



**PEOPLE AND PLACES**

With the announcement earlier this year that a Goulburn River Rail Trail is going to be built along the disbanded rail tracks between Tallarook and Mansfield, it's timely to remember some of the forgotten history related to the old rail line when it was operational. Colin Smith recalls one of his memories and hopes others have more to share.

**TRAWOOL RAILWAY STATION & RIVER CROSSING**

In the late forties and early fifties the Trawool Station was manned, also had a siding for unloading stock and other goods. In those days the river was crossed by a bridge built during the war and beside the bridge on the upstream side was what remained of the old bridge. All that remained was the piles, the decking which was rotten and had plenty of gaps, most of it loose, no rails on the sides and no railing on the approaches to the bridge.

Dad, Murray and I rode from "Greenslopes" down to the Station to unload a mob of cattle one morning. From memory we unloaded them onto the platform for some reason. They were a motley lot too and I think not in very good condition. We herded them in the right direction and they started to race down the road towards the river.

Not thinking they would take on the old bridge we let them go, but to our astonishment that's the very thing they did.

If you can imagine a rickety old structure with fifteen steers in single file floundering across, legs going through the gaps, bits falling off the bridge, the whole structure shaking. It would have been about thirty feet above the river and much to our consternation it looked like something must collapse but providence was with us and they all made it across.

The cattle slowed down in their rush and gave us a chance to get ahead and turn them in the right direction along the road to "Greenslopes".

Colin V Smith

November 2009

Thank you Colin and please keep sending us your memories as they are really fascinating and important to preserve.

**NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**STUDENT OF THE WEEK**

Bonnie Neicho : For listening and persisting, to learn how to skip! Well done Bonnie!



**PREP TRANSITION**

Prep Transition has been running very smoothly. We have really enjoyed Lucia, Will, Emily, Angus, Oliver and Gabby visiting our school and joining in with playground and classroom activities. We now have another prep and look forward to welcoming Made-line to the group. The next and final transition day is on Tuesday 8th December for the entire day 9-3.15pm.

**WANTED BADLY!**

Wanted plastic bottle tops! We are collecting and need 1000 for a special art project which Leone would like to start this term. Please collect at home and drop into school.

**Community Break Up-** Friday 11th December 6pm at Highlands Hall, BYO BBQ and salad to share. Santa will pay a visit, \$5 present for your child/ren to be dropped off at school prior to evening.

**Highlands PS Concert-** everyone who is interested in the history of the area should come along and see what Susan Bennett has done to it! Friday 4th December 6pm at the Hall. Bring a plate of supper to share. Some of the locals mentioned, who really should be there are Rick and Marg McAlpin and their best looking dog, Scotty "I love cricket" McKay, and Roger 'you beaut bowler' Strong, just to name a few. You'll be disappointed if you miss it.

**WELCOME TO ISSUE 37**

Please send all articles etc to [Miranda@omnipotent.com.au](mailto:Miranda@omnipotent.com.au)

**FIRE RESTRICTIONS COME INTO FORCE**

Fire restrictions come into force in the Shires of Mitchell and Murrindindi on the 30th November 2009 at 1am.

The Community Information maps within the Township Protection Plans (TPPs) for the 52 high risk bushfire towns have been uploaded on the CFA web site and are now available to the public. The direct link is <http://cfaonline.cfa.vic.gov.au/mycfa/Show?pagelid=publicTownshipProtectionPlans> The page can also be navigated to via the CFA home page.

All maps are draft unless otherwise listed. As TPPs are approved by councils and Neighbourhood Safer Places are designated over time, the maps will be amended to final versions.

**ADVERTISING ON THE BACK OF THE GRANITE NEWS IN 2010**

Please get a move on so you don't miss out. The ads will be smaller and therefore the cost has been reduced from \$250 a spot to \$200 (includes GST).

If you would like a spot you first need to contact Miranda by email or phone 57969261 and the spaces will be allocated on a first in, best dressed basis. Fifteen spots have already been allocated, nine of these are new. If you are on this year you still need to contact me for next year.

**BEST OF THE ARTS COMES TO OUR BACKYARD**

AUDIENCES in Marysville, Ruffy, Healesville and Tallarook are among those to benefit from \$335,305 in funding aimed at taking the arts out of the city and into towns across Victoria.

Mary Souness will use a grant of \$60,000 to present the 2010 Cafe Culture Series featuring four touring shows, the musical comedy Alzheimer's the Musical - A Night to Remember and performances by Croque Monsieur, Flap! and JoJo Smith & the Brothers of Love.

The tour will include Marysville and Ruffy in 2010.

## Community What's On Calendar—November/December 2009

Week beg 30th November	Terip Terip mowing roster Helen McKenzie George and Trish Uden Around Clubhouse and all 4 courts
29th Nov– 5th December	WHITEHEADS CREEK- TARCOMBE RFB TRUCK ROSTER David Freeman John D'Alziel HIGHLANDS CAVEAT RFB TRUCK ROSTER Crew C Callum Lawson DRIVER ROSTER Frits Pompe RUFFY RFB TRUCK ROSTER Travis Tilton's crew
3rd December	Terip Terip Tennis Club Sausage Sizzle 6pm Come along and join us for a hit of tennis and a sausage sizzle! Gold coin donation per person to cover costs would be greatly appreciated.
4th December	Ruffy Community Action Group - End of Year meeting - Ruffy Hall 7.00 pm. A short meeting followed by a BBQ - everybody welcome!
6th December	Highlands Ramblers last walk for the year. 10.30 am Highlands Hall. Afternoon tea at Peg Lade's place Ring Andrew Shaw is any inquiries 57904297
6th December	Choirmaster Jonathon Welch and THE CHOIR at the Alexandra Shire Hall Workshop 11am-1pm (for all aspiring choristers) BYO picnic lunch 1-3pm Alexandra Bowling Club Concert 5-6.30pm Alexan- dra Shire Hall Workshop participants will be invited to join the choir for the concert. All welcome but book- ings essential for workshop. Bookings: Sally Kelly 57722528 or 0427722528 This is a FREE community event brought to you through Berry Street and Alexandra Friends of the Library.
6th December	Tallarook Farmers Market 9-1pm Any enquires Ellise Rickard Market Manager 0427801633
6th December	MITTA TO MURRAY LANDCARE NETWORK Landcare friends and members are invited to support and celebrate Landcare in our local area by joining in the inaugural Mitta to Murray Landcare Network gathering- Time: 12.30-9.00pm Place: Pigs Point Picnic Reserve – Omeo Highway (On the Mitta River about 10km from the Murray Valley Highway intersection & on the left) Events: Around the Network Bus Trip Arrive Pigs Point 12.30 pm Bus Departs Pigs Point 1.00 pm sharp Teek's – What makes for a successful tree plan- tation? Maddock's – Adventures with deep rooted perennials Rapsey's - Lucerne and gullies At each of these three properties there will be a discussion of the site and the local Landcare Group and its recent pro- jects Woods – Persimmons and farm diversification Return to Pigs Point 5.30pm Landcare Celebration Barbeque Pigs Point Picnic Reserve 5.30-9.00pm Cost: Free bus and meet to those who make reserva- tions Please bring a salad or sweet to share BYO drinks Bookings by December 4 to Janice or Neil on 02 60710280
6th December to February 2010	"Journeys near and far" - an exhibition of paintings and sculpture by Leone Gabrielle at Rocky Passes Estate 1590 Highlands Rd Whiteheads Creek 57969366
Friday 11th December	Community Break Up 6pm BYO BBQ & salad to share Students will perform a skit and songs Awards presented Visit from Santa! Let's celebrate together with a barbecue followed by a concert with skits from each of our local organisations. Start preparing now....No Drinks on the Deck tonight.
11th December	Tallarook Christmas Craft Market Friday Night 6-9pm Any enquires Ellise Rickard Market Manager 0427801633
12th December	White Hart Hotel Longwood T: 03-5798-5203 E: white.hart@bigpond.com 7.45pm - Potty's Disco - spinning us some great tunes, old and new
20th December	White Hart Hotel Longwood T: 03-5798-5203 E: white.hart@bigpond.com 4.30pm - The Hairy Lasso's - the dirty old towners are here to have some fun
24th December	Community Christmas Service A community Christmas Service will be held at 5pm. on Christmas Eve at the Caveat Church. All welcome
Saturday 9th January 2010.	TERIP TERIP ANNUAL SOCIAL TENNIS TOURNAMENT 10.00am Sections 1& 2 & juniors (approx 4 sets alternating partners) \$10 entry includes morning and afternoon tea (children and family concession) Light lunch, BBQ tea and cold drinks all available. Great family day! Enquiries Cindy Hayes 57904226 Frances Lawrence 0427 904 262 Helen McKenzie 5790 4211
Tuesday 26th January 2010	Seymour Australian Day Ceremony and Market from 8.00am - 1.00 am held at High Street Seymour - middle road reserve (behind Police Station). Free community breakfast begins a 0800, Local Entertainers, Chil- dren's Activities and Market Stalls  Australia Day Ambassador Fabian Dattner, attending the Ceremony is well known to many Australians. She is a regular commentator in the media on corporate ethics, organisational alignment and leadership issued.

## Classifieds & Community Notices

### JONATHON WELCH COMES TO ALEXANDRA

Remember the Choir of Hard knocks? No doubt you do. It was amazing that such wonderful music could come from a group as unlikely as them. Choirmaster Jonathan Welch skilfully nurtured and trained this group of forgotten people and produced a choir that entertained many of us and commanded great respect from the wider community.

Jonathon is now working with the inmates of Victoria's Tarrangower Womens Prison to develop "Voices from the Inside", a choir of 'Gaal Birds'.

But here is the really good news. After two extremely successful sell-out concerts at the Melbourne Recital Centre, Jonathon will be bringing his latest community choir of 80 singers to Alexandra on Sunday 6th December for a free workshop and concert. The day will start with the workshop from 11am -1pm at the Shire Hall, and Jonathon is most enthusiastic that everyone feel free to join in. This will be followed by a BYO picnic lunch at the Alexandra Bowling Club and the day will end with a concert in the Shire Hall from 5-6.30pm. All workshop participants will be invited to join the choir for the concert.

It is your chance to develop your singing prowess and to join with Jonathon and his choir in what will be a wonderful concert. Set the day aside and come along as a family. You will have a great day but remember booking for the workshop is essential. Bookings can be made through Sally Kelly on 57722528 or 0427722528.

This is a completely free community event which has been made possible with the support of Berry Street and the Alexandra Friends of the Library.

### EUROA ARBORETUM

The Euroa Arboretum is busy propagating tubestock for 2010. If you would like to confirm an order, please ring ASAP so that we have the right species available for you.

If you are interested in propagation, join us during Thursdays and Fridays and every 2nd Wednesday 9am-4pm -stay for as long as you like.

Learn the intricacies of growing native plants from seed and cuttings! (We would love the help too.)

Call Sam 0429 127 399 or 5796 9275

### BITS OF BOTANY AND BIRDS

Whitehead's Creek is playing host to a rare visitor, which has graced at least three homes with its presence. The black tailed native hen (the same bird, or are there more than one?) has been sighted at the homes of Lesley and John Dalziel, David and Eileen Freeman and Alan and Maxine Coulsen. The amazed locals could not believe their eyes! Perhaps the shy bird knew he would find a welcome with these pioneer Landcarers. Or perhaps their gardens provided enough habitat to make it feel safe there. Lesley D'Alziel



### FOR SALE

2.7 M long solid red gum table and 4 bench seats  
PH Jan Hayes 57904319

### FREE GREEN WASTE AND HARD WASTE DISPOSAL

Disposal of eligible green waste and hard waste material will be free of charge at all Resource Recovery centres from 17th November to 31st December. This is being provided to assist in property clean up for the upcoming fire season. Funding for this offer is provided through the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund. No limit on quality. Offer applies only for residents/ property owners in the Murrindindi Shire. Does not apply to waste from commercial premises or building waste. To ensure eligibility a copy of current rates notice must be presented to the site attendant on arrival. Residents wanting to use a commercial contractor to dispose of their clean-up waste must make prior arrangements with Council's Coordinator Waste Management. Green waste and hard waste should be delivered in separate loads or be easily separable at time of disposal. A pre booked collection service is being offered to people who genuinely cannot do so eg elderly, disabled, etc. Contact the Shire to organise this.

### PLEASE COULD I BORROW..

Adam Dennis is wondering if anyone has a piano trolley (i.e. rectangular frame, four or six big wheels) available for loan. He's trying to move a heavy combustion stove. If you have one that you'd be prepared to part with for a day, please call him on 5796 9200.

### SOME BENEFITS FROM UNDERSTORY PLANTING

· Did you know that our native daisies attract several butterfly species that only lay their eggs on mistletoe? And when the caterpillars hatch, they eat mistletoe so thoroughly they destroy whole clumps!

· Our local wattles are useful too. They are a magnet for Squirrel Gliders looking for a feed of sugary sap. And here's the interesting bit: the Gliders also clean up leaf-eating insects that are at the root of dieback in your trees. A single Glider can eat over 20 kgm of Christmas Beetles during just one summer!!

· Then there's all the birds which nest or shelter in the understorey shrubs. Did you know that birds take up to 60% of the available insects in a healthy woodland? Planting the right shrubs will help put an end to the relentless insect attacks on your valuable old trees.

· And that's only half the story! Nectar-rich shrubs like Sweet Bursaria, Tea Trees, Rice Flowers and Everlasting Daisies also attract a range of parasitic wasps and flies that are very helpful to the farmer. With nectar as their energy source, these wasps will hunt all day for insect pests like Cockchafer Grubs, Christmas Beetle larvae and Grass Hoppers that destroy valuable pastures!

Ray Thomas,  
November 2009

### HUGHES CREEK CATCHMENT COLLABORATIVE

The HCCC held their AGM at the Ruffy Store last Saturday. Congratulations to Michael Kapanica who has been re-elected as President. And Rob Hayes who is Vice President

Alan Renfree has agreed to continue as secretary for the time being but would really appreciate it if there was someone in the community who would be happy to take on this role. If you could possibly do this job please ring Alan, I'm sure he'd be extremely grateful. PH 57904258.



**Tastings & "blackboard menu" lunch**  
Sundays  
11am - 5pm

**Tapas bar**  
last Friday of the month from 6pm

**Bookings 57969366**

1590 Highlands Rd, Whiteheads Creek

## Ruffy Produce Store

Breakfast & Lunch  
Saturdays, Sundays & Public Holidays from 8am

Lunch Fridays from 11.30am

**Need to book, call Helen or Doug**

T: 5790 4387

E: [info@ruffystore.com](mailto:info@ruffystore.com)

F: 5790 4209



**Phone Ian on**

**: 0408990487**

**: 57904328**

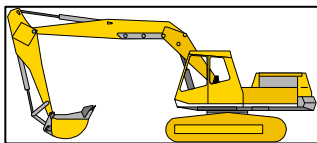
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