



THE GRANITE NEWS

30TH MARCH
VOLUME 3
ISSUE 09

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

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Highlands/Caveat CFA Recovery Dinner at the Fire Shed on 21st March 2009.

WOW, what a night we had and what a huge number of fantastic people turned out to share this magnificent meal and free drinks. I have spent the last week running around like a mad woman and to see this number of people turn out, WOW I was sooooo proud.

This event had a slow start with the CFA debrief meeting at 5pm then we went onto some super finger food and a few drinks. After about 1/2 an hour we were called into the hall for a small banquet of spit roast beef and a spread of salads, this food could melt in the mouth of even the fussiest eaters. We thank Marmalades for the time and efforts to bring such a superb feed up to Highlands.

We then spent the next few hours eating and drinking and listening to the beautiful melodies from Adam Dennis, once again he excelled himself, thanks for that Adam.

I passed around some rubber arm bands that we were selling for the CFA Volunteers who have had losses and we made a few dollars for them.

This idea for a recovery dinner was born when Andrew & I were helping out at HIArts; we decided that all our community needed time out and a chance to recover. I then took this idea and as usual ran with it, finding some help from our wonderful KIM CHADBAND from Regional Development Victoria. I was encouraged to apply for a grant to hold this event so no CFA member had to lift a finger (except me!). And this night turned out to be fantastic. I was blown away by the numbers 96 adults and (last count) 32 kids, not bad for a small community. I would like to thank everyone for making the effort to come along and share this event with us, we had a ball!

Special thanks must go to FOOD-WORKS IN YEA for all their phone calls to their suppliers, they came back to me with so much donated food and beer, Cathy and your hard working staff thank you.

Thanks:

Don Smallgoods for the sausages - Donation,
Bernie Shaw for the coolroom
Smiths Crisps for the box of chicken chips - Donation

Tip Top Bakeries for the 15 loaves of bread - Donation
Sunicrust for 2 dozen bread rolls - Donation
Lion Nathan for the 10 boxes of Heavy & Light Beer (we all enjoyed that) - Donation
Yea Meat Supply for the super tasty Beef and marinated chicken Marmalades and their Staff for the Professional Service and great advice
Kim Chadband for being my lifeline, and Regional Development Victoria for the grant \$2900.00 and also Joan who helped me apply for the grant online. The Shaws for the Spit Roasting Machine.

A pair of reading glasses were found on the night. Ring 57904297 if you have lost them.

Thanks to everyone for coming and making it a fantastic night.

By Sharyn Shaw



WELCOME TO ISSUE 9

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

Thanks to Jo Trantor and Pauline Roberts who are folding The Granite News once a month. I would really appreciate it if 2 more people could volunteer to do this job too to share the work load. Ring Miranda 57969261 if you are able to offer to do this once a month. Thank you.

To view the Energy Saver Incentive Buyers Guide visit www.saveenergy.vic.gov.au or phone 136 186

NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL



Student of the Week

Tobias Philpot :For terrific counting in maths. Great effort!

Home Learning Award:

Seniors: Imogen Junior: Kendall

Thankyou: The sand pit is now full of lovely white sand and is a popular place to play. Thanks to Maree Gilbert for bringing up a trailer load of sand and helping students shovel it into the sand pit.

Cooking: Last Friday Sharyn came to school and helped us use the potatoes from the vegie garden to do some cooking. We made potato chips, wedges, mashed potato, potato slinkies and potato patties. They were all delicious!!

Skipping: The Yea PS Skipping Team is coming to Highlands PS on Monday 30th March to do a skipping demonstration and then workshop the students with skipping skills.

Community What's On Calendar—April/May 2009

| | | |
|--|---|---------------------------|
| Weeks beg 30th March | Terip Terip mowing roster Tim and Frances Lawrence Both sides of Springs Road and all 4 courts | Brian and Gail/Van Rooyen |
| 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. | |
| Saturday 4th April | Black Market:10:00-12:00 at Rocky Passes [1590 Highlands Rd]. It's a very casual, local food exchange. This month's guest cook is Michael Greer, cooking the fabulous Polenta and Pine Nut Slice that we all tasted last month! All welcome. Any questions, call 57969366. | |
| 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. We would like people to RSVP for opening night on the 9th by the 7th and we are closed on Good Friday T. (03) 5790 4387 E. store@ruffy.com.au | |
| 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. | |
| 10th April | Good Friday Appeal, (Tin collectors for RCH) Watch out for the Ruffy fire trucks and CFA members collecting for the Good Friday appeal. Beginning at the Ruffy Fire Shed @ 10am and will run most of the day. Lunch will be available consisting fried fish and salads. Cost \$5.00 per head (proceeds of lunch to Ruffy CFA and to assist with costs of running the day) Please let us know if you can join us for lunch by Thursday the 9th. We hope the big white Easter bunny will be seen hoping around too!!! RSVP or Enquires to Colleen 57 953 435 or Sally 57 904335 or Kerry 57 904392. Thank you and Happy Easter !!!! | |
| Opening Fri- day 10th April to Easter Mon- day 13th April | Unique & Special @ Yea's Goods Shed Gallery Australian made stylish luxury hand-woven & hand made designer pieces, textile wraps, scarves and accessories by Plush! plus individual crafted pottery sculpture and glass art created by acclaimed Australian artisans. paintings depicting local & international subjects by Meg Heres "Easter" Artists Exhibition venue: Goods Shed Gallery Old Railway/Station Street Yea daily: 10am to 4.30 pm free entry enquires 0400340279 | |
| Saturday 2 May | Ruffartz presents LAST DRINKS 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 Another first is the inclusion of a one man comedy play to the series. "Last Drinks" is written and performed by Damian Callinan and directed by Matt Parkinson. The show debuted at last year's Melbourne International Comedy Festival | |

FIRE AFFECTED WATERWAYS UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

A detailed evaluation of major waterways affected by the major wild fires in the upper Goulburn River catchment is to be undertaken to allow authorities to respond and plan for short and long term recovery programs. Bushfires devastated a major part of the Upper Goulburn Catchment. A number of streams will be the focus of the assessment including parts of the Big River, Acheron, Rubicon, Steavensons and Taggerty rivers, Yea and Murrindindi rivers, King Parrot

Creek and the Sunday Creek catchment.

Goulburn Broken CMA Manager of Strategic River Health, Wayne Tennant, said: "Some of the data to be collected will include location quantity and location of large wood, where these pose a threat to waterway stability and public infrastructure, damage to cultural / heritage sites, evidence of in stream river management works, availability of habitat refuges and water supply points."

This information is vital to plan for emergency programs, as well as long term river recovery projects.

Mr Tennant said GBCMA was working with partner agencies – Goulburn-Murray Water, Goulburn Valley Water, Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE), Department of Primary Industries and the Environmental Protection Authority – to plan for the waterway recovery initiative.

"To compliment this review agencies are setting up water quality monitoring sites to provide early notice of poor water quality events.

The community is encouraged to report major damage or problems along the waterways or water quality changes to the Goulburn Broken CMA at its Yea office 57 360100

Classifieds & Community Notices

SAFE AND SOUND

At last, for many of us in the local area ... Rocky Passes, Brave Goose and Antcliff's Chase ... the March/April vintage is a welcome "end" to the year. With the grapes off the vine, it is reason to celebrate that they are safe from hail, heat, lack of water and birds. When the ferment is pressed off and in tanks, it is further reason to celebrate! Then we nurse it through two winters, until it wakes up and is ready to bottle.

With a move from the city in '94, we started to tune in to the seasonal rhythms of the year ... and once we had planted our crop, we began to appreciate the life of farmers throughout history. Life started to be punctuated by the cycles of the moon ... the "change of season" winds ... and the insect-barometers that tell us rain is coming ... even the invasion of Portuguese millipedes brings good news!

On the 21st March, we harvested our small crop with about 20 friends, aged from 87 to 5. It was a perfect day for picking, and an even better evening for our annual ritual ... the harvest dinner. A meal cooked, grapes picked and wine made ... all with friends ... the '09 vintage is saturated with joyful memories and a little bit of everyone who was there.

Cheers ... Candi and Vic, Rocky



FARMING FOR THE FUTURE WORKSHOP

A Free Workshop For all landholders:
large - small – commercial - lifestyle
April 4th from 10.00 am

Keynote Speaker and Facilitator
Joan Meecham
Qld Government water policy advisor

The GCMA Dryland Strategy and Beyond
Mr Bill O'Kane CEO, Goulburn Broken Catchment Authority

Water in Perspective – sharing an essential resource
Mr Jim Peart
Mangalore Farm Forester

Landholdings – possibilities for intensification and specialisation
Paul & Vicki Kennedy

Horticulture – a glimpse of the future
Industry Development Officer Victorian Vegetable Industry Sarah Thomson

The Grazing Industry Dr John WebbWare
McKinnon Project, Melbourne University
Ross Thomson, Colleen Kentish, Jol Blazey

Livestock Health and Animal Welfare
Dr Malcolm Ramsay DPI Seymour

Join us at Historic Worrourgh,
410 Greenslopes Road, Trawool
Barbecue Lunch Provided

YOGA, RELAXATION, MEDITATION CLASSES

Is anyone interested in attending a class at the Highlands Hall? Sally Lade, also known as Shakti Mudra, has 25 years experience teaching Satyananda yoga and regularly goes to India to update her knowledge.

If there is enough interest Sally is thinking of starting the week of the 27th April and will run a 5 weeks course to give everyone a taste and then see what happens after that.

She is considering running two classes, one more gentle and the other for more experienced people. Sally is flexible about which night but recommends Monday or Tuesday night, starting at 6pm as it is better to do it before eating. She thinks that it would go for an hour and a quarter.

Ring Sally on 57969222 or shakti.mudra@gmail.com to let her know if you would like to join her.

WANTED TO BUY

2 FRIENDLY LAYING CHOOKS
Ring Miranda Ph 57969261

BLACKBERRY/RABBIT UPDATE

Longwood / Ruffy Blackberry Project. Department of Primary Industry Due to the recent emergency response and recovery operations associated with the bushfires this project has been postponed. The DPI plan to continue with all Compliance Notices already issued, however no new inspections will be conducted this season. Inspections will recommence in November 2009.

REPS Rabbit Program

Department of Primary Industry Warning -Rabbit numbers are building up again-act now to control them. Bait now, Fumigate after rain.

The aim for the 2009/2010 season in Ruffy and Highlands will be to complete inspections in the Kobyboyn area then move along the Ponkeen Creek Road from Tarcombe to the Ardroy Corner. The Longwood East Program will move into the Gap road Area. The Creightons Creek / Gooram program will focus on the Killeens Hill Road area.

Strathbogie Shire Roadside

Blackberry All remaining roadside blackberries in the Strathbogie Shire area of Ruffy were spot sprayed this week, this seems late in the season to be effectively killing blackberries but you will notice yellowing blackberry bushes along the Creightons Creek roadsides already. Andrew Wylie of Euroa was the contractor doing this work for the shire. Sue Ablitt, Land Management Officer for Strathbogie Shire, coordinated the program. Landcare groups were consulted.

Dear Miranda,

This request was passed on to me by a Berry Street Bushfire Case Manager.

Mr Salvatore Parisi has a 7 acres property at Clonbinane which was burnt out in the recent bushfires. Unfortunately he was uninsured.

He needs to replace a small bridge which he used to get his flock of a few sheep and goats across his creek to the other paddocks. Does anyone have second hand building materials in their 'resource pile of stuff' like lengths of steel or wooden planks that they could donate to Salvatore so that he can rebuild his bridge.

Please contact Salvatore directly on 0402 768851 if you can help.
Thanks Janet Hagen

Rocky
Passes



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1590 Highlands Rd

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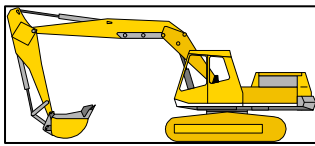


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