



THE GRANITE NEWS

JULY 28TH 2008

VOLUME 2

ISSUE 22

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

PEOPLE AND PLACES

MATT SMITH, of Highlands, is a highly thought-of builder – carpenter, who has lived here for 20 years. He was born in Sydney and his parents took Matt and his siblings to live and work in PNG for about 10 years. Matt had a wonderful childhood, growing up with native children, fishing and swimming in creeks, exploring the bush and finding war artifacts. His father took him on the Kokoda Trail at the age of 9!

The family came back to Swan Hill and Matt's father obtained an apprenticeship in carpentry for him, in Seymour. He had no trouble getting employment at Puckapunyal, in the Dept of Housing and Construction. The place was full of immigrants, and Matt made many friends from other cultures.

He met and married Michelle, a truck driver in the Army, and they set off to travel round Australia in a Holden ute. Matt took a basic toolkit with him, so they took 9 months to get to Cairns, and lived for a year in a tent in the Kurandarain forest. The first child was on the way, so they came back to Seymour, and found the present land with a converted shed on the edge of the granite, near Matt's sold haunts. Work was back at Pucka, Highlands work started to trickle in, and quickly became a flood. David Underwood (former resident and architect - builder) became a friend and mentor, and Matt was happy at any work from fixing hay shed to totally new houses eg. Denis Spiteri's spectacular gallery, building new and adding to old, at Habbies Howe, and extensions and renovation to our Highlands Hall.

While working for Greg Young, Matt became inspired to plant native trees and shrubs on his initially bare block. It is now a haven for birds and has a wide array of vegetation. Matt extended his house and sheds, using recycled materials where possible, and has a spectacular view to Wagg's range and Whiteheads Creek valley.

Matt felt it was important for his 3 children to experience Asian and South Pacific cultures, and he has taken them to the Philippines, Thailand, India, Cambodia and Western Samoa (his favourite), and he always comes back so humbled by people who have little, and share everything.

Matt appreciates his friendships with his clients and we appreciate him!

NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Unfortunately Norman Brown the Performing Artist has cancelled his visit to Highlands Primary School, Wednesday July 31st. He may be back towards the end of August so keep an eye on The Granite News for any rescheduling.

Knitting classes

Thank you to Jennie Coulter who has volunteered to come upon Tuesday afternoons and do some knitting with interested students. Students who are interested in knitting will be doing this as part of their Art lesson for the week. We are asking for donations of large needles and wool to be dropped off to the school office or mailbox. Knitting classes will begin as soon as we have some needles and wool.

'Education is painful, continual and difficult work to be done in kindness, by watching, by warning, by praise, but above all by example.' -John Ruskin

Student Awards

Senior Room
Spelling: Imogen, Jack, Kelly, Mick, Laura
Tables: Laura, Kelly, Mick, Jack, Imogen, Kassie
Home Learning: Kassie, Jack, Jarrad
Junior Room
Reading spelling words: Lachie, Emilie, Kendall, James,
Counting: Rick,
Tables: Lachie, John, Emilie,
Spelling: John
Home Learning: John

Congratulations to Kendall for reading 100 nights, Walter for reading 75 nights and to James for reading 150 nights already this year!

Student of the Week

James McDonald for passing his violet words on his first attempt.
Way to go James!



WELCOME TO ISSUE 22

Apologies for being a bit confused about the date for the past two weeks! Did anyone notice?? Highlanders, don't be alarmed by a letter you are receiving from DPI about the blackberry programme. The same letter goes to everyone, even though most people have done a fabulous job controlling this weed. I have just found a couple of large bushes in a tree plantation on my place which is a bit embarrassing as the weeds facilitator....

It has been suggested that we rationalize the signs at the TINTERSECTION in Highlands, next to the Highlands Hall. The proposal is that the 3 existing signs become one and the post is placed on the corner next to the hall. At present one of the signs blocks the view of the stone circle as you drive down the hill coming from Yea. If you have an objection please contact me ASAP, and if I don't hear from anyone, I'll speak to The Murrindindi Shire next week. Miranda PH 57969261

Thanks for the continuing emails about wedgetailed eagles' sightings, please keep it up.

An interesting link from Alistair Lade

Link: <http://sl.farmonline.com.au/news/nationalrural/agribusiness-and-general/Finance/could-carbon-trading-be-the-next-landcare/1225774.aspx>

Ruffy Store has had 119 ml rains so far this month. Thanks Doug

Nominations for the 2009 Victorian Honour Roll of Women are officially open.

The Victorian Honour Roll for Women recognises and celebrates the achievements of women from all walks of life who have made a significant contribution in a particular field or made a lasting contribution that benefits the lives of other women and our communities in Victoria, Australia and Internationally.

With Victoria celebrating 100 years of women's suffrage this year, there has been increased focus on the achievements of women. Nominations close 26 September 2008. For nomination forms and more information visit www.women.vic.gov.au

Community What's On Calendar—July/August/September

Weekbeg28th	TeripTeripmowingroster HelenMcKenzie GeorgeandTrishUden
27July -02 Aug	WhiteheadsCreek/TarcombeRFBTruckRosterA.Coulson -RalphProven RichardWaugh -Shaun Clarke
ThursdayJuly 31st	SecretMen'sBusinessBBQatTheGrotto,CaveatChurch. 5.30pm. AllWelcome. P.S.Atlastmonth's meeting18peopleattendedfromRuffy,Terip,Caveat,andHighlands.
Friday1August	RaimondGaitaProfessorofPhilosophyattheAustralianCatholicUniversityandProfessorofMoralPhilosophyatKing'sCollegeLondon,ShireHallAlexandra7.30 —9pmJoinusforaeveningofthoughtprovoking ideasonlove(truthandjustice(thechoiceswemakeandissuesthatchallengeourworld) Bookings57720349
Friday1stAug.	FirstFridayDinnerattheRuffyStorethisBookingsessential.57904387
2ndAugust, 2008	PreliminaryNotice:HiArtsConversation:"TheArtistandSocialResponsibility".HighlandsHall,10 —3pm. \$10.00registration.Morningteaandlunchprovided.
Sunday3August,	RuffyHall4pmBookings:0357904318Ticketswillbesoldatthedoorbutitisbesttobookandavoidpossibledisappointment.TheFirstSteponaTramIsHell,thelatestworkfromfeministcomedian,writerandperformerSueIngleton,commencesamuch -awaitedVictorianregionaltourthisJuly.
7thAugust	TheAnnualGeneralMeetingofHighlandsArtsExperiencewillbeheldat7.30pmintheHighlandsCommunityHall.Allmembersareinvitedandvisitorsaremostwelcome.Comealongandhaveyoursayonthe workofHiArts
Friday8thAugust	'Drinkson theDeck'atHighlands CommunityHallat6.30pm. Bringfoodtoshareforamealtogether and catchupwithfriendsoldandnew.
SaturdayAugust 9th	KNITTINGGRAFFITIWHATISIT?WellitissomethingyoucangetinvolvedinfortheHi -Arts. Havealookatwww.knittaplease.comandthencomeandjoinAngelaWallisandherknittingcrew. Wewantto'DOUP'theHighlandsfortheHiArtsweekend.Can'tyoujustseethoseletterboxesnow??? WewillbehavingourfirstKnittingworkshopfortheHighlandTaggersattheHallat1pm -5pm.Comeand becreative.Bringneedles,anyfibrestoknitup,andafternoontea.EnquiriestoAngela57969255or 0438969250
Saturday9th August.	WhiteheadsCreek/TarcombeRFBnextDinnerIfyouhaven'talreadyputyournamedownandwantto attend,pleasecontactLorraine -57992432orNeville -0413805847.TheDinnerisbeingcateredforso comeandenjoyyourself.Weavesomegreatdoorprizestogiveaway.Adults\$25,Children\$10
Tuesday12th August	IntroductiontoVolunteeringInformationsession.10 -12noon.SecondTuesdayofeverymonth.Mitchell ShireCouncilChambers,113HighStreet,Broadford.Morningteaprovided. FormoreinformationringCandice57346253oremailcandiceg@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au TransporttosessionsisavailablefreewithintheMitchellShire
Sunday24th August	HighlandsRamblerwillwalkintheCaveatarea,ledbyAndrewShaw -Tel -57904297
Saturday30th August	RuffArtZSeasonofSaturdayspresents -GeneralStore -jazz,bluesswing &samba 8.00pm,RuffyHall. ContactGlenon57904318fortickets(\$26ea.)orinformation.
Saturday23rd August	TheWhiteHartHotel,Longwood.Liveband,startingat7.30pm.... -PaulWookeywithDamienO'Neil (Country&Blues)
Tuesday26th August	Women'sFarmingdiscussiongroup.EuroaCommunityEducationCentre,BinneyStreet10am -2pmRSVP CherylGrahamPH57273931,0408393105,cherylgraham@farminganswers.com
Friday5th September	HighlandsPrimarySchoolTalentNightHighlandsHall7.30pmMoreinformationcoming.Markthedatein yourdiarynow.
Saturday6th September	GlidersontheGoulburn7:00pmLocation/Meetingpoint: LionsPark/NewCrossingPlacePark,Seymour - taketheturninatheRoyalHotel,EmilyStreet) Meetattheboatramp. RSVP/Formoreinformation,pleasecontact:PeterMitchell,DPIBroadfordon57840622or0409432498
13thSeptember	WhiteheadsCreekLandcareAGM. Guestspeaker StevenRawlins whohasheldveryhighpositionsinthe DeptofAgricultureintheUS.Hewilltalkaboutthefutureoffoodproductioninatimeofheightenedcarbon dioxide..Sopleasecomealong,hearaveryinterestingspeaker,andcatchupwithyourfriends.

Classifieds & Community Notices

BITS OF BOTANY AND BIRDS

KANGAROOAPPLE (*Solanum aviculare*) is a fast growing native shrub which often colonizes disturbed or burnt ground. It has large dark green lobed leaves, and clusters of violet flowers in the spring. The berries are possibly lightly toxic before they ripen. It doesn't look a bit like a native, but don't be fooled, it's not a weed.



CRANBOURNE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS BUS TRIP

SUNDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2008 20 PLACES AVAILABLE, DON'T MISS OUT. The new date is to avoid clashing with the Seymour Show.

Ring Miranda PH57969261 or email miranda@activ8.net. auto secure your place. There will be a guided tour, starting at 11am at the gardens so we'll be leaving from the Highlands Hall at 9am. This is the best time of the year to visit these fabulous gardens.

WEED TIPS

The best and most cost effective means of weed control is prevention! If you see a new plant you don't recognize, get it identified immediately. Pulling out weeds in low numbers can prevent a weed from establishing. However, in a bush care situation it is particularly important to ensure the plant is first properly identified before it is removed.

Here are some tips to keep your backyard, farm, local bushland and waterways weed free.

Get to know the local weeds in your area. Contact your local council Weed Officer, Bushcare or Landcare Group or Agronomist.

Be aware that weed seeds are transported on vehicles, trailers, clothing, shoes, in soil and in pet fur and hair.

Always stick to designated tracks when walking, horseriding, driving, riding pushbikes or motorbikes through natural areas.

Dispose of weeds that are already seeding or readily able to reproduce vegetatively by placing them in a black plastic bag, sealing it and "baking it" in the sun for a couple of weeks prior to placing it in the bin.

Compost or dispose of other garden and green waste in council green waste collections or by carefully transporting it to your council's green waste tip. NEVER dump garden waste over the back fence or in bushland.

Always cover trailers when transporting plant material to prevent seeds and other live plant material falling off.

Consider carefully what plants you buy for ponds and aquariums.

Never dump aquarium water or contents down drains or into waterways

Imported plants, bulbs and seed including those ordered over the Internet or through mail order must be cleared before coming into the country. Check the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service website before ordering plant material.

FOR SALE

Silky Terrier cross pups for sale, 2x male, great family dogs, very cute. \$220.00

Helen McKenzie (03) 57904211

WHITEHEADS CREEK/ TARCOMBE RFB

The members are reminded that next Dinner is on the 9th August. If you haven't already put your name down and want to attend, please contact Lorraine -57992432 or Neville -0413 805847. The Dinner is being catered for so come and enjoy yourself. We have some great door prizes to give away.

Adults \$25, Children \$10

Cheer to those on the sick list at the moment.

Jan Stewart, Doreen Waite and anyone else who may be feeling unwell.

HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS

On an unpromising and gloomy day, 16 Highlands Ramblers set off from the Hall to Blue Top Road, where we walked to the top of the National Bank Rocks (so named after a long ago mortgage). Across Wild Dog Creek to a high ridge in the Robertson property, with long distance views to Waggs Range, Avenel hills and the Strathbogies.

Five wedgies soared above us (hoping for lunch!) and another away beyond Mt Tickatory. We finished the day with a hot cuppa with Brian and James, admiring their tree planting.

Another wonderful day.

RABBITS AND CHEMICALS

Organize your ripping hours and chemical orders now. Maximum 80 ripping hours per landowner - Landcare provides a 50% subsidy. Chemicals include Brush Off, Wetter and Round Up.

Please don't do the work and then apply for the subsidy as there are limited funds available and it will save disappointment.

Ring Miranda PH57969261



Work Wanted

Highlands area. Farm fencing, farm hand, lawn mowing and gardening or odd jobs around the farm or house. Reasonable rates ABN supplied. Susan Milroy PH57969192

Rocky
Passes



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