

# GRANITE NEWS

20TH JULY VOLUME 3 ISSUE 21

WHITEHEADS CREEK · TERIP TERIP · CAVEAT · RUFFY · HIGHLANDS · HUGHES CREEK

#### **PEOPLE AND PLACES**

The unfinished story of the Kong Mengs of Kerap , Ponkeen Creek Road, Tarcombe (as told to Peg by Olwen Fenton)

On 29-03-1884, Lowe Kong Meng paid to the District Surveyor at Seymour, the sum of 1 pound to apply for a lease on 320 acres. The annual lease payment for this block was 10 pounds. Another block was settled first and called "PERAK", the province in Malaya where Lowe Kong Meng was born. In 1896, fire razed the home and the family re-located across the road, the name was changed to KAREP. The land was pegged by Arthur Kong Meng by placing conspicuous cairns of stones or posts at each corner and placing a notice thereon.

Lowe Kong Meng was an eminent early citizen of Melbourne. He was born a British citizen in Penang. He was natural leader and very generous to all people and causes. He was widely respected. He was also deemed to be exceptionally wealthy, and helped many people. Kong Meng apparently died in poor circumstances, perhaps due to the failure of banks. At one stage, he owned 6 ships. He married Annie (Prussia) from Tasmania and they had 14 children, 9 of whom worked and lived in the Longwood – Tarcombe area. Men travelling from Longwood to Tarcombe commented on the fine fences, weed free paddocks, fine gardens, and the commodious home. The brothers built a 4roomed dwelling from rocks they collected -2 rooms survived for the Fentons. On this land 4 brothers tried to create a living by milking cows and trapping rabbits. Only 1 of them married - to Ellen Della. Of the girls Agnes married George Martin, and her father gave her a mansion in Brighton as a wedding present. Beatrice taught needlework at the Ruffy school and married George Hogarth, a miner. Sadly, five days after giving birth to a daughter, both mother and child died. Clara was born in 1865 and buried in Euroa in 1955. She kept house for George and was said to be a very gentle person. (Olwen wonders if she planted the water lilies that float on the dam?) Local identities talk of a hill and creek called Kong Meng, but I cannot find them on any maps, and the name is not registered in Nigel Sinnott's "Place Names of Alexandra and Eildon areas. Olwen Fenton is working meticulously. learning about the previous owners of Karep. What fascinating history to be uncovering, more to come!

## NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL



**STUDENT of the WEEK** 

Lachie Wischer :For a great effort with his weekly homework! Well done Lachie.

### **READING AWARDS**

Congratulations to the following Super Readers! WOW! 150 nights! James. Alex. Daniel

### **BER & NSP Funding**

The outdoor area looks fantastic thanks to Webby & Michael's hard work. The windows have been enlarged to let in more light, the lattice has been replaced by a small fence and the seats have been relocated to the oval and sandpit area. New outdoor furniture will be ordered in the next week. The new building works were due to start in the holidays although I haven't heard from the project manager so watch this space!

#### WELCOME

We welcome Tracey Ukosich to the staff at Highlands Primary School. Tracey will teach the juniors each Thursday to allow Meagan some time for administration work. Tracey has terrific teaching skills and has special talents in IT and Drama. The students will benefit from having Tracey working at Highlands PS. Some budding actors are seen below!



#### **WELCOME TO ISSUE 21**

Please send all articles and community and personal notices to miranda@omnipotent.com.au

Thank you to Ron Fenton and grand children for spraying the Spanish Broom on Ponkeen Creek Road. Without caring landowners doing their community bit our environment would be in real strife.

NOTE: DRINKS ON THE DECK - CHANGE OF DATE FOR AUGUST.

## RUFFARTZ PRESENTS THE KAVISHA MAZZELLA TRIO

The Kavisha Mazzella Trio will be performing in the Ruffy Hall on Saturday 8th August as part of a 2009 Victorian tour to 9 regional centres across the state. The tour is produced by Multicultural Arts Victoria in partnership with Regional Arts Victoria.

The trio play an energetic fusion of Italian folk and country music as well as Kavisha's original music and lyrics. Rich in humour and audience participation, the show is comprised of music and storytelling that expresses Kavisha's experience of migration - joyful and painful - and one's place in Australia spiritually and physically.

The members of the trio - Kavisha Mazzella (vocals, guitar), Irini Vela (bouzouki) and Peter Vadiveloo (percussion) share a passion for Flamenco, Greek and Italian folk sounds. They find these rich modal and rhythmic styles help them express the experience of having migrant roots and living in Australia.

Trio leader, Kavisha Mazzella, has been writing and singing her own music for 20 years. She has been performing at folk festivals in Australia and internationally and has won various awards including the 1998 ARIA for Best World Music Album for Fisherman's Daughter and the Italia Nel Mondo Award from the Italian Government in 2000 for her contribution to Italian Culture in Australia. Kavisha sings with the voice of a heartbroken angel. Victoria Laurie, The Australian Mazzella's voice has a wonderful pu-

Mazzella's voice has a wonderful purity of tone and can lift over a melodic line with bell-like, weightless grace. But she can also stride through a rousing folk anthem, or - with some vibrant, percussive guitar - make the audience sing along. Jess Nicholas ~ The Age

Community What's On Calendar—July/August 2009	
July 12th- August 2nd	CUTTINGS - An exhibition of art photography by Jeff Moorfoot at Rocky Passes Estate [1590 Highlands Rd, Whiteheads Creek. PH 57969366]. Saturdays and Sundays [or by appointment] from July 12th to August 2nd.
19 July -25 July	WHITEHEADS CREEK- TARCOMBE RURAL FIRE BRIGADE TRUCK ROSTER  Glenn Watson Darren Brock Barry Roworth John Dalziel
Sat 25th July	You are invited to attend: Goulburn Options Inc. Christmas in July 2009 Fundraiser for the Tri-State Games Where: Senior Citizens Hall Anzac Ave Seymour Cost:\$25.00 (inc 2 Course Meal & Entertainment by Lee & Lemmon duo) Time:6.00pm meal served at 6.30 R.S.V.P 20th July 57923192 'Get in Quick Tickets are Limited' Games, Trivia and Raffles on the night to help support the Go-Getters to make it to Stawell this year Beer & Wine available on the night no BYO
26 July - 1 Aug	WHITEHEADS CREEK- TARCOMBE RURAL FIRE BRIGADE TRUCK ROSTER Mark Stokes Candi Westney Rob Hayes M Greer
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. Chloe can come now her ears are better.
Saturday 1st August	Black Market: 10:00-12:00 at Rocky Passes [1590 Highlands Rd]. It's a very casual, local food exchange. Any questions, call 57969366.
2 Aug - 8 Aug	WHITEHEADS CREEK- TARCOMBE RURAL FIRE BRIGADE TRUCK ROSTER B Bortalazzo Rob Wales John Wood Ralph Provan
2nd August	Grey-crowned Babbler Tree Planting Join the Friends of the Grey-crowned Babbler for a day's tree planting in the Nagambie district to help link crucial parts of the habitat of this threatened bird. Enjoy the provided lunch and learn about the current status of this threatened bird across Victoria. For more information, please contact Doug Robinson 0408 512 441 dougr@tfn.org.au
Tuesday 4th August	The Melting Pot forum will be held at the Salvation Army Hall, Victoria Street Seymour on at 2.00PM Speaker for the U3A Melting Pot Series in August will be Barry Croke, former Principal of Dookie College, and full time farmer, who has gained a reputation for forward thinking and thought provoking ideas. He understands the importance of water in our food chain. He will speak on the numerous issues such as factors influencing on-farm water use efficiency, then factors impacting on water harvesting and water delivery. Policies on how we allocate water and determine where water is used will create interest. Barry will offer insights into the future of food production in our region, given hotter and drier conditions we now see as the norm.
THURSDAY AUGUST 6TH 2009	DIRECT SEEDING NATIVE VEGETATION Ray and Shirley would like to share a success story of revegetation by direct seeding. Come along and learn more about the whole direct seeding process and listen to guest speakers Jim Begley (DPI), Janet Hagen (contractor) and Liz Evan (Indigenous Seedbank),and join us for Devonshire Tea. 10AM—11:30AM WHERE: RAY MALCOLM & SHIRLEY GOODMAN 295 KILFEERA ROAD, BENALLA RSVP: Phone: 57622879 ( Ray or Shirley) Phone: 57611663 ( Helen) E-mail: helen.repacholi@dpi.vic.gov.au
Friday 7th Au- gust	'Drinks on the Deck' at Highlands Community Hall from 6.30pm. Bring food to share for a meal together and catch up with friends old and new. Gold coin donation to cover power. Please note that the August date for Drinks on the Deck had to change.
Saturday 8th August	Free Singing Workshop facilitated by Kavisha Mazzella Ruffy Hall 3 - 5pm Afternoon tea provided. Kavisha is renowned for her work with the Italian Women's Choir and this is a rare opportunity to participate in one of her fantastic workshops in rural Victoria. The workshop is free and funded through the Regional Arts Fund with assistance from Regional Arts Victoria. It is hoped that this will inspire regular community singing events in the Ruffy Hall. Bookings essential Contact Glen 5790 4318
Saturday 8th August	RuffArtZ presents the Kavisha Mazzella Trio 8 pm BYO drinks and nibbles. Bookings contact Glen 5790 4318
Thursday 27th August	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. Come and meet Chloe who should be allowed out by then.

### **Classifieds & Community Notices**

### RAMBLERS' WALK 28 JUNE 09

Twenty one intrepid souls greeted our recovering co-leader, Peg Lade, before setting out on a ramble from Dunn Hill, Highlands. We headed south through grasslands and forests to finish at a track on Jack Creek. Highlights on the walk included magnificent views, forests of Blue Gum, Peppermint and Messmate, and the discovery of an old two wheeled cart (see photo) and Eric Henshaw's old Commer truck resting peacefully in a gully under Olearia bushes. Wildlife observed included many kangaroos, deer and a wombat. Stephanie, an enthusiastic young nature observer, kept everyone entertained with her wit and youthful energy. Many thanks to Andrew Shaw for leading another fantastic walk. Next walk is High Living in Highlands which will be an easy, child friendly walk including the old Fassifern school site.



## THANK YOU FROM JUDY & STUART REID

We have been profoundly moved by the concern, good wishes, gifts and visits of our friends in the Highland/ Caveat community since Stuart's accident. It has been a great source of comfort during his time of recovery and rehabilitation. We are glad to say that we are now home permanently and while there is still more work to be done, particularly with Stuart's right arm and shoulder, we are confident that with hard work and time. Stuart will have an even more complete recovery. Being home is in itself a great boost for both us. We look forward to catching up with people again and to personally express our thanks.

RAINFALL for JUNE at Highlands was 81.4mms, with snow falling on 10th, but it didn't settle. Total for the year is a bit below average, 263.4

### EVERGRAZE - STRATEGIES FOR MANAGING NATIVE PASTURES

Jim Virgona, leader of the Holbrook research site, defines a native pasture as "any pasture where native grasses are the dominant perennial species". Native grasses are normally the only perennials in these pastures, and are important for reducing salinity, preventing erosion, increasing soil health (particularly ground cover, nutrient recycling, organic matter and moisture retention) and increasing stock performance. EverGraze is developing strategies to increase the proportion of perennial native grasses while also increasing animal production and performance from them.

Meredith Mitchell, leader for the Albury/Wodonga Proof Site has three rules for increasing the proportion of native grasses and seeding recruitment:

- ☐ Management that gets more seed in the soil;
- ☐ Open spaces and soil moisture for the seeds to germinate; and
- ☐ Reduced competition from resident plants to ensure that the seedlings persist.

Increased grazing pressure during spring reduces competition from annuals such as barley grass and silver grass. This encourages early growth of summer active perennials and reduces competition from germinating annuals in autumn. Increased sub clover is an added bonus of this strategy. Native grasses seed after rainfall during late spring and early summer. Removing stock from the pastures when seeding occurs is critical to increase the seed bank. Graze native pastures in mid-summer when the seeds become mature to create spaces for germination in autumn. If germination and follow-up rainfall occurs, reduce or defer grazing for about 6 weeks to allow new seedlings to establish.

We know that fertiliser alone will increase pasture production and feed quality, particularly through increased growth of clover. However, when setstocked, fertilised native grasses are out-competed by annuals such as barley grass and capeweed. Ever-Graze experiments at Albury/ Wodonga and Orange are testing fertiliser application combined with rotational grazing to increase production and maintain native grasses. For further information, contact Kate Sergeant, E: ate.Sargeant@dpi.vic.gov.au

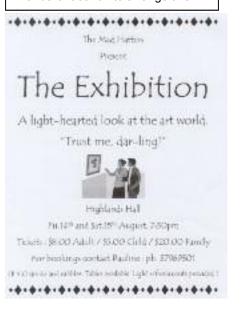
## BITS OF BOTANY AND BIRDS

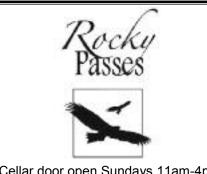
OLEARIA ARGOPHYLLA (Musk Daisv Bush) is a tall shrub or small tree. It is quite common, especially in moist sheltered areas. It is easily identified by the musky smelling leaves which are smooth green above and silvery silky with raised veins beneath. The numerous flower heads are about 1 cm across, with fine creamy rays, sometimes in large panicles. It flowers from October to December. There are many Olearias locally, shape of leaves is important for identification, also colour and size of petalsand inflorescences. (and there's also Blanket Leaf-Bedfordia arborescencewhich has rather similar leaves and grows in cool sheltered forest gullies, flowers are bright yellow without rays (petals). The leaves are very woolly underneath, and radiate around the end of branchlets)



#### **PATERSON'S CURSE**

Don't let it get away on us, act now. A 50% subsidy for the chemical Agtryne is available through Landcare. Ring Miranda 57969261 to arrange this.





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

### **Ruffy Produce Store**

Breakfast & Lunch Saturdays, Sundays & Public Holidays from

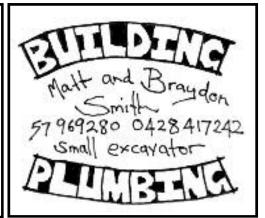
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Need to book, call Helen or Doug

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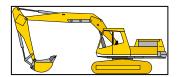
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