



# THE GRANITE NEWS

16TH MARCH  
VOLUME 3  
ISSUE 07

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

## PEOPLE AND PLACES

### Free Pizza Classes at Blue Top Road!

The "Black Market" held at Victor and Candi's Rocky Passes Winery on the first Saturday each month has become an event not to be missed. It's always a small intimate gathering of locals who come to catch up with others and off load their excess home grown produce by swapping, bartering or selling it.

It's more than a market – it's a great social occasion – and last Saturday's market was no exception. Tea and coffee is on tap and someone always makes a cake – but last Saturday there were three home made cakes trying to outdo each other! Not sure which outdid the others? Was it Marg McAlpin's famous Italian Chocolate Cake or Michael Greer's Polenta and Pine Nut Slice?

People arrived, helped themselves to tea and coffee (and of course the competing cakes), started talking to each other then the bartering began! Some came to buy, some to swap and sell and others for the social contact. It was fun; particularly for the "non-locals" who are "locals" at weekends and for the holiday weekend visitors.

After all the excess produce was disposed of, people proceeded on an expedition to Debbie and Mauro del Frate's home in Blue Top Road to see the masterpiece constructed by Mauro and to sample produce cooked in the masterpiece.

This experience had been promised after last month's Black Market but both had to be cancelled because of the bushfires. Mauro explained the construction of his Pizza Oven and the relationship between temperature and perfect Pizza!



We all listened and watched with fascination (and anticipation) as it was lunch time by now and we were all dying to sample the produce.

The pizzas were all spread with Debbie's homemade produce and topped off with a drizzle of their famous home produced Olive Oil. By popular demand, Debbie then took us all on a guided tour of her veg garden, hot house and hydroponics.....such green fingers!



Thank you Mauro and Debbie for a very interesting Saturday.

By Bea Nielsen and Michael Greer  
Whiteheads Creek

## NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Student of the Week

Jessica Bennett : For her amazing learning in literacy. Fantastic work !



### Home Learning Award

Seniors: Jarrad, Junior: James

Thankyou: Many thanks to Steve Horn who has been completing numerous odd jobs around the school. A huge thankyou to Leone who is spending each Friday afternoon at school to work with students to design and paint the new wall in the undercover area.

Recycled materials for Science:

Peter is collecting milo or coffee tins with lids and 1.25 plastic soft drink bottles for future science experiments. We need lots more!!

## WELCOME TO ISSUE 7

Please send all articles to  
miranda@omnipotent.com.au

We are delighted to report that Peg Lade is now out of intensive care and sitting up in a chair . We all send her our love and best wishes for a speedy recovery. If people want to write to her with a bit of local news send letters to 160 Lade Road, Highlands 3660 and Sally will take them down to her.

## REALITY CHECK ON WATER USE IN THE STRATHBOGIE RANGES

This meeting was convened by a new group of concerned residents calling themselves 'The Strathbogie Ranges Water Use Group' . Recommended actions arising from the meeting will be submitted to the state government , Goulburn Murray water and Goulburn Broken CMA for comment and hopefully change in the way our water supplies are managed.

Action 1 : That an immediate moratorium be placed on further commercial ground water extraction and commercial scaled dam construction in the Strathbogie Ranges. ( This does not include stock and domestic )

Action 2: That a consistent and conservative approach be applied to allocating a yearly proportion of water licences for water pumping for commercial purposes that maintains a minimum environmental flow .

Action 3: Instigate as a matter of urgency research into the hydrological and hydro geological conditions that currently exist in the Strathbogie Ranges to establish a sustainable water use level for all land use types and sources.

Action 4: Complete or finalize all environmental flow rate taking into account current science and current climate conditions before licence sales restart.

Action 5: Separate the roles of monitoring environmental flows from the authority granting water licences and promoting water sales.

Action 6: That Stock and Domestic supplies including town water are given high security status and are allocated prior to further or future commercial sales. If you have anything you would like to add to the list of water use issues in our catchment contact me , Janet Hagen  
jhagen@harboursat.com.au and I will pass them on to the group.

## Community What's On Calendar—March/April 2009

Weeks beg 16th March	Terip Terip mowing roster Tim and Frances Lawrence Both sides of Springs Road and all 4 courts	Brian and Gail/Van Rooyen
19th March	Whiteheads Creek Landcare Group has invited Kate Stothers to give a talk on Biodiversity and with a special slant on planting after the fires. She works for the Mitchell Shire and is also a land holder and therefore has practical experience and at the Mitchell Shire Forum in Nov delivered an exceptionally interesting talk It will be at the WHC the hall at 7.30. All welcome.	
Friday 20th March 2009	<b>Euroa Arboretum</b> If you didn't make it last time, here's another chance before the wet autumn sets in (we wish).....at the Euroa Arboretum dam to enjoy a relaxed evening in the flourishing bushland park. At our last gathering in February we met some of the people who have helped make the Arboretum what is today, as well as welcomed many new faces. We also watched the Micromagic sailboats navigate their way around the dam and swimmers doing laps! We loved it so much, we're doing it again! Bring something to throw on the barbie and a bevvie to sip while enjoying the setting sun and starry skies. From 6pm onwards. Salads & nibbles provided. Please RSVP by 17.03.09 Sam: 0429 127 399 or Shir: 5795 2500	
Friday 20 March	Ruffy Happy Hour or 2 at 6.00 pm at the Ruffy Hall BYO BBQ and a salad to share (hotplate provided)	
Saturday 21 March	Ruffartz first performance for the year Carneval Strings Show starts at 8.00 pm (doors open at 7.30 pm). Tickets are \$26 ea for each concert. Student concession tickets \$15 per show only apply for students 16 - 18 years of age. Children 15 and under free. Season tickets are on sale now \$78.00 each (or student concession tickets \$45). Tickets are on sale from Glen on 5790 4318	
Friday 27th March 2009	Free Indigenous Seed Collection Workshop What is it all about: The session is designed to introduce participants to all aspects of collecting seed – identification, collection, extraction, cleaning and storage of indigenous species. The workshop will cover include a basic theory session and a practical session in the afternoon. Ballarat Region Seedbank—La Gerche Gully Sawpit Road, Creswick (old Landcare Centre Site) Time: 10—4 Supplied: Comprehensive notes, tea & coffee. What to bring: Pen & paper, plant identification books and hand lens - if you have them. Please wear clothing and footwear appropriate to the weather and outdoor conditions. Your own Lunch . Contact Andrew Pearson or Anne Ovington – 03 5345 2200 andrew@seedbank.com.au, anne@seedbank.com.au	
21st March.	Highlands-Caveat Rural Fire Brigade EXTRAORDINARY MEETING & COMMUNITY GET TOGETHER VENUE: HIGHLANDS HALL & SURROUNDING GARDEN BRIGADE MEETING 5PM BRIGADE & COMMUNITY DINNER SERVED FROM 6PM ALL MEMBERS & COMMUNITY WELCOME We have had a busy and stressful last month, we now are building stronger communities in these areas. We are providing a venue and meal, with the idea that all community members both CFA and others will take the time to come and talk through the good and the bad caused by the latest fires. We are planning to have a CFA meeting from 5pm onwards to take any suggestions or questions, with CFA Peer support members in attendance. . Children bring along some sports equipment and have a game of tennis, volleyball or cricket. ALL CFA MEMBERS PLEASE BRING YOUR TURNOUT GEAR FOR A GROUP PHOTO	
Sunday 22nd March	HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS - will meet at Highlands Hall at 10.30 am, or at the 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 Andrew Shaw 57904297 Ring Andrew before coming to check the walk is going ahead.	
Tuesday 24 March	Highlands Playgroup – New for 2009! Now meeting at local homes anytime between 9.30am - 11.30am every 2nd Tuesday including school holidays. DESPERATELY seeking more families with children aged 0-5. All welcome – free!- byo drink and snack for your child/ children. Please phone Marisa on 5796 9360 for next meeting place. If Tuesdays aren't suitable, ring me anyway. It may be possible to meet another day.	
Thursday 2nd April	Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative monthly meeting 8pm Whiteheads Creek Hall. Please come along and have your say on what you think is important for a sustainable future.	
Sunday 5 April 2009	Open Day - Holden Flora & Fauna Reserve @ 10:30am end of The Strand, Sunbury (Melway 382 F9) Jacksons Creek EcoNetwork, together with ParksVic & MelbWater, invite you to explore this little-known 96ha Reserve adjacent to Jacksons Creek. The Reserve was set up to preserve threatened species of the local area and it harbours Platypus, Peregrine Falcon, Growling Grass Frog and the Earless Dragon. FREE, BBQ lunch Please contact Christina Cheers 9744 1923	
9th April to 17th May 2009.	An exhibition by J. Darren Gilbert. Monkey Tail Collection 3 New drawings, paintings and sculptures of Australian wildlife and anthropomorphic elements. www.monkeytaildesign.com Opening Night. 5.30 to 8.30 Thursday 9th April 2009. At Ruffy Produce Store. 26 Nolans Road. Ruffy. Victoria. 3666. T. (03) 5790 4387 E. store@ruffy.com.au W. www.ruffy.com.au Open Friday 11.30 to 6.00 Weekends and public holidays 8.30 to 6.00	

# Classifieds & Community Notices

## KEEP THE PRESSURE DOWN

12 March 2009 was World Kidney Day, highlighting the importance of our kidneys, endeavouring to reduce the frequency and impact of kidney disease and its associated health problems worldwide. The 2009 campaign highlights the importance of high blood pressure as one of the key symptoms and causes of Chronic Kidney Disease.

The main job of our kidneys is to remove toxins and excess water from our blood. Kidneys also help to control our blood pressure, to produce red blood cells and to keep our bones healthy. Kidney disease is common, harmful and treatable. 10% of the adult population worldwide have some form of kidney damage. People can lose up to 90% of their kidney function and not even know it.

High Blood Pressure is an important risk factor in chronic kidney disease patients and needs to be carefully monitored. When people suffer from high blood pressure it puts more stress on blood vessels throughout the body, including the kidneys. When this happens kidneys cannot filter wastes from the blood properly. Achieving the recommended blood pressure goals can reduce the risk of needing dialysis or experiencing a heart attack or stroke.

If you have diabetes and high blood pressure, belong to higher-risk populations or have a history of kidney disease in your family, you should ask your doctor about getting your kidneys checked with tests on small samples of your blood and urine.

Everyone is encouraged to check if they are at risk for kidney disease and to take simple kidney tests. For more information contact Kidney Health Australia's Information Service on 1800 682 531.

## FREE RANGE TURKEYS FOR SALE

Freshly dressed whole birds \$12kg  
Boned, Seasoned and Rolled \$27kg  
Phone Marj 5790 4298

Friday 10th April  
'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. Gold coin donation to cover power.

## BITS OF BOTANY AND BIRDS

"I'm pretty sure Mavis's bird is a brown goshawk. The head isn't broad enough for an owl, and the powerful owl is a darker brown on front and not as grey on the head. The colouring matches the brown goshawk; grey back and head, tan barring on front, yellow eye. The only difficulty is that they are a slim bird with feathering down to the knee joint, while this looks quite broad-chested and appears to have feathering down to the ankle. I'm assuming this is because it's just landed or about to take off and is in a bit of a crouch. They do have very long legs, which agrees with the picture. By the size it will be a female - males are considerably smaller."  
Thanks Louise Currie

## CARNEVAL STRINGS

is playing at RuffArtz on Saturday 21st March. It is a dynamic, traditional string quartet who present a range of music from Baroque and Classical, seasoned with Latin American, lively 50's and 60's Swing Jazz style and European Folk Tunes. The essence and passion of Hungarian folk music becomes obvious as the two Hungarian violinists wander through the audience entertaining the listeners. "This is the first time in the history of the series that we are presenting classical music." said Mary Souness, the curator of the program. "I think 'Carneval Strings' is the perfect choice for introducing classical music into the program as their repertoire also includes some very fiery Hungarian tunes and some beautifully performed 50's jazz. It's a blissful combination the audience will hopefully enjoy immensely. Those who came to our last show in the 2008 series (Bric-a-Brac) have already had a taste of the calibre of musicianship to expect when they witnessed the vibrant violinist Atilla Kuti in action. Atilla and his wife Karoline (cello) perform in Carneval Strings with Camilla Murray also on violin and Zoltan Balázs on viola.



## NEW ASSISTANCE TO HELP DROUGHT-AFFECTED FARMERS

\$1 million has been allocated to help farmers in the most severe drought-affected areas of the state make informed decisions about their future.

The funding will help farmers examine business opportunities for their farms and develop plans to move forward and improve the long-term sustainability of their businesses.

For more details or to register for any of the drought extension support programs phone the DPI Customer Service Centre on 136 186 or visit [www.dpi.vic.gov.au/drought](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/drought)

## Landcare Is For Everyone (LIFE) Expo

18 April 2009 @ 7am - 9pm  
Caulfield Racecourse, Caulfield East

**Landcare Is For Everyone (LIFE) Expo will showcase Landcare volunteer achievements & contribution to the Victorian community & highlight opportunities for everyone to participate at any level in Landcare. The Expo will include Landcare displays, presentations, practical demonstrations, useful information, giveaways:**

- Promoting what Landcare volunteers do
- Bring Landcare to the city
- Promote the role of Landcare in the community
- Raise the profile of Landcare to urban community
- Provide opportunity for increased volunteer input to Landcare
- Encourage interaction between Landcare groups, networks and regions
- Celebrate achievement and success

## WANTED COPIES OF THE RUFFY REVIEW

We are having all the old copies of the Ruffy Review community newsletter scanned onto a CD for distribution later this year. These issues are missing from our archive: February 1991, February 1995, July Aug, Sept, Oct. Nov.2002, Dec. 2003, Feb, March, April 2005. If you have any of these issues could we please borrow them to scan. Ring Sharron 57904329 or Glen 57904318 if you can help. Many thanks

Rocky  
Passes



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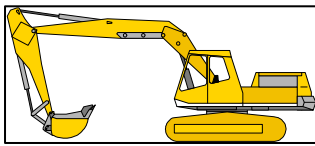


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