



THE GRANITE NEWS

20TH APRIL
VOLUME 3
ISSUE 10

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

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Jessica and Brian started growing their own organic vegetables and enough to share with friends. Now they have set up a local business.

Says Brian "Well who'd be a vegie grower or a farmer these days? What with weeks of high 30's, low 40's, winds from hell, and no rain, you have to rely on other water. Then the creek dries up! Not for a few days or a week or so, like before, but for months! And still dry!

Oh well. Even so, we're still going strong. Lots of mulch, drip lines and going where the water is, has us still producing. Didn't put a lot of summer stuff out in Avenel. Instead, worked over Albert's backyard in Seymour, the tank beds at Plunkett-Fowles and grew stuff in pots in our backyard. The little orange cherry tomatoes growing over the clothesline at Chisholm Crescent were to die for!

Once we fully netted the tennis court orchard in Avenel, we picked bushels of peaches which have been jammed and dried and sold fresh.

Jessica is living for a peach free zone in the lounge room! And we continue to pick beautiful figs from Bluey Shelton's massive fig tree in Avenel for the same ends. Also semi-drying and then vacuum packing them.

Thinking about Bluey and his lust for fruit, and dislike of waste, brings networking to mind. He shares what he has and lots of people benefit. And what goes around comes around!

So if there's anyone out there with excess fruit please contact us or someone else who can make use of it! Dried pears and apples, etc. are great kid treats, and persimmon dried in the traditional Japanese style have to be experienced! With enough stuff, it creates a job for someone.

Anyway, all our garden spaces are getting over summer (aren't we all!) and shaping up for the cooler months. Lots of carrots coming on and broccoli trying to avoid the late cabbage moths. Spinach, cabbage, cauliflower, parsnip, beetroot, onions, garlic, broadbeans, peas, kale, lettuce, asian greens, etc are up and running. And there's still all the late fruit to pick and process and asparagus beds to establish. No rest for the wicked!

Also potting up lots of stuff in the nursery and doing some late bud grafts in the orchard.....and trel-

ling the Brian berries. As well as picking spuds, about a dozen different varieties.

Next year we plan to grow summer stuff at our friend Robbie's garden at Somerset Crossing. That is if there is any water going down the Goulburn by then! Wouldn't it be great to be bored. B&J

Ask to be put on their mailing list and find out what is available. You can place orders online jessicaandbrian@netspace.net.au or via texting 0429 186 927. You don't have to order things by weight....just give an idea of how much you want and they'll work it out! They will deliver between Tuesday – Thursday, depending on their commitments. You can also pick up your orders in Seymour by arrangement.

THERE ARE TEACHERS... AND THEN THERE ARE EDUCATORS

Thanks for this one Candi:

According to a news report, a certain private school in Washington was recently faced with a unique problem.

A number of 12-year-old girls were beginning to use lipstick and would put it on in the bathroom. That was fine, but after they put on their lipstick they would press their lips to the mirror leaving dozens of little lip prints.

Every night the caretaker would remove them and the next day the girls would put them back.

Finally the principal decided that something had to be done. She called all the girls to the bathroom and met them there with the maintenance man. She explained that all these lip prints were causing a major problem for the caretaker who had to clean the mirrors every night (you can just imagine the yawns from the little Princesses).

To demonstrate how difficult it had been to clean the mirrors, she asked the maintenance man to show the girls how much effort was required.

He took out a long-handled squeegee, dipped it in the toilet, and cleaned the mirror with it.....

Since then, there have been no lip prints on the mirror.

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WELCOME TO ISSUE10

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

Thanks to Jo Trantor, Candi Westney Karli Chase and Pauline Roberts who are folding Highlands batch of The Granite News once a month. And thanks also to the extra offers of help, that's fantastic, really appreciated.

RAINFALL IN TERIP TERIP

It was 35.2 mm for March, making a total to date of 45.2mm.
Thanks Corrie

DESPERATELY SEEKING ROBIN!!

The Mad Hatters require a person to play the sensitively artistic Robin, male or female it doesn't matter, in their next production in July. Just someone with a sense of fun and available on Thursday nights for an hour or so for rehearsal. Enquiries phone Susan Bennett 57904338 or pop in on Thursday night 7.30pm at the Highlands Hall.



The Red Fox preys on our precious native animals, especially when they are at a young age and are unable to defend themselves (Photo © Jim Castles). 1080 baits can be purchased from the following businesses

- Rodwells & Co Pty Ltd Cutris Westworth Yea 03 5797 2086
- Rodwells & Co Pty Ltd Vicki Nink Kilmore 03 5782 1266
- Rodwells & Co Pty Ltd Peter McKenzie Alexandra 03 5772 2444

Remember that you will need to show your Agricultural Chemical Users Certificate and 1080 Endorsement to purchase the bait.

Be careful when you are baiting not to put it in a carcass that a wedge tailed eagle could take by accident.

Community What's On Calendar—April/May/June 2009

Week beg 20th April	Terip Terip mowing roster Alec and Marion Rowan Peter Short and Betty Jenkins Car park and all 4 courts
21st April	Highlands playgroup. Come join us with your little ones for a cuppa and a play from 9.30am til 11.30am. Still desperately seeking more playmates. Ring Marisa on 5796 9360 for more details.
SATURDAY 25TH APRIL 2009	TERIP TERIP ANZAC DAY MEMORIAL SERVICE AT THE REC RESERVE AT 9.00 am TO BE FOLLOWED BY MORNING TEA (Please RSVP for catering purposes) ALL WELCOME ENQUIRIES TO: Frances Lawrence Phone 0427 904262 penlaw@clearmail.com.au
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
5th May	Highlands playgroup Come join us with your little ones for a cuppa and a play from 9.30am til 11.30am. Still desperately seeking more playmates. Ring Marisa on 5796 9360 for more details.
7th May	Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative meeting will be at the Highlands Primary School commencing at 7 :30PM The meeting will start with a beautiful DVD about owls which everyone is welcome to come and watch. Feel free to stay for the meeting but don't feel that you have to!
Friday 8th May	'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 May	The Avenel Market is held on the 2nd Sunday of the month, 10am - 2pm. Locally sourced hand-made, baked and grown goods and produce. New Location - Jubilee Park in the centre of town. Proceeds go to park upkeep. Stall inquiries to Anna tel 5796 2481 or email clabburn@optusnet.com.au.
Wednesday May 13th 2009	FTLA Governance Training Programme to be held in Euroa Venue: The Silver Spoon Restaurant 14 Clifton Street, Euroa 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 Georgina Livery Administrative Officer Farrer House 24 Collins Street Melbourne 3000 Phone: 03 9207 5572 Fax: 03 92075576 Email: glivery@vff.org.au

PAYROLL TAX EXEMPTION FOR BUSHFIRE VOLUNTEERS

BUSINESSES whose staff had volunteered to deal with the recent bushfires have been urged to apply for an exemption to their payroll taxes.

"Victoria's bosses have been very generous with their staff and it is appropriate that they get some recognition for their help," Mr Lenders said.

"Without an army of volunteers helping to put out the fires, provide emergency relief and rebuild our communities the recent bushfire would have been even more devastating.

"I encourage any employer with workers volunteering to help bushfire affected communities to apply for this tax relief."
For more information, employers can visit the State Revenue Office website www.sro.vic.gov.au or phone 13 21 61.

\$85,000 ARTS FUNDING FOR BUSHFIRE AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

Acting Minister for the Arts Jacinta Allan today announced funding totaling \$85,000 to support arts and cultural activity in bushfire affected communities.

Ms Allan said that affected regions including the Murrindindi, Nillumbik and Yarra Ranges Shires are home to strong and vibrant artistic communities.

Regional Arts Victoria will oversee a \$50,000 Arts Recovery Quick Response Grants program and will provide funds of up to \$2500 for local artists to work in their communities on arts recovery projects.

"This fund aims to cut the red tape and provide quick and flexible grants to help get arts projects off the ground," Ms Allan said.

The Murrindindi Shire has been identified as a priority area and \$35,000 will go to the recruitment of an Arts Recovery Project Officer who will work primarily within the local area.

"The Arts Recovery Project Officer will work with the local arts community to set up artist residencies, exhibitions and projects that will run over the medium and long term recovery process," Ms Allan said.

The position will also be supported by Regional Arts Victoria (RAV) and the Arts Centre and will be managed by Regional Arts Victoria.

This announcement follows meetings between Arts Minister Lynne Kosky and artists and arts workers in some of the bushfire affected regions.

Applications for the Arts Recovery Quick Response Grants program will be open from Tuesday 14 April. For more information go to www.rav.net.au

Classifieds & Community Notices

VERY MANY THANKS FROM PEG LADE

A bit of an update for my friends.

I had an operation on Tuesday 3rd March at the Alfred Hospital in Prahran to remove a tumour from the right frontal lobe of my brain. Then I went into the Intensive Care Unit and the doctor got rather worried when I didn't regain consciousness for several days.

This has been a very baffling infection for the team of doctors from the Alfred, it has been going on since December 2007. The organism has only been found in 150 cases world wide. It is called Balamuthia amoebic encephalitis (BAE).

The organism is found in the soil, thought to spread inhalation of air born cysts or through direct skin inoculation.

I have been on a medical merry-go-round for 18 months with 5 or 6 different sets of biopsies and probably every pathology lab in Melbourne was getting more and more frustrated with mostly negative results. One problem was that they didn't know how to grow these unusual specimens. So I congratulate the team from the Alfred. I am now at Caulfield Rehabilitation Centre and hope to be home by the end of this month.

Thank you for all your cards, messages and visits which I have really appreciated, from Peg

BUSH RETURNS PROGRAMME

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) in partnership with the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA) are extending the expression of interest period for the Bush Returns program to encourage natural regeneration of native vegetation on private land. Interested persons are advised to contact DPI Benalla on 5761 1611 or email bush.returns@dpi.vic.gov.au to obtain an information kit, including an expression of interest form.

Regeneration of native vegetation is a natural recruitment process – letting plants strike and grow back naturally. In many cases grazing pressure from livestock and competition by weeds (including introduced pastures) prevents natural regeneration.

The removal or management of these factors are key requirements at any regeneration site.

'FENCES WITHOUT BOUNDARIES'

Landcare Bushfire recovery Project .

Highlands volunteers Sam Strong , Arthur Telford and Lockie Cameron joined a team from Serena International Computer Technology to clear fire damaged fences in the Strath Creek area earlier this month . The Highlanders worked hard on steep hillsides , rolling barbed wire and ringlock into bundles for collection by recyclers. The IT crew donate 3 days per year as community volunteers and considered this bushfire recovery work a very worthwhile use of their time .

Next Volunteer Crew : Chartered Practising Accountants on 21st April to Sally Abbot- Smiths , 225 Burns Rd . Glenburn

10am start . Landcare volunteers needed to assist these office workers demolish burnt fences.

Ring Janet 57 904 268



MATHS SHOULD BE FUN

To help your child with mathematics do all you can to develop their sense of size, number, length, width, volume, area, mass/weight, measuring, weighing and time.

Involve them in real life mathematics around the home– counting change, measuring, weighing, estimating, playing games that involve keeping score, calculating journey times etc.

Use solid objects– buttons, sticks, pieces of string when helping with mathematical problems. Make it fun!!!

AFTER THE BUSHFIRES

The bushfires in Victoria might have left you feeling a range of emotions, including:

- Shock
- Anger
- Sadness
- Helplessness
- Vulnerability
- Stress or anxiety

You might be experiencing similar feelings even if you were not directly involved in the fires. You might also be feeling that there's not a lot you can do. However there are a number of things you might do to cope.

Dealing with loss

If you were directly affected by the fires, you may still be coming to grips with the extent of loss you, your family and friends have experienced.

You may have lost a family member, friend, or acquaintance in the fires, or know someone else who has lost someone in the fires. You may feel shock, disbelief, numbness, sadness, anger or loneliness. It may seem like everything has been turned upside down.

Everyone has different ways of dealing with loss and grief, and this may affect the way people you are close with relate to each other.

You may have lost your home in the fires, losing sentimental possessions. Even though it may feel now like these memories are gone forever, there may be ways of recreating them. You may be able to create a written memory, or get photos from friends and family.

Getting help

If you are feeling overwhelmed, shocked or sad, it can help to talk to someone like a friend, family member or a counsellor. To find a counsellor call 1300 773 352.

You may prefer to speak to someone anonymously - Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800 (free from landline) and Lifeline 13 11 14 (cost of local call from landline) have counsellors who are available 24/7, and the call does not show up on the phone bill.

(Information from <http://reachout.com.au>)

Community Health at Yea Hospital – phone 5736 0400 and at Alexandra Hospital – phone 5772 0800

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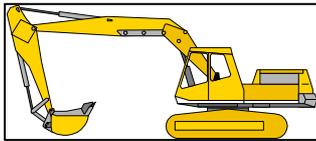
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