



THE GRANITE NEWS

SEPTEMBER 1ST 2008

VOLUME 2

ISSUE 26

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

PEOPLE AND PLACES

BRIENCOOK, JAMES SIMONSEN, 2 ½y.o. MAGGIE, PETER COWLING and LIZ NIXON with NED (2y.o) and TILLY (7mths), are happily conducting an interesting ecological and social project on 320 acres of land, off Blue Top Road at Highlands.

The land was originally overgrazed and crawling with rabbits, also thickly endowed with Paterson's Curse. What a challenge! They bought the land in 2005, with the aim of foresting parts of the block for high end saw-log production, re-vegetating other parts by creating corridors connecting the existing forests with stands of paddock trees with local indigenous species, and restoring bird and native animal habitat, and restoring the balance of the land to quality native grass pasture.

Their base on the property is a sheltered area surrounded by a natural landscape of granite boulders, with wonderful views in nearly every direction. Not far away is a secluded cove of mess mates and red stringybarks, with not one, but two, wedge-tailed eagle's nests. These will be closely watched this season, for signs of activity.

The owners have been growing their own tuberose stock from seeds gathered on the property.

Sofar, they have planted over 2000 units, plus 3000 in a plantation. The drought, especially that summer of 2006-7, when no spring rain fell, took a serious toll, and many plantings were lost. However, Brien, James and Peter have not been deterred; in fact, they have become quite fanatic and have been seen planting by car lights, in the rain, at 8pm at night, and in the recent snow!

They camp in a container and tents and have wonderful plans for building a completely eco-friendly house in the near future.

Brien comes from California and his original profession was a property lawyer; he now manages to include some time as a volunteer guide at the Botanical Gardens in Melbourne.

James studied Entomology and Zoology at University and is a recruitment consultant. Peter is a general manager in the wind energy industry, and Liz lectures in economics at RMIT. What an amazing collection of talents and interests, and an amazing collection of people!

NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

You are invited to.....

Highlands Primary School Production

Highland's Got Talent

Highlands Hall

Friday September 5th 7pm

Brings support to share

Come along and support our talented students as they perform a variety of acts.

Student of the Week

Kelly Petersen for always helping others to do their thing



Classroom Observations:

Staff at HPS and Flowerdale PS (FPS) have embarked on an innovative program to further develop their teaching skills. This involves staff from both schools visiting each other's classrooms with a specific teaching strategy to observe. Mr Davis, Principal at FPS is well known for his outstanding teaching of numeracy. Our students were lucky enough to have him share some of his numeracy games with them.

THE PHOTO BELOW DEPICTS SOME VERY TIRED BUT INNOVATIVE HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS ON THEIR LAST WALK WITH ANDREW SHAW



WELCOME TO ISSUE 26

Welcome and thank you for all your positive feedback, I do appreciate it. Send any articles, advertisements etc to miranda@activ8.net.au

A request from a resident

My fiancé and I have been residents here for almost 5 months and are getting married on October 11th this year and it is going to be a very country oriented theme with native flowers. The problem we are having is that we cannot find many native flowers for decorations as I am pressing some and using them on places setting etc. Our question and massive big favour we would like to ask is that if anyone has any native Australian flower seeds excluding wattle? Would they be kind enough to donate them for our wedding? Proteas, bottlebrush, banksia or any native would be very very much appreciated. Cheers Jennifer Garlick and Billy Gray 55 Yorston rd Highlands bnjgray@austarnet.com.au

Blackberry Update

Mark Sellwood has sent me a blackberry update.. "I have undertaken 26 inspections so far, with only 3 properties containing blackberry, and those being very minimal anyway." Go Highlands!!

The Goulburn Broken National Water Week Committee

invites a range of photographs depicting the theme "WATER FOR LIFE in the Goulburn Broken" ENTRY IS FREE!

Submit your entry to waterweek@gvwater.vic.gov.au with the below FOR DETAILS CONTACT waterweek@gvwater.vic.gov.au or phone JACINTA BURKE on 0458900261

Community What's On Calendar—September/October/November

Weekbeg1st	TeripTeripmowingroster SueMartinTimAndrewsandAndrewHollowayAroundClubhouseandcourts
31stAug -6th September	WhiteheadsCreek/TarcombeRFBTruckRoster ChrisHead MickLeatham DavidFreeman NevilleFord
Thursday4th	ISANYONEABLETOHELPWITHSOMEFENCINGOFTHENEWARBORETUMTODAYAT9.30? RingRickMcAlpinifyoucanhelpPH57969269
Saturday6th September	GlidersontheGoulburn7:00pmLocation/Meetingpoint: LionsPark/NewCrossingPlacePark,Seymour - taketheturninatheRoyalHotel,EmilyStreet) Meetattheboatramp. RSVP/Formoreinformation,pleasecontact:PeterMitchell,DPIBroadfordon57840622or0409432498
Sunday7th September	LeglessLizardHunt -Yes,they'reonagain!Kerrisdale/StrathCreekdistrict.9amstart,3pmfinish.Come alongforhalf,orall -day.JoinoneofVictoria'sleadingherpetologists,PeterRobertson,inthehunttofind thiselusivelizard.PastvolunteersurveysofthiskindhaveincreasedtheknownpopulationoftheStriped LeglessLizarddramatically.Outdoorclothingandfootwearrequired.BYOlunch.Formoreinformationand tojointhehunts,pleasecontactBertramLobert,onphone57908606.
Friday12th September	'DrinksontheDeck'atHighlandsCommunityHallat6.30pm. Bringfoodtoshareforamealtogetherand catchupwithfriendsoldandnew.
13thSeptem-ber	WhiteheadsCreekLandcareAGM. Guestspeaker StevenRawlins whohasheldveryhighpositionsinthe DeptofAgricultureintheUS.Hewilltalkaboutthefutureoffoodproductioninatimeofheightenedcarbon dioxide.Sopleasecomealong,hearaveryinterestingsspeaker,andcatchupwithyourfriends.
Thursday18th September	DirectSeedingFieldDayBustourofanumberofpropertiesaroundtheLongwoodPlainsDistrict,lookingat differentagedprojects,successfulapplication,threatsandmanagement.Pickupoints:Benalla,Violet Town,EuroaRSVPessential.PleasephoneJimBegley,DPIBenallaon57611574
18thSeptem-ber	HughesCreekCatchmentCollaborative(HCCC)monthlymeeting,7.30pmWhiteheadsCreekHall. Allwelcome
Saturday20 September	SeymourBushlandPark -NestBoxInstallationDay9.30am,comealongtotheSeymourBushlandPark andhelpusputnestboxesinthetreesforanimalsnotfortunateenoughtofindasuitablenestinghollow. TheSeymourMen'sShedandstudentsfromSeymourTechnicalHighSchoolhavebuiltsomewonderful nestboxes.Wearenowreadytoinstallthem.ABBQlunchwillbeprovidedforallvolunteersontheday. Justbringahat,sunscreen,suitableshoesandlotsofenthusiasm.SeymourBushlandParkisontheGoul- burnValleyHighway,5kmseastofSeymour.Pleaseemailorcalltoconfirmyouattendancefor catering purposes:contactKristy,on(bh)0357346382oremailseymourbushlandpark@gmail.com.Checkoutthe newwebsite:http://seymourbushlandpark.googlepages.com
Wednesday 24thSeptem-ber	LeglessLizardHunt2...Kanumbra/Yarckdistrict.9amto12pmJoinoneofVictoria'sleadingherpetologists, PeterRobertson,inthehunttofindthiselusivelizard.Pastvolunteersurveysofthiskindhaveincreasedthe knownpopulationoftheStripedLeglessLizarddramatically.Outdoorclothingandfootwearrequired.BYO lunch.Formoreinformationandtojointhehunts,pleasecontactBertramLobert,onphone57908606.
Thursday26th September	SecretMen'sBusinessBBQatTheGrotto,CaveatChurchfrom5.30pm,heldeverylastThursdayofthe month. Allwelcome.
Friday26th September,	SpringintoNatureatEarlstonWoodlandWalkandtalkattheTrustownedEarlstonwoodlandpropertynorth ofVioletTown.Recentmanagementactivitiesandfundingsourcesofthe146hpropertywillbediscussed byTruststaff.Managementactivitiestodateincludemistletoeremoval,nativeherbivoreplotenclosurefenc- ing,rabbitharbourdestruction,erosioncontrol,rabbitwarrenripping,anddirectseedingtrials.1:30pm.Af- ternoonteprovided.TaketheVioletTown -DookieRdnorthfromVioletTownfor13kmstoPayntersRd intersection.ThepropertyislocatedonthecornerofPayntersRdandNalingaRd,enterviagatewayon PayntersRd.ContactShelaghCurmion0407521154or57611525;emailshelaghc@tfn.org.au.
SundaySept 28th	HIGHLANDSRAMBLERSwillwalkfromnearMtBroughtontotheSwitzerlandRoad,wherewewillhave carstobringusbacktoHighlands.MeetattheHighlandsHallat10.30am.Leaders -PegLade(57969222)
Sunday28 September	BushWalkaboutatDeadDogGullyTime:10.40am -2.00pmLocation:DeadDogGullyAutumnGully Road•Funforthewholefamily•Guidedwalkandactivities•Barbecueelunch•Discoverthefascinatingsto- riesoftheJaaraJaarapeople,Bendigo'sGoldhistoryaswellastheamazingplantsandanimalslivinginthe bushBookingsessentialasplacesarelimitedCall54304620tomakereservations
3rdOctober	DrSusanLawlerwillbethespeakeratHighlandsLandcareAGM.HersubjectwillbeAustralianFreshwater crayfish(includingyabbies).HighlandsHallSausagesizzleat6.30pm.

Classifieds & Community Notices

BITS OF BOTANY AND BIRDS

The WHITE -FACED HERON is the most commonly seen heron in Australia. It is pale grey with a white face and yellow legs. It has a stately flight and wades in shallow water and swamps. The nest is a loose platform of sticks in a tree up to 20m from the ground and not necessarily near water. It forages for fresh water invertebrates, frogs, fish, spiders and insects.



CRANBOURNE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS BUS TRIP

SUNDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2008
3 PLACES AVAILABLE,
DON'T MISS OUT. The new date is to avoid clashing with the Seymour Show. There are 8 places left on the bus. Ring Miranda PH 57969261 or email miranda@activ8.net.au to 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.

Vehicle Registration Labels

The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) and Vic Roads are hosting a competition to vote on which threatened species will be displayed on vehicle registration labels next year. Vote for Baw Baw Frog, Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby, Purple Duirid or Eastern Barred Bandicoot. Voting is on the DSE website www.dse.vic.gov.au and follow the links in 'current initiatives'.

'Cydonia Permaculture'

Design for sustainability • combat climate change • produce your own food, Immerse yourself in permaculture! A fully residential two-week Permaculture Design Course (PDC) with a range of experienced and enthusiastic tutors, inspiring field trips, delicious food and comfortable accommodation. We cover all the standard PDC subjects (which can articulate into our Certificate III in Permaculture) and backup classroom theory with extensive visits to working permaculture properties. For the first time since 1993, the PDC will be based at one of David Holmgren's first design projects, 'Common Ground', a 95-acre property near Seymour. Cost is \$1600, or \$1100 concession, all accommodation and meals are included in the price. For more information visit www.cydoniapermaculture.com.au email info@cydoniapermaculture.com.au or call us on (03) 54334094. beat the food crisis • solutions for urban, suburban and rural areas in • inspiring field trips • community strengthening Sat 11th until Sat 25th of Oct

FOR SALE

Fresh Extra - Virgin Olive Oil, available direct from our grove. We have

2008 'Early Harvest' oil available at \$15-per-500mL bottle.

Please contact Mauro on 57969363, m_delfrate@hotmail.com

JOIN VICTORIA'S FIRE FIGHT

MORE than 500 people will be recruited for Victoria's bush firefighting force under a new campaign.

The Member for Seymour, Ben Hardman encouraged fit and healthy Victorians to play their part in the firefighting effort with the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) by becoming Project Firefighters (PFFs).

"Applications are now being accepted for more than 500 people to help with track clearing, road maintenance, putting out bush fires, controlled burning and fire recovery activities," Mr Hardman said.

"We routinely see CFA members who work as Project Firefighters as a way of building on their bush fire skills while still serving their community.

Applications close on Sunday, 7 September, 2008. Most PFFs work from November or December until the end of March, and many positions continue to assist with planned burns in autumn. For more details and to submit applications visit www.dse.vic.gov.au/fires Application kits can also be obtained by phoning the DSE Customer Service Centre on 136186, by emailing pff.positions@dse.vic.gov.au or by visiting a local DSE office.

AMENDED TRANSFER STATION HOURS AND CHARGES

The opening hours have been adopted as a result of the feedback received from the community consultation process conducted recently. The adopted opening times maintain a total of 19 operational hours per site per week, but allow a wider spread of opening hours across the week. Charges for the disposal of waste and recycling at our Waste Transfer Stations and Landfill will increase as per the adopted Budget Report -2008/2009. As of **Monday 8 September**, opening hours and disposal charges are:

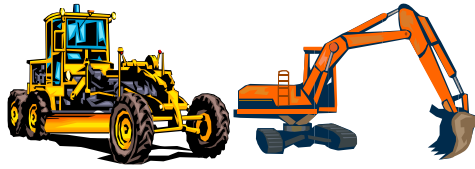
TRANSFER STATION OPENING HOURS

	ALEXANDRA	MARYSVILLE	EILDON	YEA	KINGLAKE
MON	10am -12noon	1pm -3pm	Closed	Closed	Closed
TUE	Closed	Closed	10am -1pm	10am -4pm	Closed
WED	1pm -4pm	10am -12noon	Closed	Closed	10am -4pm
THU	Closed	Closed	12noon -3pm	Closed	Closed
FRI	10am -12noon	1pm -3pm	Closed	Closed	Closed
SAT	10am -4pm	9am -4pm	9am -4pm	9am -4pm	9am -4pm
SUN	10am -4pm	10am -4pm	10am -4pm	9am -3pm	10am -4pm

Rocky
Passes



CellardooropenSundays11am -4pm
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Saturday8amto4pm

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