



THE GRANITE NEWS

9TH FEBRUARY 2009

VOLUME 3

ISSUE 02

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

PEOPLE AND PLACES

ANDREA WHITAKER has lived in Highlands for 8 years, with her 2 children, Ashley and Marlee, who catch the daily bus to Seymour, taking them to St Mary's School.

Andrea's parents lived at Merton, she was at Alexandra HS before starting Radiography at RMIT. From there, this enterprising young woman worked in Dubbo, Rockhampton and Longreach, where she was on call 24 hours/day and had to be within 15 mins of the hospital (which serviced a radius of 400 kms). Andrea says the medical performances in the Outback were amazing, and she had a great deal of responsibility with local and Flying Doctors in interpreting results. She then obtained Ultrasound qualifications by correspondence for 2 years. Her first husband was a Flight Service Officer at Longreach, and Andrea talks of the huge floods in 1990 when the river was 10 kms wide, and they were isolated for weeks.

The family moved to Wagga, then Eltham, where Andrea said all she could see was the garage wall! After a marriage break-up, her aims were to get a bigger house and be able to see the skies (the Outback had got into her bones). Passing through Yea, the children saw a picture of the Highlands house in a window, with its fabulous outlook of the Goulburn Valley. Grandparents inspected and said "if you don't buy that, we will". Work came along at the Seymour Hospital as an Ultra-Sonographer.

5 years ago, Andrea caravanned for 10 weeks with Ashley and Marlee, from Wilpena Pound to Central Australia and away from touristy places whenever possible. On their return, Andrea established her business in Yea, "Sound Imaging", buying her own equipment, on a huge learning curve, and with great support from Medical Staff. She works 2 days a week at Alexandra where the hospital bought the machine.

Andrea became involved with Cubs and Scouts in Yea, and met Gene who was a Cub leader at Puckapunyal. He retired from the Army, and had a serious motor bike accident near Broome. However, the relationship strengthened, he came to Highlands to recuperate, and they are now engaged. Gene helps in the business as a volunteer, bringing a wide range of organizational skills.

We wish them best of luck, and lots of happiness.

NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Highlands Primary School was shut on Monday due to the fire risk in the area.

Under these extreme conditions it is safer for children to be at home with their families.

Students of the Week

Our 4 School Leaders
Cuchulainn, Laura, Imogen & Kassie-
For an outstanding start to 2009 and showing initiative in their area of leadership. Well done!



Open Door Policy:

If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to call in or phone me at school. We always welcome visitors, so feel free to drop in at any time to join in with our learning.

Friday Afternoons

We are hoping to run a programme on Friday afternoons from 1.45pm to 3pm where members of the community commit their time for one term to teach students a new skill. If you are interested in participating we would love to hear from you. It could be any number of skills— cooking, woodwork, IT, knitting, ceramics, gardening, reading, you name it and we'll consider it!

GOING SOLAR?

I have been asked to try and get as many householders in a 10 km radius of Seymour to a launch of a system that places solar panels on your roofs and then links this in to the grid. You use the solar when available and from the grid when no solar available. When there is solar and you are not using it goes straight into the grid. There is a \$8,000.00 gov rebate until June so we are having the launch at the Seymour Club on the 20th Feb at 7.00. I will give more details if required. My contact no is 57924212
Cheers Carolyn Braun

WELCOME TO ISSUE 2

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

Our hearts and minds are with all the people affected by these devastating fires. The enormity of the tragedy is beyond anything most of us have experienced. I hope that by the time this goes out that the fires haven't crossed the Goulburn River.

We are incredibly grateful to all the CFA volunteers who are giving up their time to try and contain these blazes. I'm sure everyone has their fire plan in place. We are just fortunate to have a lot more warning than communities like Kinglake and Flowerdale.

Stay safe everyone and if you plan to leave, do it early.

A message from Mark Sellwood, blackberry REP officer to say he is really impressed with the follow up work done in the Highlands community to control our blackberries, well done.

The phone contact for Highlands Communication Officer— Jono Rumbold- is 57969344

RUFFY BOOKCLUB CHANGES ITS FORMAT

The Ruffy Bookclub is looking for new members. Instead of joining CAE this year, they have decided to choose their own books and to meet in March, April and May and then retire for winter. There is no cost, just come and join in. They meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 8pm and the next meeting is on the 4th March and Miranda and Jono's place-1537 Ghin Ghin Road, Highlands. The book is "The Secret River" by Kate Grenville. Verena is organizing notes for the book so if you'd like to come email her for the notes on alpli@yahoo.com.au or ring on 57904202.

DOES ANYONE KNOW?

We are interested in capturing the history of our house (the two storey chalet-looking house opposite Granite Hills turnoff, or 94 Old Highlands Rd, depending on your frame of reference). If anyone has any knowledge, memories or photographs of the house, the builder and/or subsequent owners, we'd love to hear from you.
Leanne & Adam, 5796 9200

Community What's On Calendar—February/March 2009

Week s beg 2nd-16th Feb	Terip Terip mowing roster Alan and Betty Renfree Ian and Cynthia Crawford Around Clubhouse and all 4 courts
Week Com- mencing 8th February	David Sleigh Team : (Mobile: 0429 904301) Bill Eddy, Jack Jury, Ray Padget, Bill Hill, John Goodwin, Ros Goodwin, Phoebe Hill, Fred Wawrzik,
Thursday 12th February	First meeting of The Mad Hatters for 2009. If you have always wanted to be in a play, here is your opportunity. Pauline Robert's place, all welcome PH 57969301
Thursday 12th February, 2009	FTLA Governance Training Programme To be held in Alexandra Venue: Mount Pleasant Hotel, 90 Grant Street, Alexandra Time: 10am to 3pm (Lunch and refreshments provided) Sessions are designed for New, Experienced and Potential Office Bearers. Topics included for discussion and training on the day will include: - Basic Governance Issues - How to identify strengths and weaknesses of volunteer groups - How to attract and retain members - Committee succession issues This session is Free to Landcarers and VFF members Please RSVP by (one week prior to the date) to: VFF - Georgina Livery by Phone: 1300 882 833 or by Fax 03 9207 5500 or by Email glivery@vff.org.au Funded by DSE Landcare Volunteer Recruitment Initiative
Thursday Feb- ruary 12, 2009	Terip Terip Tennis Club Training and Sausage Sizzle Come along and join us for a hit of tennis and a sausage sizzle! Gold coin donation to cover costs would be greatly appreciated.
Friday 13th February	'Drinks on the Deck' at Highlands Community Hall at 6.30pm. Bring food to share for a meal together and catch up with friends old and new.
Saturday 14th February.	White Hart Hotel, Longwood, 7.30pm - White Goat - country and blues For those wanting to arrange a special Valentines Day for your loved one, we'll be hosting a dinner package on - Any bottle of wine on our list to value of \$35.00 - Three course meal for two people (tapas to share, any two mains and desserts) , Live music from White Goat playing country and blues. - Priced at \$100.00 per couple - Further details and bookings, please call White Hart on 03-5798-5203
19th February	WHC Landcare Meeting. Committee members there is a meeting on the at the WHC hall at 7.30pm. All new and old comers are most welcome.
19th February	Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative (HCCC) First meeting for 2009 8pm Terip Terip Recreation Centre, at the tennis courts. All welcome. Come and hear what's happening in your district to combat weeds and rabbits, what help is available to plant trees and protect remnant vegetation, what important issues need to be faced in 2009. Don't just sit there thinking about it, come and join in and put in a helping hand or just listen and become better informed. You might enjoy it!
21st February 2009	WHC Landcare invites you to a seed planting morning at the WHC hall with Janet Hagen. It is at 10.00am . All welcome and if you have some natives that you would like to plant them bring them with you. Janet will take the tubes away and they will be cared for until required for planting.
Sat 21st Feb	TERIP TERIP COMMUNITY BBQ and FUND RAISING AUCTION See article on opposite page.
SUNDAY 22nd FEB- RUARY	HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS will meet at Highlands Hall at 10.30 am, or at corner of Gum Road and Moore's Road, Caveat at 10.50am, for a wonderful walk from Gum Rd over a hill (not too steep) with a spectacular view to everywhere, then on to Woolshed Creek and to Dropmore. Contact Peg Lade 57969222
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.
Sun 1st March	White Hart Hotel, Longwood 4.00pm Rachel McCracken country and classics live music 03-5798-5203
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.
Sat 14th March	White hart Hotel, Longwood 7.30pm Salty Dog 2002 Australian blues band of the year .03-5798-5203
19th March	WHC Landcare is organizing an information night and meeting at 7.30pm at the WHC hall. Kate Stothers from the DPI will be there to share with us her wonderful presentation on sustainable farming and biodiversity. Lesley and I heard her presentation at the biolinks forum last year and were both very impressed as I am sure you all will be. Please make an effort for this one as you will surely be rewarded and of course there will be a great supper after and a chance for a chat. See you all soon, Carol Braun.

Classifieds & Community Notices

BITS OF BOTANY AND BIRDS

RAVENS - In SE Australia, there are 2 species of so-called "Crows", one is the Australian Raven. Its call is a long drawn out wavering wail with descending throaty rattles. Unmated adults and immatures form nomadic flocks, sometimes 100s of birds. Just now, they are feeding on grasshoppers, and with a flock of Sulphur Crested Cockatoos, it is an amazing symphony of black and white. The Little Raven is slightly smaller and has a harsh short voice of "car, car, car" and also travels far in high-flying flocks.



HIARTS EXHIBITION

28th February & 1st March

As well as great art there will be live local musicians, story time for children, Aboriginal Dream Time stories, face painting, playing with clay, good food, local produce, local wine & beer, excellent coffee & a variety of teas to enjoy with family & friends. There will also be opportunities for tennis, volleyball, bocce & outdoor chess.

Wanted - Dressups for children. We've had some great donations for children to play with during the exhibition weekend, but still need more. If you can help please phone Stuart or Judy on 5796 9358

FRESHWATER LANDSCAPES

Landscape gardening including quality designs & construction, modern-cottage-native-formal-food & Asian style gardens available. water features, decks and paving a speciality Friendly, qualified and insured.

Contact Robert Hawken
PH 0433708077

TERIP TERIP SUMMER NEWS

Since the last Terip report in this column, in spite of the heat (and even though we're in the hills, it has been hot), the community has been busy. We may be a micro- community – (thanks to Helen McDougall for this term) - but our events always draw a big crowd from all around the district and further afield.

As many readers will know, space at the Rec Reserve at the moment is limited but now plans for extensions and upgrades are being drawn up. We are awaiting approval of a Commonwealth Infrastructure Grant to extend the eastern roof over a larger outdoor area. While it is true that until now, people attending events at the Rec have braved the weather in all seasons, what if it rains again??

Extending and upgrading the inside area may take longer to get going, but the important thing is, the character and ambience of the community-built mud brick building will stay the same. Meetings have been held and a draft submission is being prepared, but if any community members have any more suggestions please pass them on to Jim Davidson the convenor of the building sub-committee.

On February 21, Terip will hold its annual barbecue dinner, but for the first time, this year there will also be an auction. This is to raise funds that will be matched dollar for dollar with community grants. The more money raised, the more we can do.

In recent weeks, a number of residents and local and regional businesses have provided members of the Committee with some generous and varied contributions. I've even heard rumours that there will be a ram offered for sale. The only way to find out what items are to be sold is to be there, and view the items for sale. If there are any other businesses out there that have items that they would like to donate that we could auction, please contact Jacquie Bottcher (57 903 268) Get there by 6.30pm to have fun and chat with friends. Meat for the Barbecue will be supplied. BYO drinks and a small salad to share - and bring your cheque book! Our auctioneer will be Doug Bottcher and he will begin offering items for sale at 8 o'clock. To reply (for catering purposes) or find out more, please contact Lu Craven 5790 4011 or Frances Lawrence 0427

TERIP TERIP TENNIS

The Terip Terip tennis club held their annual social tournament on Saturday January 3. We had 32 players over section 1 & 2 and 4 juniors enjoy a fun days tennis under a very pleasant summers sky. A special mention and thankyou to our trophy donors, The Ruffy Store, Gerry, Bill & Chris, Cindy & Tim, Alec Rowan & Donna McKenzie. Your generosity is much appreciated. Thanks to all club members for their contribution and help for the day.

Winners were:

Sec 1 Gerry r/up Tim & Bernie
Cindy r/up Frances & Jo
Sec 2 Don r/up Andrew
Dot r/up Dulcie, Tracy & Sue
Sec 3 Claire r/up Natasha
Thanks to all those who attended and we hope to see you back in 2010.

FOXSTOP 2009

The Minister for Agriculture, Joe Helper recently launched a new program as part of Victoria's fox control efforts. The program is called Fox-Stop2009 and is the result of a partnership between DPI, Field and Game Australia Inc and the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (Victoria) Inc.

Management and administration of the program will be conducted by the hunting organisations. DPI will be represented on the executive management committee.

Further details can be found at www.dpi.vic.gov.au/foxstop2009, www.fga.net.au or www.ssaavic.com.au

Professional Rabbit Fumigator looking for work

Having trouble controlling your rabbits ? Are your rabbits living in spots that can't be ripped or poisoned ? Robert Kipping of Locksley has been fumigating rabbit warrens with phostoxin tablets for many years . This is hard work that requires only a pick & shovel , fumigant and physical fitness. Rates \$15 - \$17.50 per hour (Negotiable rates for larger properties) No dogs are used. Spotlight checks are done before fumigation. Shooting is used as a follow up to fumigation. Police check available. Ph 57 985 528 Robert also works as a professional shepherd , guarding flocks by night if you ever need that type of thing .

Rocky
Passes



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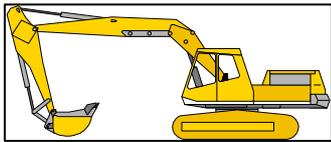
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