



THE GRANITE NEWS

11TH MAY
VOLUME 3
ISSUE 13

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

RUFFY BOOKCLUB

Last meeting was an animated discussion with ten locals about the novel 'Veronika Decides to Die' by Paulo Coelho. Most people loved the book although some found the first half a little dark. All agreed it was a fabulous book for a robust discussion about life, madness and how we live our lives.

The next book for discussion is "Eat, Pray, Love" by Elizabeth Gilbert about one woman's search for everything. Come along and enjoy the discussion. You don't need to be a member of the group, just read the book and turn up. We are meeting at Jill Davidson's at 169 Moores Road Terip Terip at 7.30pm on Wednesday 3rd June.

TERIP TERIP STATE SCHOOL CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

April 2010 will be the 100th Anniversary of the opening of the Terip Terip State School. If you would like to help in the planning of this celebration you are welcome to attend a meeting at Terip Terip Recreation Reserve on Sunday 17th May at 11am. Please bring a plate to share for morning tea. For more information call Tim on 0407 912218

NOTES FROM HUGHES CREEK CATCHMENT COLLABORATIVE MEETING

A reminder about the destruction foxes cause to livestock and native animals. You can purchase 1080 fox baits if you have an up to date chemicals license from

- 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

RIPPING SUBSIDIES

At present the HCCC has no funding left for ripping subsidies. However we are keeping a "Waiting List" in the hope that more funding will become available, although there is no guarantee of this happening. If you would like to be on that list please ring Miranda Yorston on 57969261

NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Student of the Week

Emillie Stafford For great work on her weekly spelling words. Well done!



Cross Country

Congratulations to everyone for their effort in this event. Special mention to John Bennett who came 1st in the 9 year old boys and Kassie Shaw for coming 3rd in the 11 year old boys



HAPPY BIRTHDAY MAVIS!

Mavis celebrated her birthday with us last Wednesday. We all made special cards and gave her a present. She brought cakes to share with us. Mavis is one of the special people who listen to us read and encourage us with our spelling words, thanks Mavis.



WELCOME TO ISSUE 13

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

Fire Restrictions for Region 12 area have been lifted from 1st May 2009.

RABBITSCAN

This a nation-wide challenge for community and schools to help scientists map where rabbits are, by asking people to 'scan' their landscape (school, farm, parkland, roadside reserves, etc) for signs of rabbits and their damage, and to load their results online" <http://www.rabbitscan.net.au/joomla/>

FarmReady

This is a part of the Australian Government's "Australia's Farming Future initiative", which offers support to primary producers to learn skills and strategies to help combat the impacts of climate change. FarmReady focuses on issues such as understanding the implications of climate change, whole-farm planning and business and risk management.

To see what courses are available, confirm that you are eligible and claim your reimbursement, visit www.farmready.gov.au or phone 1800 087 670.

FIRE RADIOS

Fire radios have moved from ch49 to VIC FIRE ch19. For those who have listening sets or scanners the frequency is 163.2875.

FENCERS WITHOUT BOUNDARIES

Landcare coordinators Bridget Clarke and Janet Hagen have been busy organising community volunteers to help bushfire-affected landholders restore their land. The volunteers have a wide range of skills and backgrounds and can help with fencing to protect waterways and environmental projects, erosion control, weed control, revegetation, farm infrastructure repair, nest boxes, etc. This is an initiative of the Upper Goulburn Landcare Network, supported by the Goulburn Broken CMA. Contact Janet Hagen 57904268

STOCK CONTAINMENT

These will be a great advantage in times of fire and drought. Funding is still available – contact Bruce Radford at DPI Broadford on 57 840 600.

Community What's On Calendar—May/June 2009

Fortnight beg 11th May	Terip Terip mowing roster Geoff & Jan Penn Mark Ireland Both sides of Springs Road and all 4 courts
10 May– 16May 2009	WHITEHEADS CREEK- TARCOMBE RURAL FIRE BRIGADE TRUCK ROSTER Michael Laker Rob Wales Kate Coulson Candi Westney
April 26 until May 25	... the JOURNEY is an exhibition of works on paper and canvas, textiles and sculptures from Susan Fell Mclean at the Mitchelton Winery, Mitchelstown Road, Nagambie (03) 5736 2222 . See more of Susan's work at: http://visibilityedge.blogspot.com/
Wednesday 13th May	Managing Steep Hills with Wire, Wisdom and Water – Another instructive field day will be held at Janet and Terry Hubbard's property "The Three Sisters", 2724 Broadford-Flowerdale Road, from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm. Please try and attend this if you are managing stock on hill country.
16th May	White Hart Hotel T: 03-5798-5203 E: white.hart@bigpond.com 7.30pm - Rachel McCracken (our favourite girl will get everyone singing to country and classics)
Saturday 16th May	Working Bee/Social Day – To mark the start of the planting season, a tree guard removal and social get-together will be held at Hubbards' (2724 Broadford-Flowerdale Rd) starting at 11am. The guards will be re-used on revegetation of fire-affected properties this year. Come along and help, and then enjoy a barbeque and discussion on fire recovery.
17May-24May	WHITEHEADS CREEK- TARCOMBE RURAL FIRE BRIGADE TRUCK ROSTER Paul Neibling M Greer Brian Tolley Lindsay Heffer
17th May	Ramblers . Next walk is at Granite Hills. Meet at Highlands Hall at 10.30 am. Andrew Shaw will be leading walks this year - if any queries, ring him on 57 904297. I would also to thank everyone who has sent me messages, cards, flowers. and visited me in hospital, I hope I am now home for good, even if I am as weak as a kitten, and not allowed to drive for 6 months. P.L.
21st May	Highlands-Caveat Brigade post-season meeting commencing at 1930 hours (that's 7.30pm if you are wondering) Highlands Hall All welcome
24May-30May	WHITEHEADS CREEK- TARCOMBE RURAL FIRE BRIGADE TRUCK ROSTER Glen Watson Anthony Wallis Doug Halpin Gary Richards
28th May	Secret Men's Business at the Caveat Church on the last Thursday of every month. Come along at 5.30pm and enjoy a snag and a chat by the fire. Everyone is welcome, even Chloe.
31st May	White Hart Hotel T: 03-5798-5203 E: white.hart@bigpond.com In the Dining Room, we're looking forward to our first food & wine event of the year. Shades of Autumn will be a sumptuous four course menu, matched to local wines. The menu is a celebration of 'all things tasty' from Strathbogie and the region and includes Avenel Mushrooms, Ruffy Turkey, and Local Venison. Price is \$65 per person including wines. Bookings are essential so call early to avoid disappointment.
Saturday 6th June	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 Jocelyn Bennet and Paul MacGregor, cooking a lovely curry ... just the thing for the cooler months! All welcome. Any questions, call 57969366.
7th June	White Hart Hotel T: 03-5798-5203 E: white.hart@bigpond.com 4.00pm - Jimmy Davidson (a Longwood FC legend from the 70's singing old time rock)
10th June, Benalla; 11th June, Long- wood	Soils Alive – . Free workshops on understanding organic matter, soil biology and the benefits of dung beetles. Lunch and notes provided. To book in contact Charlie Sexton on 57 611 560 or email kirsty.youman@dpi.vic.gov.au
12th June	'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.
20th June	White Hart Hotel T: 03-5798-5203 E: white.hart@bigpond.com 7.30pm - Ruckus (one for the diary - these guys and girl will be performing foot stompin' country rock - listen to them at www.ruckus.net.au)

Classifieds & Community Notices

MESSAGE FROM STUART REID

Things are moving along quietly. I have begun walking with assistance & some of the feelings in my hands have begun to rekindle. Physios claim that I will be able to walk again & are very pleased with my progress, as I am. It looks as though I will be moved to Royal Talbot Rehab Centre next Monday 11th May. We don't know how long this will take but it will probably be months rather than weeks. Both Judy & I are positive & are much appreciative of all the thoughts, concern & help of so many people at Highlands.

PERSONAL SUPPORT FOR BUSHFIRE AFFECTED PEOPLE

Many people affected by the fires have taken up the offer of personal support, counselling and case management. However, many others, who thought they could manage without support, are now finding it is tougher than they expected. The support options are still available.

If you thought you could cope, don't be embarrassed to find you are now struggling. No-one knows what's ahead, and we don't know how we will cope until we are faced with the real situation.

If you need someone to talk to about your journey, personal support and/or counselling are provided locally, co-ordinated by Mitchell Community Health – phone 1300 773 352. They also provide financial counselling, drug and alcohol support, problem gambling counselling, family violence support, and various other services, in the Murrindindi Shire.

If you need someone to help you navigate the maze of grants, deal with government departments, and the many other new experiences you are faced with, a bushfire case manager can help you. Case managers are also available locally, co-ordinated by the Department of Human Services – phone 1800 050 400 to register. All these services are provided free of cost to you.

There are other support services available, which your support worker or case manager can help you to access. Don't try to cope alone – these support services have been provided to ease the journey for you.

Community Health at Yea Hospital – phone 5736 0400

INTERESTING EXTRACTS FROM DPI REPORT 87 APRIL 09

Rainfall

Rainfall totals were about average around Melbourne and parts of the South West. Across most of the rest of the state, rainfall was below average with rainfall below 40% of average in East Gippsland.

Temperature

March temperatures were about average with days tending to slightly warm and nights tending to slightly cool.

Seasonal outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's Seasonal Outlook for April to June is for slightly higher than normal daytime temperatures in SW Victoria and a moderate to strong likelihood of cooler than normal minimum temperatures. There is also a moderate to strong shift towards drier than normal conditions over Victoria - probability below 40% in Victoria excluding East Gippsland.

Fire

There have been 660 fires for the season to March 13. This is 7% more fires compared to the 30 year average for this time of the year. The area burnt to date is 421,478 hectares which is a 253% increase on the 30 year average for this time of the year.

Drought financial assistance

Rural Finance Corporation have approved 12,182 applications for the Exceptional Circumstances Interest Rate Subsidy for primary producers with a 77% approval rate. The total value of the subsidies approved is \$361 million with an average of \$29,531.

Victorian Government drought support

For the nine months to the end of March, a total of \$8 million in Municipal Rate Subsidies was paid to EC relief payment recipients across 41 Shire and Rural City Councils.

To date a total of \$1 million in Drought Apprenticeship Retention Bonuses have been paid to Victorian businesses to support 1351 apprentices in the 2008-09 financial year.

To date the Rural Finance Corporation have paid out \$639,229 in On-Farm Productivity Improvement Grants (2008-09) to 243 applicants on behalf of the state government. The closing date for applications is 30 June 2009.

FUEL VOUCHERS FOR VOLUNTEERS ON OFFER

BP Australia Pty Ltd is offering fuel vouchers to individuals who are permanent Australian residents and volunteer for a registered not for profit organisation.

The following registered not for profit groups are eligible to apply:

Educational Institutions - pre-schools, schools and universities

Health and Human Service Organisations - eg social welfare, youth, unemployment and other organisations dealing with health and medical issues.

Organisations involved in Arts & Culture - eg museums, theatres, orchestras, historical societies, radio stations, performing arts companies and libraries.

Development & Community Organisations - eg community improvement and service organisations such as housing, job training, urban development, sport and community organisations.

Environmental & Conservation Organisations - eg local and regional organisations concerned with the environment, wildlife preservation including animal welfare, water usage programs, pollution prevention, recycling and energy conservation

Applications can only be made online via the website at www.talkstoppedlongago.com.au and open on Monday 27 April and close at 5.00pm on Monday 11 May 2009.

LEARN TO DANCE

Seymour Dance Club Inc
Join us on Thursday evenings at 7pm
GETTING STARTED INTO SOCIAL
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Classes commencing May 7th 2009
Anglican Parish Hall Anzac Ave,
Seymour
Just \$4.00 per person per night,
included tea/coffee
for further and to register your interest
Phone Ian 0419168918 or Moira
57991623

BUSHFIRE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THESE DATES:

May 5, 11, 12, 16, 25, 26, 31
Contact Janet Hagen 57904268

Rocky
Passes



Cellar door open Sundays 11am-4pm
or by appointment - 57969366
1590 Highlands Rd

Ruffy Produce Store

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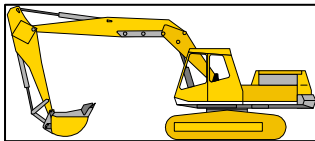
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