rick, Emillie, Kendall, Kayla and James.

HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS

On 30th March, 26 adults and 7 children (including 3 year old Angus Shaw) walked from Gum Road through beautiful bush and farming land, to Woolshed Creek, where they had lunch. Then a brief deviation to the remains of a very ancient hut, and eventually up the hill to Sprunt's Road. Thanks to Andrew Shaw for leading the walk.

Highlands V Ruffy Cricket

The Retraction

Avid followers of the Ruffy V Highlands cricket (all three of you) may have heard that Doug White has been stripped of his B.O.G. status, awarded by a block vote of Highlanders because he lost the score book rendering the match result unknown. Miraculously this historical record of dubious accuracy was rediscovered in the filing system beneath the seat of Bill Hills utility and was surprisingly undamaged by the various unknown life forms that inhabit this bio-security risk.

Therefore BOG goes to Peter Roberts the scorer and bus driver, who somehow was able to make sense of what was happening on the Hume & Hovell Cricket ground and delivered it to a point of relative safety for the majority of the participants.

Magnanimously the Highlands side has accepted, that the original result Ruffy win will stand.

Don't forget the CPR refresher course will be held at the Highlands Hall at 7pm on Wed. 9th April. Cost \$35!!

WELCOME TO ISSUE 9

Many thanks to Jo Trantor for offering to fold The Granite News for the Highlands area. Now we just need another 3 people to help and that means it is only a once a month commitment. Any takers?

There will be no The Granite News next week as I am on camp all week in Melbourne but we will be back normal the following week. Please send any article to miranda@activ8.net.au

Blackberry Extension Programme

The Highlands Landcare group in conjunction with the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) will be conducting a Blackberry Extension Program in the area in the coming months. Successful programs have previously been run in the Creightons Creek, Merton and Yarck areas. The program will involve a Rural Extension Officer (Mark Sellwood or Kate Cunnew) from the DPI visiting as many properties as possible in the program area, accurately mapping the properties for blackberry and other noxious weeds, helping landowners with their management plans, giving advice where needed and providing brochures and information on identification and management of these noxious weeds.

After a period of time DPI officers will revisit the properties and see what progress has been made across the district.

The aim of the program is to get all the community committed and working on their blackberry at the same time. When everyone is working on their weeds at the same time there is a much greater chance of reducing the impact of the blackberry on not only your own property, but also your direct neighbours, not to mention Ol' Georges place 5 miles that away.

These programs also involve the public land managers, such as Local Government, the Department of Sustainability and Environment, Vic Roads, and Parks Vic, so that the fight against blackberry is coming from all sides.

If you don't have a blackberry management plan for your property, now is the time to start thinking about it! And if you do, now's the time to start planning next year's activities!

Classifieds & Community Notices

Alchemy In the Kitchen

"I was talking to Albert about Dell, and that I never learn how to cook her yummy roasts before she died. Albert said "Well, there's the Men's Shed, why not the Women's Kitchen?" ... a meeting place to share a common interest.

In the Kitchen we welcome everyone interested in widening their recipe repertoire... sharing experiences, cross pollinating ideas... letting a little of others live within.

Peg Ladewas our first guest cook in the Kitchen in March. She shared how to make her delicious orange cake... and the story that went with it. The cake was great at morning tea! Peg added to the idea... "I think the guest cook could suggest someone for guest cook next month." Peg has chosen Victor Oles. He will be cooking in his mother's famous spaghetti bolognese and making enough for us all to try.

10 - 12am The Black Market
Saturday 26th April.

11am In the Kitchen... just bring yourself (everyone welcome).

See the Calendar, or call Leone (57969290) or Candi (57969366) for more details.



DRINKS ON THE DECK

Friday 11th April

From 5pm

BYO Drinks and nibbles

Come and help celebrate the completion of the renovations of the Highlands Hall. It represents an enormous amount of work but lots of members of our terrific community.

For Sale

Honda XR200 trail bike 1997 model
As new, hardly ridden \$3000 Gavin
0419309431

Gardeners' Workshop

Alexandra & District Open Gardens in conjunction with Alexandra Rotary Club and the Shire of Murrumbidgee pleased to announce their first Gardeners Workshop weekend to take place on Anzac Weekend, April 26-27th, 2008.

Headlining the weekend, we are pleased to host three major names in the world of gardening at a "Meet the Experts" seminar featuring Andrew Laidlaw, landscape architect at Melbourne's Royal Botanic Gardens, Stephen Ryan, noted author, nurseryman and rare plant lover and Kevin Walsh, garden designer, horticulturist and water-wise gardening expert.

This promises to be an entertaining and information-packed presentation and chat by some of the most experienced and entertaining speakers. Meet the Experts will take place at the Alexandra Shire Hall from 10am to 1pm: admission is \$30 and includes morning tea and a box luncheon.

A Gardener's Market will take place adjacent to Alexandra's Jack Shiel gardens. There will be numerous participating vendors featuring garden goodies, plants, coffee, food and wine plus demonstrations on garden design, pruning, biodynamics and more. The Gardener's Market will take place from 10am through 4pm and is free.

On Sunday, a selection of the district's beautiful gardens will be open providing an opportunity to share gardening information with hands-on gardeners. Admission to all gardens is \$15 or \$3 at the garden gate.

Information on the weekend is available on our website
www.alexandraopengardens.com.au

Proceeds from the weekend will contribute to the design and maintenance of a special Secure garden for patients and visitors to Kellock Lodge.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT
Mandy Valsinger 0357721999

RAINFALL

Highland shad 29.4mms for March, making 169.2mms for the year, and Terip had 43.6mms, which brought them up to 170.8 for the year.

Caveat Footy Tipping

Quentin, Scott, Doug, John, 1 stround losers. Alex, Rick, Ray, Chris, Jan still alive.

BITS OF BOTANY AND BIRDS

The RED-BROWED FINCH is a highly sociable bird which flits around in pairs and flocks. It prefers grassy areas surrounded by dense shrubbery (e.g. gardens), and builds an untidy domed nest in the foliage of shrubs and trees. It has a scarlet bill, eyebrow and rump, and except for the introduced Goldfinch, it is the only finch in our area. The uncommon Diamond Firetail is occasionally seen on the lower country.



Saltbush, Lamb and Carbon

- *increasing productivity from salineland*

on the Hay family farm, Drummartin Road, Kamarooka
Wed 23rd April 10am - 2pm

Guest Speakers

Phil Dyson, hydrogeologist

Salinity and the impacts of different revegetation treatments on the Kamarooka water table. How the site responded to 132mm of rain in 24 hours, December 2007.

Andy Hay, farmer Grazing management on revegetated salineland. How the whole farm's carrying capacity has been lifted 10%.

Will Dalton, RMCG

Economic evaluation of the revegetation of salineland at Kamarooka and the number of grazing days now available to the whole farm enterprise.

Dr Jacqui England, CSIRO Forest Bio-sciences

Commercial Environmental Forestry, reducing investment risk in forestry and revegetation, and measuring carbon in low rainfall farm forestry plantations.

For information contact

Ian Rankin 0427844205
Lindsay Cail 0427359879

For Sale

Guinea Fowl \$15 @

Phone Ray on 57904382 after dark or
57921417 and leave a message

Community What's On Calendar—April/May/June

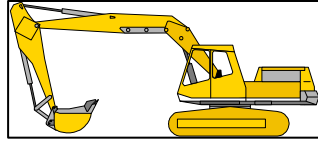
Weekbeg7th April	TeripTeripmowingroster Geoff&JanPennyNeville&SueDebney AroundClubhouseandall4courts Highlands-CaveatCFARosterCrewA
SundayApril13	Poetry@Ruffy3.00 –5.00pmattheRuffyProduceStore.PetraWhitehadsuchagoodtimeherelastSeptemberthatshe'scomingbackwithherfriendsElizabethCampbellandLucyHoltwhoarealsopoets. Youwillfindsomeoftheirpoemsatwww.johnleonardpress.com.Asusual,theeventwillbeinformalsothere willbeplentyofopportunityforconversationandreadingsfromthefloor.We haven'tanyfundingforthis event,sowewillcharge\$5.00perperson tocontribute tothepoetstravelcosts. FormoreinformingSari -57904352emailsariwawn@bigpond.com
Thursday April15	StorytellerGaelCrespbingsalivetheancienttalesofGreece&Rome.Alltheheroesandheroines,theexcitement,wrath, revenge, tragedyandgorybits. ASpellbindingcoupleofhoursatAlexandraLibrary 5.30-7.30IncludesyummyteaForagesover10Moredetails57720348
Friday18thApril	AUSKICKANDNET, SETGO, YEA(netballfor5 -11yearolds)Registrationnight willbeon Friday18thApril 4pm.Trainingwillcommence willcommenceonFriday2ndMay.Auskick Startingtime4.30pm Net,SetGo Startingtime3.30pmAnyqueriespleasecallAuskick -TrevorAldous Ph:57972185 Net,SetGo -KimSlavinPh:57973204.
Saturday, 19 April	YeaPreschoolCentreYourFramedFamilyPortraitforonly\$10.00(VALUEDAT\$110.00) PleasehelpFundraisingefforts.ContactDebbieReddingon57972710tobookyourphotographicssession Paymentof\$10.00mustaccompanybooking.
Saturday19th April	WorkingBeeattheHighlandsCommunityHall. 9am -12noon.Nowthatmostoftherenovationsatthehall arecomplete,itistime foranotherworkingbee. Therearebothinside&outsidejobstobe donefrommendingfurniture&patchingwallstocleaningwindows, pullingoutdeadbushes, weeding&mowing. Thebiggest challenge willbetoputuptherollershutterbetweenthekitchen&main hall. FormoreinformationcontactJudyReidon57969358.
SundayApril 20th	4pmRuffArtZpresentsMatineeperformanceofCJDennis'GingerMickatGallipolibyPettyTraffickers CompanyintheRuffyHallBookings57904318
Thursday24th April	LastThursdayofthemothBBQatCaveatchurch.BYOdrinksandenjoyasausagefor\$2andacatchup withfriendsandneighbours.
FRIDAY25TH APRIL2008	TERIPTERIPANZACDAYMEMORIALSERVICEATHERECRESERVEAT9.00amTOBEFOLLOWED BYMORNINGTEAALLWELCOMEENQUIRIESTODARYLCOXPhone57904345
SATURDAY 26THAPRIL	CARBOOTSALEATTERIPTERIPRECREATIONRESERVEFROM10AMREFRESHMENTSANDLIGHT LUNCHAVAILABLE\$15CARBOOTORSMAALLTRAILER\$20UTILITY\$25LARGE(TANDEM)TRAILER \$3TRESTLETABLEHIREComealongtoselloffyourunwantedtreasures,orbuysomeoneelse'streasure!! FORINFORMATIONandBOOKINGSCONTACTTRISHUDEN -57904377LUCRAVEN -57904011
Sunday27th April,	HighlandsRambblers -ThenextwalkwillbeonmeetingatHighlandsHallat10.30am.Wewillwalkinthearea ofthebigCaveatpineplantation,withfabulousviewstoMtConcordandbeyond.
Friday2ndMay	HighlandsLandcaregeneralmeeting.Comeandenjoyaglassofwineandfindoutwhat'shappeninginLandcareinourarea. TherewillbeaspeakerfromDPItalkabouttheblackberryREPprogrammestartingsoon inHighlands,aspeakerfromHealesvillesanctuarytotalkaboutourwonderfulWedgeTailedEagles, Sammy StrongtalkingaboutourprotectingScatteredtreesprogramme, JennyWebbtotalkabouttherbandicootsresearchandMirandaYorstonofillyouinonthenewarboretum. TherewillbetimefordiscussionandanopportunitytosaywhereyouwouldliketoseeHighlandsLandcareheading.7.30pmHighlandsHall
SundayMay4th	Whitehead'sCreekLandcareGroupKulabaRiparianWalk/Picnic10:30a.m. MeetatKulabaWestWoolshed935HighlandsRd,Whitehead'sCreek Comewalkthenowstabilizedgullyandseetheresultsofseveralyearsofunderstoryplanting. Revelinthe birddiversityexplosion.Shareyourstories,catch -upwitholdfriends,makesomenewones.Enjoyaconvivial lunchinarevitalizedbushlandsetting. R.S.V.P.Carolyn57924212orDavid57923693by2ndMay
Saturday10th May	RuffArtZSeasonofSaturdayspresents -Dev'lishMary - oldtimey&westernswing 8.00pm,RuffyHall. ContactGlenon57904318fortickets(\$26ea.)orinformation.
Thursday22nd May	HCRFBGeneralmeeting7.30pmatthehallprecededbytheAGMandbiennialelectionofofficebearers,all welcome.
Thursday29th May	LastThursdayofthemothBBQatCaveatchurch.BYOdrinksandenjoyasausagefor\$2andacatchup withfriendsandneighbours.

Rocky
Passes



CellardooropenSundays11am -4pm
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