



THE GRANITE NEWS

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

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Why Burma?

I returned from Burma with a confusion of feelings about the two and a half week trip we had just completed with Jenny Webb (of GraceWorks). This was a neighbours' trip ... what an experience to share with people we know. Back home, I try to answer the question that many ask ... "Why Burma?" ... while still processing all I had seen and heard. Burma is an extraordinary experience - beautiful, humbling, confronting, confounding - parts still uncategorised.

A country of huge contrasts: between widespread poverty and isolated privilege despite bountiful resources; of a long and impressive history disrupted and confused by colonial boundaries and laws; where 1 million children have lost parents through natural disaster or the unspeakable horrors of ongoing war and those who devote their lives to their care and wellbeing; between the family life of subsistence farming and the relentless struggle for individual survival in the towns and cities.

Yangon ... once the capital Rangoon ... is busy and polluted with a few surprisingly large department stores, parks, the occasional flash car and homes in gated developments owned by the wealthy.



Shwedagon, the largest Stupa in Burma, towers over the city ... newly gilt on advice by an important Astrologer to earn merit. This is juxtaposed against kerbside stalls serving steaming soup and curries along the pot-holed streets ... mud and rain lapping at their customers' feet ... the clapped-out 1970s cars burning dirty fuel, and the port where small, dark-skinned, bare-footed, sinewy men unload their heavy burdens.



we drive out of town, we see women ... labour brought from nearby villages ... spreading bitumen on the road with their bare hands. We see a man using a welder without a mask ... and men, women and children squeezing a ride between the cab and trailer of trucks. But broad, warm smiles engage us whenever we make eye contact ... no hint of resentment at our good fortune to have been born into a peaceful and prosperous democracy.

Two hours out of Yangon, it is a relief to be out of the city. We visit several children's homes. After being shown around the farm on one by a 70 year old sage, we wait for "his" children to return from school. First come the primary kids fetched during a break in the rain on one of the articulated motors we have seen in many places ... it is the beginning of wet season. We watch as their carers greet them and tenderly dry their hair, before they come to join us.

Next, the older children return walking two by two, holding hands and umbrellas. We first see them at a distance, but as they walk closer, the snaking line keeps coming ... drums and symbols of urgent, illusory music pounding in my astonished ears.

We are spellbound as the 200 children quietly, calmly approach, then assemble in the shelter where we wait. These are the children left by cyclone Nargis ... and from the jungles where ethnic minorities are caught in conflict ... as they have been since Independence from British rule in 1947.



This dramatic scene then morphs into one where small groups of children are engrossed in books, eating fruit and cake, engaging with us, with humour and innocence. One small girl, looking at a picture of a white-haired gnome in a story book, smiles at Vic pointing at his beard and back to the gnome, both chuckling at the joke she had made.

By Candi Westney

WELCOME TO ISSUE 30

Please send articles to
miranda@omnipotent.com.au
or ring on 57969261

Thanks to Candi Westney for her article on her trip to Burma. I will include part two next week as it was too interesting to reduce the size any further. If you want to contact Bungle Boori about the Working Dog and Stock Handling school in early December. The 3 day school is run by Neil McDonald from Sherwood Kelpies, S A. (www.neilmcdonald.com.au). the correct email address is: bungle-boori@bluemaxx.com.au.

DOUBT OVER THE RAIL TRAIL??

Word had emerged from the Shire of Murrindindi, that unless funds can be found to assist farmers in fencing their properties, the future of the Rail Track was in doubt. So far the track has been prepared from Mansfield almost to Bonnie Doone. A large turnout of the community attended the Council meeting in the Highlands Hall on Wednesday 22nd September. Speakers were unanimous in saying that the Rail Track must go ahead for the benefit of the whole Shire.

A number of business people have already anticipated the completion of the Track and urged the Council not to forget its tourism value for the whole district.

While the original Advisory Committee, set up by the Council, had recommended that the costs of the Track should include paying for the fencing, the Shire Council was having difficulties in seeing where this money would come from.

Several speakers emphasized that not all farmers were interested in having a fence and that there were other ways of raising the money and encouraged the Council to develop a strategy to get the necessary funds. That the Rail Track should go ahead was the overwhelming desire of those present. The Council have now agreed to consult with the neighbouring Shires on the matter.

By Stuart Reid

Please note, there is a
Special meeting to discuss rail trail
by Murrindindi Shire Councillors on
Wednesday 6th October.
See the What's On Calendar for more details.

Community What's On Calendar - October /November 2010	
Fortnight beg 4th Oct	Terip Terip mowing roster Sue Martin Tim Andrews and Andrew Holloway Around Clubhouse and all 4 courts
Week beg	WHITEHEADS CREEK- TARCOMBE RFB TRUCK Glenn Christensen Tony Wallis
Tuesday 5th October	Save Energy, Save Money 6.30pm – 9pm Broadford Council Chambers 113 High Street Broadford Expert presenters and local residents will provide you with practical information to help you create a sustainable home, school or workplace. To register for workshops and for more information contact Cathy Koning, Sustainable Communities Coordinator on (03) 5734 6357 or via email cathyk@mitschellshire.vic.gov.au or visit www.sustainable-communities.com.au
Wednesday 6th October	Special meeting to discuss rail trail Murrindindi Shire Councillors will meet on to consider proposals that will advance the Goulburn River High Country Rail Trail in the shire. "Council has noted the offer by Mansfield of interest earned on the funds received being used to address the issue of boundary fencing for the project. Mitchell Shire has also agreed to this course of action," Cr Beales said. "There is a commitment by the Council to see the progress of the rail trail proceed. Wednesday's meeting will consider further options to progress the project that will be equitable to ratepayers and landholders.
Friday 8th October	'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. All welcome - especially new faces. Gold coin donation to cover power.
8th October- 7th November	Gallery 34 Invites you to the Solo Exhibition by Darren Gilbert , Artwork and selected sculptures. Current until 7 November 2010 34 High Street YEA Thursday to Saturday 9-4 Sundays & public holidays 10-4 Olivia Lawson 03 5797 3222 info@gallery34.com.au www.gallery34.com.au
Sunday 10th	Terip/Ruffy Uniting Church Communion Service 11.15am
Saturday 9th Oct	HIGHLANDS CAVEAT RURAL FIRE BRIGADE Working Bee / Training / General Meeting / B B Q Lunch When: 9:30am Where: At the Highlands Fire Shed What is happening: Starting with a Working Bee - Jobs to be done : Move Portable meeting room into final position, Gravel beside sheds, Finish water hydrants for filling trucks, Connect water under road to School tank Training on Private Slip-ons & Tankers. B B Q lunch (Meat & Veggie burgers provided) General Meeting What to bring: Private Slip-on units ("Mosquito Fleet") Salads & nibbles to share , BYO Drinks Who can come: Everyone (Young, Old & In between, Juniors) For further information contact: Captain – Les Lawson 57 969 265 Secretary – Alistair Lade 57 969 276
Saturday 9th October	Black Market 10am - 12pm: Swap & sell your home produce at this local food exchange and "open garden". This month it's being hosted by Paul Macgregor and Jocelyn Bennett, at Clearview Retreat, 404 Fairview Rd, Kerrisdale. Turn off the Goulburn Valley Hwy onto the King Parrot Creek Rd in the direction of Strath Creek. Fairview Rd is the first road on your right after you leave the Goulburn Valley Hwy. Contact 5797 0229, diversity@diversity.org.au , for more information. Download map from www.clearviewretreat.org.au
Sunday 10th October	White Hart Hotel 4.30pm - Trevor Dennis - a great mix of country a other favourites T: 03-5798-5203 E: white.hart@bigpond.com
Tuesday 12th October	Wildflower Walk :10.30am at Wallaby Gully Flora Reserve ,Upton Rd , Longwood East (on the Ruffy side of John McGregors chook farm - opposite Elgo Winery) Burnt Creek Landcare Group is hosting a walk into Wallaby Gully Flora Reserve followed by a BBQ at lunch at the Avenel Maze and a tour of some wonderful Avenel grasslands . Lots of local wildflower experts present to help with plant ID . Spectacular wildflowers this spring . Contact Janet Hagen 57 904268
Tuesday 12th October	Alexandra library an essential part of your community! 5772 0349 Junior Friends of the Library – New Books & Halloween Decorations 5.30 – 6.30
Thursday 14th October	How Healthy Is Your Soil? Composting For Farms Seminar This seminar will demonstrate the needs and opportunities for recycled organic usage in the broadacre and intensive agriculture sectors 10.30am-3.00pm Wallan Multipurpose Community Centre 42 Bentinck Street Wallan For further information on the day contact Cathy Koning on 5734 6357 or cathyk@mitschellshire.vic.gov.au
Friday 15th October	'Making Waves Unplugged' are returning for the evening. Katherine is a well accomplished singer and if we are lucky {or not} Graydon may dazzle us with a song or 2 also. Time- 7pm till 11pm. Both functions are \$25 per ticket which includes finger food, entertainment and entry into door prize which is \$100 voucher for our store. Drinks are available at bar prices. Bookings and payments are essential. Please call 03 57 962 469 or visit our website www.wbgadd.com
Friday 15th October	Managing Threatened Woodlands in a Farming Landscape Field Day Guest Speakers: Josh Dorrough, Research Scientist with CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems, Canberra, speaking on, 'Biodiversity in the Paddock'. Damian Michael, Senior Research Officer in Ecology/ Herpetology from Australian National University speaking on 'Wildlife Research in Threatened Woodlands of South East Australia'. When: (9:30am- 2:30pm) Where: Miepoll Hall, Violet Town- Murchison Road, CFA Map 292, approximately 20kms west of Violet Town, 23kms east of Murchison (morning session), Bush Stone Curlew site, for lunch, book launch and tour, afternoon session). Lunch Provided RSVP by: Wednesday 13th Contact Jim Begley on 57611574 or email: jimb@qbcma.vic.gov.au
Monday 18th October	Alexandra library an essential part of your community! 5772 0349 Vintage Readers – Grey power reading group 2 – 4pm

Classifieds & Community Notices

POULTY EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

2 18 kilo hanging feeders and 2 automatic bell drinkers. \$60 for the lot.
PH Shane 57976310

AUSTRALIAN OPEN GARDEN SCHEME 2010 – 2011

Local Gardens Open.

Two local gardens have been selected to take part in this years scheme.

The garden at 121 Knafl Road Taggerty is open on the 9th & 10th October 2010 between 10am to 4.30pm.

The February 2009 fires enveloped their property but with lots of hard work, rebuilding and replanting the garden has recovered and flourished.

The philosophy underpinning the gardens design and development has been to make the garden a habitat for native birds and animals and to blend into the magnificent Mt Cathedral. Blacksmith demonstrations, light refreshments and Cottage by the Sea produce will be for sale. A wonderful local Caribbean steel pan band, formed after Black Saturday, called Pans on Fire will entertain visitors to the garden.

THE CHRONICLES OF KENNETH

The MAD HATTERS are proud to present, 'THE CHRONICLES OF KENNETH', the continuing saga of Sir Kenneth Montague-Smythe, his family and friends. We can promise you laughs, songs, romance, intrigue, treachery, crimes of fashion, pirates, and a fearsome dragon, not to mention quite a lot of rats and ferrets. Fun for all the family! Performances to be held at the Highlands Hall, Friday, October 22nd and Saturday, October 23rd, at 7:30pm. Ticket details to be announced. For further information, contact: Pauline Roberts ph.57969301 or Susan Bennett ph.57904333.

A BLACK DINNER

Helen, Doug, and Nigel from the Ruffy Store have always had a desire to buy locally to insure good quality, traceable products. Scott and Julia McKay have been interested for some time to take their well-respected black Angus Cattle to the local market rather than to the export market. So between drinks at the Store on Friday nights the collaboration was hatched and this new venture began. Two beasts were chosen. Doug and Helen took one beast and Nigel has spent time working with a local butcher to insure the meat is presented to his high standards. Scott and Julia have wet aged their beast in individual cryovax packs so it will continue to age over the next five weeks and is available from the fridge at the Store. So on Saturday 16th October There is a Black Dinner at the Ruffy Store. 7.30pm, with beef on the menu! \$66 inc. GST, ex. Drinks
Dress: Black
RSVP The Ruffy Store 57 904387 (limited spaces available)

BITS OF BOTANY AND BIRDS

Australian Magpie

Known for its beautiful song, dive-bombing during spring and occasionally winning grand finals, the magpie needs little introduction.

Although there is only one species in Australia, there are several subspecies. Melbourne's has a white back, but the one in Highlands and further north is black across the middle of the back. You can tell adult males by the purity of the white plumage. In females and juveniles there's a greyish tinge to the white of the back. The adults' beaks are dark (almost black) at the tip and pale at the base but in juveniles the beak is a murky grey, though still a bit darker at the tip than the base. By Louise Currie

TERIP TERIP TENNIS TRAINING

Commences Thursday October 7 from 6pm - All Welcome.

SEYMOUR BUSHLAND PARK WALK ON THE WILDSIDE.

A large and enthusiastic group attended the annual Spring wildflower and discovery walk at the Seymour Bushland Park this weekend. Peter Mitchell and Barbara Moss were the guides, and though it was early in the season, they were able to find orchids and other beautiful plants in a small area of the park.

The park is primarily a nature reserve and has been recognised as such by Mitchell Shire Council which has placed a conservation covenant on the park. Surrounded by cleared land, the park is an oasis for native animals and plants, and is also a valuable reference for Landcare Groups.

Many native animals find refuge in the park which is enjoyed by locals and out of town visitors looking for a quiet retreat.

"It was a joy to see the excitement in the faces of the children, it makes it all worthwhile" said Lesley Dalziel, Committee of Management President. The committee plans on holding a wild-life evening walk later in the year.



NEW SECRETARY FOR THE HIGHLANDS HALL COMMITTEE

Following a farewell for Sue & Trevor Peterson, the Highlands Community Hall Committee is pleased to announce that Judy Cameron has taken over as Secretary/Treasurer, & Karli Chase has agreed to join the committee. To book the hall please contact Judy Cameron on 5796 9247. Watch out for a spring working bee at the hall coming shortly.

HiARTS FILM FESTIVAL 4th-6th March 2011

Attention all film makers and photographers! In addition to the screening of a number of feature and short films from general circulation, it is planned to also screen films made by people from the local community including school children. No matter how short, we would most welcome local material. As with the Art Exhibition earlier this year we will again display photographic work contributed by local people about local issues, people and scenery.



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