



PEOPLE AND PLACES

Shire Bushfire Roadside Tree Cleanup Nearing Completion

The massive tree cleanup job required after the Black Saturday Bushfires on the Murrindindi Shire's roadsides is nearing completion.

Murrindindi Shire Council's Operations Engineer, Peter Cownley, who is in charge of tree cleanup operations says with more than 40% of the Shire of Murrindindi was affected by the bushfires, the task has been massive and it was heartening to see things returning to normal.

Peter anticipates that most of the Council co-ordinated roadside tree cleanup works will be completed by the end of June.

Council has been diligent in its efforts to preserve roadside trees. Our objective is to preserve as many trees as possible. Council engaged contract arborists to assess each tree with all options, including pruning, reviewed before a removal is authorised. Anyone with concerns about roadside trees on council roads is encouraged to contact Council.

In Marysville, one of the worst affected townships, specialist cleanup teams have been working for many weeks on the enormous task of clearing the dead and fallen trees. Expert arborists have been working with these teams providing recommendations and advice on the difficult decision of either the removal or very heavy pruning of trees considered dangerous or unlikely to survive.

Other roadside cleanup efforts, have been delayed pending the completion of tree works but are gearing up. In Kinglake around 80% of the street name signs are now reinstated. Guideposts and other signs are steadily being replaced.

Works on the Kinglake Glenburn Road are close to completion. The centreline at the southern end will be remarked by late June. Works in other fire affected sections of the Kinglake area include Extons Road and the side roads off the Whittlesea Kinglake Road.

NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL



Student of the Week

Daniel Deglaitis: For an outstanding effort with his coloured words. What a star!

Dromkeen Camp:

Dromkeen Camp is a Literacy camp organised by Libby Ahern and the MARC committee. It is open to students in Years 3-6 and will be held on 13th-16th September. Students from this school regularly attend and have always found it to be a valuable experience.

Undercover wall:

Thanks to Leone and Albert who have been working with students to complete the mural on this wall, it looks fantastic! Leone has spent entire days at HPS this week and we really appreciate her expertise and hard work.



WELCOME TO ISSUE 18

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

WWW (Wuffy Weekend Walkers) Neil Doran (0415037728) of Ruffy (email digitdowns@westnet.com) has decided that the Ruffy Tribe of farmers need to be encouraged to walk more. So he is organizing weekly walks from Ruffy, on Sundays. Last Sunday, they had an easy walk of about 7 kms. Meet at the Ruffy Hall at 10a.m. Come along, you farmers, you will enjoy seeing what your neighbors are up to !

A QUICK BIT ABOUT NOISY MINERS

Noisy Miners (*Manorina melanocephala*) have a major impact on our smaller birds. There has been a dramatic increase in their abundance due to the creation of favourable habitat by humans.

Noisy Miners are large honeyeaters that live in groups, with each group strongly defending a communal territory. They aggressively exclude most small birds from their territories, which results in areas with a low diversity of small birds.

Research has shown that Noisy Miners dominate particularly strongly where there is good tree and grass cover, but a lack of understorey shrubs. This is partly because Noisy Miners favour such habitats, but also because there is limited shelter for small birds to escape attacks from Noisy Miners.

Planting dense shrubs, particularly spiky shrubs, may be the best strategy for minimising the negative effects of Noisy Miners.

Community What's On Calendar—June/July 2009

Fortnight beg 14th June	Terip Terip mowing roster
14 Jun - 20	WHITEHEADS CREEK- TARCOMBE RURAL FIRE BRIGADE TRUCK ROSTER Richard Waugh Geoff Bond Ned Jeffery Shaun Clarke
16th June	Highlands playgroup. Contact Marisa on 5796 9360 for details.
Thursday 18th June	Mid Goulburn Broken Catchment Landcare Network Invites you to an information session on; <i>Grazing of Cereal Crops and using Lucerne</i> Early grazing of cereal crops can provide valuable fodder without affecting grain yields at harvest. This seminar will focus on sowing cereals into pasture, timing of grazing on cereals without affecting yields. Grazing of cereal crops aims to boost farm profitability across the mixed farming zone. 1:00pm At the Violet Town Community Complex 1:00pm - 3:00pm followed by a local paddock walk Guest Speaker Simon Falkiner Agricultural Consultant, Livestock manager at Murdeduke for ten years and worked on the Grain and Graze project Themes that will be covered: * Grazing cereals - What and when to sow and how to graze. * Minimum till crops. * Summer crops. * Use of Lucerne including inter row sowing with cereals. * Paddock talk - applying principals to local cereal crops. RSVP by June 12 Robert Hawken Project Officer Tel 0357354350 Mob 0418140710 or email, landcare2@iinet.net.au This activity is free to attend and supported by the Mid Goulburn Broken Landcare Network
21 Jun - 27 Jun 2009	WHITEHEADS CREEK- TARCOMBE RURAL FIRE BRIGADE TRUCK ROSTER John Wood Glen Christensen Ashley Waite Rob Wales
25th June	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.
28th June	Highlands Ramblers walk Call Andrew on 57 904297 if you need more details Highlands Hall 10.30am
28 Jun -4 Jul 2009	WHITEHEADS CREEK- TARCOMBE RURAL FIRE BRIGADE TRUCK ROSTER Scott James Roger Broome Wes Jeffery Richard Robinson
30th June	Highlands playgroup. Contact Marisa on 5796 9360 for details.
14th July	Highlands playgroup. Contact Marisa on 5796 9360 for details.
SATURDAY 18th JULY, 2009	TERIP TERIP COMMUNITY DINNER At The Rec Reserve 6 pm for sherries and nibbles 7pm dinner- MEAT SUPPLIED BYO drinks & glass And a salad, vegetable dish or dessert to share \$18 per person - \$6 for school children DRESS THEME - FUR and FEATHERS Prizes for best and most outrageous outfits RSVP please, by 11th July Frances Lawrence - 0427 904 262 Lu Craven - 57 904 011
30th July	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. Maybe not Chloe until her ears look better.

RUFFY BOOKCLUB

The Memory keeper's daughter Ist Wed in August so lots of time to read it. We enjoyed our discussion about "Eat, Pay, Love" by Elizabeth Gilbert. A few people found the first section in Italy a little self indulgent and too flopsy mopsy but the general consensus was that she had really got herself together by the time she was immersed in the ashram in India.

FREE TO A GOOD HOME

I have a lovely wooden cot & a high-chair (free to good home).
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I can be contacted on 57969396.Karli

WORK WANTED

I am looking for full time or part time work in the district. I am experienced at tractor work, fencing, sheep and cattle work and general jobs around the farm. I can provide references if required. I am ready to start immediately and keen to do my best. Please ring 57904256 at any time. Ben Hogan

Classifieds & Community Notices

LOCALLY GROWN VEGETABLES AND FRUIT

COMMUNITY GROWERS NETWORK FOR SEYMOUR & DISTRICT

Would you like to be able to get a box of freshly picked vegetables and fruit once a week – grown locally and organic?

We are a small group of local people including Jessica Bateman and Brian Bowring from The Mayor's Garden, Ellise Rickard from Commonground, and Paul Macgregor and Jocelyn Bennett from Clearview Retreat.

We are very interested in bringing fresh, local, organically grown, chemical-free food to local people on a regular basis.

We'd like to set up a Community Growers Network for Seymour and the surrounding district, in order to do this.

You might be an individual customer of Jessica and Brian already. Once the Community Growers Network is established, Jessica and Brian would primarily be providing the Mayor's Garden produce through this Network, rather than offering home deliveries for specific orders.

The advantages of the Community Growers Network will be:

- *Locally grown produce - low food miles
- *Eating what is in season at the moment
- *Freshly picked produce
- *Chemical-free food - environmentally sustainable growing
- *Mutually supportive relationship between the growers and the people eating the produce

The way it will work would be:

- *Each box will include a good range of fresh vegetables & fruit - the contents will change each week depending on seasonable availability

- *Each box will have the same contents - however you can indicate which foods you'd rather not receive (or if there's something you don't want, you could swap it with a neighbour or friend...)

- *Collect your box from a location in Seymour on the same day each week, or arrange a friend or family member to collect for you

- *People from outside Seymour could arrange for one person to collect boxes for a group of households in their area

*A box will cost \$30 – or half boxes will also be available at \$15.

*Pay and book a week ahead, i.e. collect this week's box and pay for next week's box – or you can opt out for a week or more with 24 hours notice

Providing there is enough interest, produce will start to be available from August 2009.

A core of regular growers will form the basis of the Community Growers Network at the beginning – the number of growers will depend on how much interest there is from the community. All growers will use organic methods (some may be certified organic, some may not be). Because you'll know who the growers are, and can visit their farms or gardens, you will be able to find out about their organic methods.

Some other ideas for the Network could include:

- *Other locally grown or prepared food, e.g. olive oil, bush foods, dried fruit, bread, dry goods, jams & preserves

- *Selected dry goods and health food from outside the district

- *Encouraging local people to grow more food on their properties, for themselves and maybe to provide for the Network when there is excess

- *Assisting the core growers with growing and harvesting

- *Sharing recipes, growing tips, classes and workshops

Please indicate your interest in joining the Community Growers Network by either email or phone.

Reply options:

- I would like to get the regular vegetables and fruit when the box scheme starts
- I would like to contribute produce to the scheme
- I am interested, keep me informed
- I am not interested

Feel free to offer any comments or suggestions, or ask any questions. Kind regards, Jocelyn Bennett
Email: diversity@diversity.org.au
Phone: 5797 0229.

RUFFY COMMUNITY PLAN

The inaugural meeting of the Ruffy Community Action Group on 4th June was attended by 26 members of the local community. The purpose of the meeting was to learn more about the five proposed initiatives that had received the strongest community support, and to discuss how these initiatives could be developed into an Action Plan. The meeting strongly supported the further development of all five proposed initiatives but felt that it would make sense to deal with the provision of public toilets in the Ruffy township as part of the Tablelands Community Centre initiative. It was decided to form a Focus Group for each of these four projects, and the following Convenors were nominated and appointed:

Tablelands Community Centre and Public Toilets:

Don Cook (Tel. 5790 4007)
Recreation Reserve Upgrade:
Terry George (Tel. 5790 4318)
Promote Ruffy and District:
Neil Doran (Tel. 0415 037 728)
Ruffy Community Events:
Henry Noye (Tel. 5790 4246)

The convenor of each Focus Group will now bring together representatives of the respective community groups and other interested parties to discuss the project in more detail and report on progress to the next meeting of the Ruffy Community Action Group, planned for August. If you are interested in further details of a project or would like to contribute, please contact the relevant convenor.

In relation to the Recreation Reserve Upgrade project, Terry George is planning an on-site meeting to discuss various upgrade options and is keen to hear as soon as possible from anybody interested in taking part.

Erwin Weinmann (Tel. 5790 4309,
email alpli@bigpond.com).

EUROA ARBORETUM

Last Wednesday, I was lucky to attend the opening of a very impressive sculpture wall at the Euroa Arboretum. This is designed and made, by local artists - what a talented lot there are in our district. This project is intended to express perceptions and interpretations of our landscape. The artists are - Steve Tobin of Longwood, Albert Steen of Whiteheads Creek, Scott Roach of Euroa, Tess Egan, and Leonie Gabrielle of Highlands.

The Arboretum is run by a committee, the President is Shirley Saywell, and Sammy Strong works there several days a week. Many of us have been supplied with trees and shrubs from the Arboretum, and many native species are being grown there at the moment, for our own Arboretum at Highlands. The Euroa Arboretum is ideally situated beside the old Highway, and should prove to be a great tourist attraction!

Rocky
Passes



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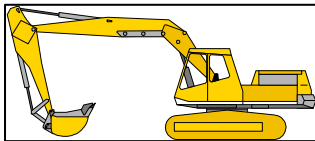
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