



THE GRANITE NEWS

NOVEMBER 10TH 2008

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

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Mitchell at the Crossroads: rebuilding nature on our farms

This forum organised by Dr Peter Mitchell, Links Officer with the DPI in Broadford, introduced the concept of biolinks to an intensely interested audience. With a very pressing need to tackle the problems associated with declining biodiversity and changing weather patterns, we were invited to help save our stressed environment.

Scientists have suggested that biodiversity will need the ability to migrate to more suitable climate zones as conditions change. This does not mean wallabies packing their swags and hitting the trail, but that all biota and genes will need a chance to migrate and disperse. For example many small birds are reluctant to cross open paddocks, and other less mobile species are even more constrained.

Our agricultural landscape is very fragmented, with small blocks of habitat, linked only by narrow bands of roadsides and stream reserves. We have a chance to do something to help, by reconstructing biolinks across the landscape. How much would be enough? Key note speaker Dr Andrew Bennett said it has been demonstrated in studies across Victoria, that just 10% native habitat will allow many species of birds to remain, though in imminent risk of collapse, anything less will see their populations crash. Ideally 30% of remnants and revegetation would see us keep our unique flora and fauna. Given the many farm values of planting good shelter belts and blocks of vegetation, including shade, lowered wind velocities, natural insect control, and added beauty to the farm and landscape this does not seem so daunting.

There is a need to work out where the biolinks should go and then to ask landowners for help in establishing the corridors and stepping stones of habitat that will keep our native species viable. Many local groups are now considering how they can be part of the biolinks rescue, from Burnt Creek in a broad arch around to Macedon, and we now have been shown a way forward in the quest for a sustainable world.

By Leslie D'Alziel

NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Student of the Week

John Bennett: for terrific logic work in maths. Great problem solving, John.



Swimming is going well. It is terrific to see students' skills developing even after just two sessions.

Many thanks to Leone Gabrielle who worked with students to decorate two wooden camels for Seymour's Combined Churches Carols. They are decorated in red to represent Highlands PS.

Ben Hardman was unable to meet us in Melbourne last week so he has offered to visit us. He will be at Highlands PS next Thursday 27th from 9.30-10.30. Students will ask Ben questions, show him the work we do at Highlands PS and take him on a tour of the school.

Community Cricket Match: Each week Scotty McKay comes to school and helps us with our cricket skills. We are looking forward to showing off these skills at a Community Cricket Match on Friday 28th November at 2pm.

WELCOME TO ISSUE 36

Please send all articles to miranda@activ8.net.au. There will be no TGN next week as I am moving house

RUFFY COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS GATHERING

Saturday 13th December 2008
Ruffy Recreation Reserve, Noye Lane, off Buntings Hill Road, Ruffy
Following the traditional Ruffy vs Highlands Cricket Match which starts at 2.30pm
Community BBQ from 5.30pm
BBQ provided courtesy of Strathbogie Shire & Relationships Australia thru CFA Just bring your Salad to Share
Santa will be coming Family games and music, Hey Kids, bring your cricket gear and have a hit!

HCCC AGM

The photo below is of the Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative (HCCC) Annual General Meeting, which was held at the vineyard 'Rocky Passes' on the Highlands Seymour Road. What a fabulous venue for a dinner, brilliant bougainvilleas contrast with the oak coloured walls and huge timber posts. Delicious food and welcoming hosts made it a memorable evening.

Janet Hagen spoke about the importance of us seeing the 'big picture' and understanding the impact that our actions have on the rest of the environment. Food for thought as we approach another dry summer.



Community What's On Calendar—November/December/January

Week beg 24th November	Terip Terip mowing roster Sue Martin Tim Andrews and Andrew Holloway Around Clubhouse and all 4 courts
24th November– 1st Dec	Whiteheads Creek/ Tarcombe RFB Neville Ford Glen Watson Russell Chapman Scott James
Thursday November 27th	Thanks to all those people from Highlands and Caveat, who helped with the work the Caveat Church. A reminder that the Christmas Gathering of Secret Men's Business at The Grotto will be held @ The Grotto Caveat 5.30 pm. All welcome especially the casual attendees, be there for the end of 2008.
Friday 28th November	HPS invites the community and especially Scotty to join in a cricket match at school starting at 2pm. Please let Meagan know if you can come so we can draw up teams beforehand PH 57969208
Sunday 30th November	Annual CFA Recognisant trip around Highlands meeting at 9.00 am at Highlands CFA shed. An afternoon in the gardens at Habbies Howe, for a picnic, wine and music. 1.00pm onwards Music from the very talented Gus Brooks BYO or Lunch produced by Highlands Primary School and local wine also available to buy. Raffle run by Junior CFA members Everyone very welcome.
Sunday 30th November	The White hart Hotel is hosting a special Charity BBQ in aid of the Longwood CFA. There'll be bbq lamb chops and spit-roast legs (kindly donated by our local farmers), accompanied by salads and sweets. With a glass of wine from Maygars Hill or Longwood Wines included it's sure to be a fantastic afternoon. Tickets are \$15 with all proceeds going to Longwood CFA.
Monday December 1st	EverGraze Field Day - Creightons Creek Supporting Site Creightons Creek 9am-2:30 pm Barrie Noye's paddock, Creightons Creek Rd, Creightons Creek (just south of the Longwood-Mansfield Rd on the East side of the road). Introduction to EverGraze and your opportunity to get involved in this local supporting site. Tools for implementing a rotational grazing system, summer management of native pastures. Please RSVP to Rhiannon Apted RhiannonA@iinet.net.au P:
Friday December 5th	EverGraze Field Day - Strath Creek Supporting Site Strath Creek 9am-2.30 pm "Three Sisters" (Terry Hubbard), 2724 King Parrot Creek Road, Strath Creek (followed by Strath Creek Hall). Introduction to EverGraze and your opportunity to get involved in this local supporting site. Tools for implementing a rotational grazing system, summer management of native pastures. Please RSVP to Rhiannon Apted RhiannonA@iinet.net.au P: 03 57 354 351 Mob: 0418 140 710 Lunch Provided
Friday 5 Dec	Ruffy Store First Friday Dinner will be on 5 December - Need to book: 5790 4387 or store@ruffy.com.au
Saturday December 6th].	BLACK MARKET [low kilometer food exchange] at Rocky Passes, 1590 Highlands Rd, 10am and 12 pm on the first Saturday each month .You can swap or sell any extra produce from the garden, chook house or kitchen. Paul MacGregor is cooking Socca (chickpea pancakes) and Dahl at 11am. Any enquiries, please call 57969366.
Thur11th Dec	HCCC meeting 8pm Whiteheads Creek Hall, all welcome
Friday 12th December	Highlands Community Christmas Breakup, Highlands Hall 6pm Drop in presents at Highlands Primary School , nothing above \$5.00, for your children for Santa to hand out at the end of the night. We are hoping for performances by all the community groups so start planning and practising soon!
Saturday 13 December	Families from the farming and rural industries are invited to the Farmer's Harvest Dance Live music by 33 1/3 Children's entertainment Finger food provided BYO Drinks 8pm-12am Mercy Centre, Anderson St, Euroa Bookings Essential Hume Corridor Community Health Service 5736 6366 Sponsored by: Ken Muston Motors Shepparton Strathbogie Shire – Drought Support CWA No entry charge
Saturday January 3 2009	Terip Terip Annual Social Tennis Tournament - more details soon.
28th Feb -1st March 2009	HiArts Art Exhibition and Family Festival Artists interested in exhibiting should check the website www.hiarts.org for details. This year entries can be fully processed on line.

FOR SALE

Fridge with freezer above. Westinghouse Aurora 390 litres capacity, excellent condition 1490 H 690 W

\$120 Ring Jono 57969344

FOR SALE

Jack Russell Puppies
Tan & White, some with a trace of black. Both parents good natured with children. 8 weeks old, 4 females & 2 males. PH 5790 4298

FOR SALE

Small drinks fridge Westinghouse 250 litres capacity 1380 H, 500 W,600 D

\$40 Ring Jono 57969344

Classifieds & Community Notices

BITS OF BOTANY AND BIRDS

The WHITE - NECKED HERON is a large waterbird with a long white head and neck, and slate back wings and body. It has a stately flight, with slow wing beats. It has a special hinge mechanism in the sixth vertebra which allows it to extend its neck rapidly and catch unwary prey.



HIGHLANDS HALL

The Highlands Hall renovations are now complete and the committee would like to thank our wonderful President Judy Reid for all the hard work she has done in obtaining the grants to enable this to happen. Judy has worked tirelessly and we are very fortunate to have her.

The total cost of the project was \$130,000, \$100,000 of which came from four lots of funding from three levels of government with the remaining \$30,000 being 600 volunteer hours from about 30 community members. We would also like to thank them for their hard work along with Leone and the 16 school children who put in their time on the fantastic mural.

Our hall now has a fully equipped kitchen which can accommodate weddings, parties and anything at all for up to 50 people, we also have tables and chairs for hire.

If you have a special occasion coming up please consider hiring this great facility. We also have an outdoor chess set and basketball, volleyball and tennis courts if anyone wants a game, we really want the community to make use of them.

If you would like to hire the hall, chairs or tables or have access to the nets for the courts, please contact Sue Peterson on 5797-6395, email: sue@suevor.com

Alerting all Artists

The HiArts Art Exhibition will be held on 28th February & 1st March 2009. Applications to exhibit are on the website www.hiarts.org. Or if you would like forms by post contact Stuart PH 5796 9358.

Sheep - Flies

With the very recent rains, everyone should be on the lookout for increased fly activity in their sheep. We have stocks of various Pour-on products which will provide varying protection periods eg. 11 weeks vs. 18 to 24 weeks. Also in stock, jetting products which will provide between 12 – 14 weeks protection.

Sheep – Summer Drench

Many properties have already given their 1st Summer drench, which is fine, given the very dry spring conditions. Others have decided to wait until December, but I would suggest that these farms should be monitoring their sheep to ensure that they are not depositing large worm burdens on the pastures now!

For those who have already drenched with a fully effective product (preferably a multi active), I would suggest Faecal Egg Count (FEC) monitoring to start 6-7 weeks after the widespread rains we received on or around November 7. Therefore testing around Christmas time (Dec 22, 23) would be ideal. It is pointless to test much earlier than this as the reading will be low (due to the life cycle of the parasites), but this does not mean that the sheep are not suffering with a large new burden of immature worms! An initial FEC at this time should be followed up with another test about two weeks later to ensure that you pick up on any infections following the rains.

Anyone who has not drenched should be doing FEC's now, just to make sure that their sheep are:

1. Not carrying a high worm burden which could be impacting on production.
2. Are not contaminating pastures with worm eggs at a time of the year which should be avoided, as this will contribute to next Autumn/Winter worm problems.

Drench specials -Triton and Hat-trick, both triple combination drenches (BZ, Lev & ML), which are about 20% cheaper for a short time.

Plans are underway to conduct an instore FEC day (late Jan. or early Feb.). These FEC tests will be FREE to anyone who has purchased their 1st Summer Drench requirements through the store, and at a subsidised rate to other producers. To be booked in for a timeslot (only 20 time slots available) to see how the FEC's are conducted with your own sheep samples ring Glenn 0427 313 776

NEW VICTORIAN BLACKBERRY STRATEGY RELEASED

Speaking during a visit to north-east Victoria Agriculture Minister Joe Helper said the new Victorian Blackberry Strategy for 2008-2013 was aimed at ensuring early detection of, and rapid action against blackberries. "The strategy promotes a community-led and long-term approach to blackberry management, with improved coordination of blackberry management across all land tenures," Blackberry is one of Australia's 20 Weeds of National Significance and one of Victoria's four State Priority Weeds due to its highly invasive nature, potential to spread and the environmental and economic damage it causes.

"It costs approximately \$100 million annually in control and lost production and this is a rise on the \$60 million from surveys in the 1980s," Ms Darveniza said.

The new strategy had five main goals:

- Create greater community responsibility for integrated blackberry control;
- Maximise opportunities to expand investment in an ongoing blackberry control program;
- Ensure blackberry programs are ecologically and socially sustainable;
- Ensure strategic blackberry management is coordinated across all land tenures; and
- Strengthen the capabilities and capacity of Victorian communities to anticipate and adjust to economic, social and environmental challenges and opportunities.

www.vicblackberrytaskforce.com.au

New staffing arrangements for Council's Resource Recovery Centres (Waste Transfer Stations)

Murrindindi Council is now in the process of finalising improvements to the management and operation of their Resource Recovery Centres. A change in the focus of the facilities from being "Transfer Stations" (from which waste is transferred to landfill) to "Resource Recovery Centres" (which places a greater emphasis on recovering reusable and recyclable materials and diverting them away from landfill).

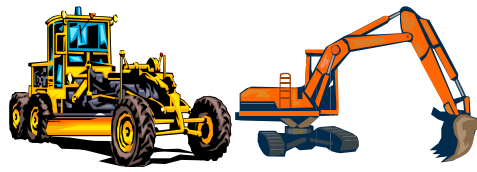
Expressions of interest for all available positions will be advertised during the first week of December.

Darren Ritchie, 03 5772 0333.

Rocky
Passes



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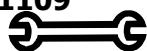
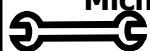


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