



THE GRANITE NEWS

DECEMBER 15TH 2008

VOLUME 2

ISSUE 38

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

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Following the recent elections for the Koriella Ward of the Murrindindi Shire, our new councillor is JOHN WALSH of Yarck. The Koriella Ward includes the Northern section of the Murrindindi Shire and extends from the junction of the King Parrot Creek and the Goulburn River in the west to part of Eildon National Park in the East, also Whanregarwen, Limestone and to Glenburn in the South. A huge area for one representative, but John has a great background of community involvement, and has already made himself well known and available to most areas.

John and his wife, Robyn, both grew up in the Dandenongs, and then John attended Duntroon Military College, serving as an Army Officer for 21 years. He and Robyn had 14 moves in 17 years, including postings to UK and Washington. Next, John spent 13 years at Ringwood, where he worked in Project Management in I.T.

However, a country lifestyle beckoned for both of them and they acquired 230 acres at Yarck, where they have run beef cattle and grown gooseberries commercially for 10 years. Robyn wanted a place to train racehorses, but settled for involvement in the local Race club.

Their son (with a PhD in Maths) lives in Minneapolis and has a career modelling volcanic eruptions and predicting them. Their daughter works as a Physiotherapist in Community Health in Melbourne.

John started a Yarck Community-Group ("The Yarck Yabbies") to raise money for local organizations. He is a CFA member, and also belongs to the Home Creek – Spring Creek Landcare. He started the Yarck Market to raise money for the Hall. It operates on the 3rd Saturday of each month, and continues in the winter, with Devonshire Teas provided by the CWA in the Hall. (Next date is 20th December).

John stood for Council because of "smoldering embers rather than burning desire" but is already throwing himself headlong into the job. He thinks consideration needs to be given to anomalies in the present rating system, where so-called "life-style blocks" and their current high values, have pushed up rates on broad-acre properties.

John will welcome contact from rate-payers and residents, and will try to address concerns.

NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Graduation:

On the 11th December we celebrated the Year 6 Graduation. It was a lovely night and an opportunity to reflect on the primary education of Michael, Kelly and Jack. We viewed Power Points made for each Year 6 student by Imogen, Kassie and Laura. We wish Michael, Kelly and Jack well as they continue on their learning journey .



Swimming:

We finished swimming on Monday with a Pool Monster celebration! It was fantastic to see the improvement in skills over the five weeks. The instructors were full of praise for the students from Highlands PS and said they were the best group they've had this year!

2009 Staffing:

I am happy to advise the school community that I will return in term 1 2009 as the Acting Principal.

The position of Principal is currently being advertised and will be finalised in February.

Miranda will work two days a week; Wednesday and Thursday and Peter Roberts will work each Monday to do Science and Health & PE across the school.

Di will continue to work three days a week, in the office and providing Literacy invention.

I am hoping to have a community afternoon each Friday from 2-3pm where members of the community come and work with the students to share any special talents. I'd love to hear from anyone who is interested!

WELCOME TO ISSUE 38

Please send all articles to my new email address- miranda@omnipotent.com.au

This is the last Granite News for 2008. Thank you to Peg Lade, Mavis Cook, Jo Trantor, Pauline Roberts, Highlands Primary School, advertisers on the back page, and especially the Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative (HCCC) for making this newsletter possible. It will return in the first week of Term 1 2009.

Merry Christmas everyone.

FIRE RESTRICTIONS ARE NOW IN FORCE

As this is the last The Granite News for 2008, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the contributors to TGN which make this newsletter possible. A special thank you to Peg Lade for her untiring support and excellent contributions to People and Places and Bits of Botany and Birds, you're a legend Peg. I'd also like to thank the folders, Mavis Cook, and her Ruffy helpers, Paula Roberts, Louise Currie and Jo Trantor.

A reminder that if you would like to advertise on the back of TGN next year you need to contact me immediately to secure a spot

It's a GIRL

Welcome "Bella Rose Philpot" to Highlands born Saturday evening weighing 8 pound 4 ounces. Congrats to Greg and Marissa, and Tobias and Rhiley. Mum and Bub are both doing well.

Also if any one has an exercise bike in good condition that I can borrow or hire for a few weeks for Knee rehab please ring Sharyn 03 57904297.



Community What's On Calendar—December/January

Week beg 15th December	Terip Terip mowing roster Geoff & Jan Penny Mark Ireland Car park and all 4 courts
Wednesday 24th December	Christmas Eve Service There will be a Christmas Eve Service on at 5pm in The Caveat Church. Come along and hear the Christmas Story and sing some carols. Hear the Christmas Story and its background in Luke's gospel. We are fortunate that Neil Lemmon will be the to supply the music.
December 28	Ruffy Store Petanque is on the fourth Sunday of each month next on then January 25. The big PetanqueTitles are on in February.
New Year's Eve	WHC Landcare are opening the hall to all for a New YE party. Come for dinner if you book first with me for catering purposes and come at 7pm or just come later with supper and drinks. Carolyn Braun 57924212.
1st January	Merton picnic races, New Years Day. Horses and chancing at Merton, south of the ranges. Locals Quoted: John Dalziel - vet "All bulls are a little bit untrustworthy" Jason McInnes - horse whisperer/trainer "For the high country get a cross bred horse"
FRIDAY January 2	Ruffy Store FIRST Friday of the month BBQ is on. Please call or email to book but bar open as usual come as you are. RUFFY STORE 26 NOLANS RD RUFFY VIC 3666 PH: 03 57904387 FX: 03 57904209 E: STORE@RUFFY.COM.AU WWW.RUFFY.COM.AU
Saturday January 3 2009	Terip Terip Annual Social Tennis Tournament 10.00am Sections 1 & 2 and Juniors (approx 4 sets - alternating partners) \$10.00 entry includes morning and afternoon tea (family concession) Light lunch and BBQ tea available Come along and enjoy a great family day. Enquiries - Helen 57904211 Cindy 57904226 or Frances 0432 324 929
January 16th-18th	Weekend Mountain Yoga Retreats with Jo Stewart at Clearview Retreat This is a range of workshops to expand and deepen our understanding of yoga In a weekly class situation we often only get to practice postures yet yoga has an insightful practical and fascinating body of knowledge regarding the workings of the mind and the soul as relevant today as it was 4,000 years ago Yoga for Digestive Fire - Learn sequences of postures to stimulate healthy digestion and metabolism This retreat incorporates core strengthening postures, breathing techniques, meditation and relaxation Be introduced to the concepts of yogic physiology and Ayurveda, learn healthy and delicious recipes and new cooking techniques to take home with you Enquiries: Jocelyn Bennett ph96505327 or 57970229 Email: diversity@diversity.org.au
Australia Day weekend 23-26th January	Many talented local and regional Artists who have been preparing to complete in the Rotary Club of Yea's 23rd Annual Art Show need wait no longer. While some 250 invitations were recently sent to artists who had previously registered, the Club is keen to receive entries from other established and emerging artists. The Art Show will be held over the at the Yea Shire Hall. Entry Forms can be obtained by calling Peter Tull on 5797 3145 or downloaded off the internet at www.rotary9790.org.au/artshow . Entries close 6pm on 5th January 2009.
Sunday January 25.	Ruffy Store Petanque is on the fourth Sunday of each month .The big Petanque Titles are on in February.
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.
13th March.	Ruffy Store: March has an especially big do with singer David Francey serenading those who book early enough for the evening dinner and entertainment. This is a good way to avoid Brutus the ides and have a good night out.

IT'S WEED TIME AGAIN

If you are spraying blackberries, St John's Wort or any other weed on your property you may like to hire a Landcare spray unit for \$30 per day.

Landcare owns 5 spray units and they are kept at the following properties. Ring the person closest to you and book in a time that suits you.

Scott McKay 57969260
Michael Kopanica 57904235
Janet Hagen 57904268
Rob Hayes 57904319
Brian Tolley 57969244

Landcare also provides a 50% subsidy on chemicals for spraying weeds. This does not include bracken. If you wish to apply for the subsidy you need to contact our Landcare facilitator on 57969261. Miranda Yorston will visit your property to discuss the amount of

chemical needed for the job you plan to do this financial year. You then purchase the chemical and submit your receipt to Miranda, who passes it to the HCCC Landcare Treasurer for a 50% refund. Miranda is then required, as a condition of the government funding, to visit the property after the work has been completed. As you can see, the whole procedure has been tightened up to make us all more accountable for the money being provided through government funds.

Classifieds & Community Notices

BITS OF BOTANY AND BIRDS

The EASTERN SPINEBILL is a common and well known small Honey eater, with a long, fine and down-curved bill. It has a white throat, black head, buff front and dark grey wings and lower back. It feeds on insects as well as nectar, and its nest is a small cup of twigs, grass and bark, combined with hair and spiders web. It sometimes hovers like a humming bird when feeding on flower nectar.



WHITEHEADS CREEK - TARCOMBE RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Be at the shed by 09:30 unless arranged otherwise with your partner
2. Check oil, tyres etc
3. Drive truck for at least 30 km
4. Run pump motor for at least 5 mins
5. Check equipment in storage lockers
6. Fill in log book at completion
7. REMOVE KEY from ignition upon parking truck
8. Report any problems to the captain or a lieutenant

Tarcombe Fire Station is on the Bungle Boori property. From Highlands Rd, go about 12 km along Hughes Creek Rd. Bungle Boori gate is on your right hand side just after you pass the scout hall at the cattle grid and just before the ford/bridge over Hughes reek. Go through the gateway and take the left track. Follow this between houses to where the track opens out.

RUFFY STORE HOURS

Christmastide The Store is closed on Christmas day but open from Boxing day Friday 26 thru to Jan 4. Hours 8am to 6 "ish". Newspapers and fresh bread every day except, no bread on New Year's Day

FREE TRAVEL FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS ON V/LINE

Passengers are advised to not leave their free travel to the last minute with trains leaving mid-morning on Christmas Day expected to be full as people aim to arrive in regional centres for Christmas lunch with families and friends.

Thursday 25 December, Christmas Day; free travel is offered all day, with trains running to a Sunday timetable and special coach services in operation.

Thursday 31 December, New Year's Eve; free travel is offered on V/Line trains arriving at their destination after 6pm and the first timetabled service on the morning of 1 January. A Friday timetable, which has extra late night services will be in operation. Visit www.vline.com.au for full details or call 136 196.

ORDERING LOCAL NATIVE TUBE STOCK

Anyone wanting to order local native tubestock for 2009 from the Euroa Arboretum needs to order ASAP- we are propagating now. Please call Sam on 0429 127 399, or email: strong_sam@activ8.net.au.

In addition to farm trees and shrubs, there are also have plants suitable for gardens, so come and visit Thursdays and Fridays 9-4pm or the first Saturday each month 9-12pm. The parkland features lots of interesting plants that may inspire you!

VALLEY SEEDS NEWSLETTER

A new series of newsletters is available from Valley Seeds. They are attempting to provide quality unbiased information about pasture improvement and the best utilization thereof. If you would like to receive the newsletter contact Donald Coles dcoles@valleyseeds.com.

HIGHLANDS LANDCARE INSERT

I have included a membership pamphlet for Highlands Landcare. If you are in the Whiteheads Creek group please ignore this insert, we are not trying to poach !

RAINFALL

Saturday lunchtime Highlands 49 mm and still raining, fantastic!

YEA & DISTRICT COMMUNITY BANK

The Steering Committee recently welcomed Sue Devereaux from Murrindindi as its newest member. Sue brings to the Committee the knowledge and experience of being involved in helping to establish the successful Upwey Community Bank – a bank that returned \$116,000 in grants and sponsorship to its community in 2007-8.

"I know from personal experience the Community Bank® model works. In its 10 years of operations the Upwey Community Bank® Branch of the Bendigo Bank has returned \$552,524 to its community and annual returns of up to 20% to its investors. In addition to the monetary return to the Upwey community the fact of having its own bank has brought many other social and banking benefits to that community.

"The initial phase of seeking pledges from the community to support or become a shareholder, is progressing very well. We've just reached the \$200,000 pledge mark and there are many others who have taken home information and a pledge form to consider. We encourage them to fill it in and return it – either with a pledge to buy shares once we have conducted the Feasibility Study or just to support our Community Bank once it opens." Sue added.

If you would like to talk with Sue about her experience of the community bank model call her on 5797 8282.

HIGHLANDS LANDCARE BLACKBERRY PROJECT

Now is the time landholders should be in the process of controlling blackberries on their properties as the plants are actively growing and susceptible to herbicides.

Re-inspections for around 40 properties will be undertaken at the beginning of January 2009. DPI extension officers will be in contact to arrange necessary inspections.

A DPI compliance program will follow in February which will include landholders who have not undertaken the required control works.

For information please contact Mark Sellwood at DPI Benalla on (03) 57611571

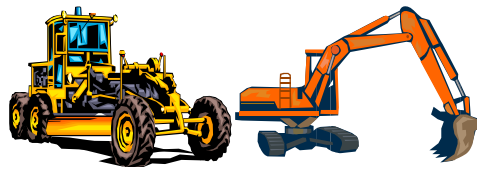
HiArts Dressups

HiArts is looking for material suitable for children's dressups at the Exhibition. Clothes, wigs, material, hats etc would all be useful. Judy 5796 9358

Rocky
Passes



Cellar door open Sundays 11am-4pm
or by appointment - 57969366
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F: 5790 4209

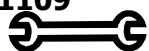
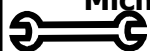


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