



PEOPLE AND PLACES

THE BUSH STONE-CURLEW

Fifty years ago, Bush Stone-curlews were very common in the grassy woodlands in northern Victoria - they were often seen, their calls were regularly heard, and they were even sighted in flocks during the breeding season. But today the situation is vastly different – the birds are rarely seen, their calls are heard infrequently and they are struggling to survive in our ever changing landscapes.

“The Bush Stone-curlew in Northern Victoria – Conversations and Conservation” book was recently launched on the property of Graeme and Heather, and Don Hunt at Miepoll (just north of Euroa). Fifty people from around northern Victoria enjoyed a warm cup of soup before Susan Sleight from the Department of Primary Industries and the author spoke about the metamorphosis of the book.

“In 2007, I was employed with the Bush Stone-curlew Project in the districts of Longwood and Violet Town to highlight the plight of the birds and the actions required to conserve them into the future. At that time I had never seen a Bush-stone curlew and knew very little about this secretive bird which is listed as endangered under Victoria’s Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act. Despite all this, I met the challenge with commitment and an endeavour to make a difference for the Bush-stone Curlew.

During my tenure as Project Officer, I visited many landholders, talked to Landcare and other community groups, and delivered the story of decreasing number of curlews and interactions between them; reduced and fragmented habitat and the threat of foxes to this ground dwelling bird, particularly to their young, and the eggs which are laid on the ground.

In return, I was furnished with wonderful recollections and stories of Bush Stone-curlews as well as spectacular photographs, and these were incorporated along the way into my power point presentations to groups and eventually into the book.

To all the landholders who I visited, I sincerely thank you as this is in so many ways your story. The book took on a new dimension with the involvement of her two co-authors, Lance William and Kate Stothers, and many others who provided valuable input are acknowledged on the inside of the front cover.

My hope is that this book will make a difference and be the catalyst for actions to ensure the Bush-stone Curlew is around for a long time and that children today will be able to tell their children about the blood curdling call of the curlew.

The project and book would not have been possible without the support and funding from the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority, the Department of Sustainability and Environment, the Department of Primary Industries, Trust for Nature, the Broken Boosey Conservation Management Network and the Australian Government’s financial assistance through the Natural Heritage Trust and Caring for Country programs. By Susan Sleight.

The books are free and can be obtained by contacting Susan on 57904301 or emailing Susan.Sleight@dpi.vic.gov.au.



WELCOME TO ISSUE 36

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

IMPORTANT FOR RABBIT RIPPING PROGRAM

Could all those involved in the rabbit ripping program send me an email to let me know how they are going. All of the ripping needs to be done before the end of the year (31st of Decemeber). If you have not organised an excavator to come to your property you need to do it now. Also for those of you whom have requested more than 30 hours will need me to do an inspection, please email me (Edwina Mckay) to organise a time. hughes.creek1@gmail.com also unfortunately I have had to change my number again. My new number is 0410459065

Also this Wednesday we are going to be planting at the highlands arboretum, we really need some help and would really appreciate it if anyone could give a helping hand. Please email me if you are able to help.

NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY

REMEMBRANCE DAY

The following is a talk that the senior students jointly wrote for Remembrance Day. Imogen Geffert was given the task of pulling it all together and presenting it to the whole school on Thursday morning of the 11/11/2010.

“The 11th of November 1918, was the end of WW1 where many died. We use Remembrance Day to remember those people. The first Remembrance Day was conducted in 1919 (the year after the end of WW1). It used to be called Armistice Day. Remembrance Day is a day where Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, the United Kingdom along with many other countries remember and mourn over the death of the many soldiers who fought in WW1.

At 11:00 on the 11th day of the 11th month we will spend 1 min thinking about and thanking the 16.5 million soldiers and civilians who died in the First World War. Sometimes people gather at a war memorials where they have a Remembrance Day services to appreciate the soldiers. During your minute silence or memorial you should feel sad for the one’s that died, happy that they fought for peace and freedom, lucky that you were not part of the war and proud of your country.

The soldiers were not dying for profitable gain but for liberty and the right to be free. They wanted their family to be free and their friends as well as people that they did not know.

So this is the reason that we have Remembrance Day: we can reflect on the people who died during the wars so no one will ever be forgotten.

Here is a poem that Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae wrote on the 3rd of May 1915.

In Flanders Fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.”

Community What's On Calendar - November/December 2010

Fortnight beg 22nd Novem-	Terip Terip mowing roster Tim and Francis Lawrence Denise and Bruce McLennan Both sides of Springs Road and all 4 courts
Week beg 28th Nov	WHITEHEADS CREEK- TARCOT RFB TRUCK Mark Stokes Josh Coysh
Tuesday 16th November	Alexandra library an essential part of your community! 5772 0349 Tuesday Show – Inspiring Indonesia 1-2pm
Tuesday 16 November	Ruffy Community Action Group – Ruffy Hall, 8.00 pm. We will give an update on progress with our projects and discuss our Action Plan for next year. As this is the last meeting for the year, it will be followed by a light supper and drinks. Anybody interested in community planning for Ruffy is invited to the meeting!
Thursday 18th November	Winton Wetlands are returning. Come and enjoy the sights and sounds of the wetlands, join us for a BBQ lunch and an adventure tour. 10.30-3pm Call 57611549 or info@wintonwetlands.org for catering and tours.
Saturday 20th Nov	White Hart Hotel 7.45pm - Barb Waters & the Mother of Pearl - Their songs are country smooth, sweet as honey T: 03-5798-5203 E: white.hart@bigpond.com Barb Waters hails from Mt Buffalo and will be bringing her four piece band to Longwood for a night of smooth country music. Entry is \$\$\$ Free.
Saturday 20th November	You are invited to the Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative AGM 1pm Lunch Rocky Passes Winery 1590 Highlands Rd Whiteheads Creek Guest speaker : Charlie Sexton , Regional Landcare Facilitator Topic: Pasture Cropping RSVP Janet Hagen 57 904268 jhagen@harboursat.com.au (meal provided , buy your our drinks)
Monday 22nd November	Ruffy CFA Pre-Summer Meeting -8pm, Ruffy Hall. J Hagen, Secretary
Thursday 25th November	Secret Men's Business. This will be the last meeting for 2010, please join us at the Caveat Church for a local get-together and Barbeque, on the last Thursday of November at 5-30pm. All welcome
Friday 26th November	Highlands Caveat Rural Fire Brigade Pre-season Meeting to be held at the Highlands Hall at 7:30pm We need as many people as possible to attend so that we get the required quorum A Lade
Saturday 27th November	Alternative Transport – Bikes, Scooters and Feet workshop Euroa This event is timed to co-incide with the Great Victorian Bike Ride which visits Euroa on the Sunday. Speakers will include local cyclist Gary Newvine who will talk about how to maintain a bike and how he became involved in top level cycling. The lucky door prize is a Family Rail Pass to travel any where in Victoria, valued at \$180, compliments of V/Line. Time: 1pm – 4pm Venue: The Euroa Butter Factory Bookings: Cathy Koning 5734 6357 or email cathyk@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au
Saturday 27th November	There will be a training day for HCRFB members at the Wangaratta CFA Complex. It will involve such scenarios as a car fire with a gas tank, a house fire, a gas cylinder fire and a two hose attack on a gas fire. All activities will be hands on. A bus will leave the fire shed at 8.30 am and lunch will be provided. For this to work we will need a strong commitment by at least 12 members by the 15th of November, so if you are available please contact Peter on 57969301 ASAP.
Saturday 27th November	STORMWATER HARVESTING FIELD DAY from 12pm - Victorian Election Day The Burnt Creek Landcare Group in conjunction neighbouring landcare groups and the Strathbogie Ranges branch of the Australian Plants Society will hold a field day on the capture and more efficient use of stormwater as part of a broader program called "Waterwise Living - In the Home and on the Farm". For further information contact Sandy MacKenzie 0411 552 426 sandymackenzie@ozemail.com.au
Monday 29 November	SOIL WORKSHOP Anyone is welcome to a soil test interpretation workshop that Yea River Catchment Landcare group is holding on Cath Botta - soil scientist, educator and facilitator - will be leading the workshop. If you have not yet heard Cath speak on the subject, then don't miss this opportunity. She explains soil biology and chemistry clearly and succinctly and will solve the mystery of your soil tests. Bring along a soil test - hopefully any test-specific queries will be answered by the end of the day, but if not, we hope to have time towards the end of the session to clarify such queries. WHERE: Yea Shire Offices, The Semi-circle, Yea (next to the library) TIME: 9.30 am (sharp) - 3.30 pm WHAT TO BRING: notepad and pen; lunch. Morning tea will be provided. COST: Free RSVP: JUDY BROOKES by 24 NOVEMBER
Saturday 3rd December	Next Yea Community Market. More information to follow.

Classifieds & Community Notices

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Hi Miranda,

Whilst in my local newsagency the other day, I decided I'd like a magazine to read. I'd purchased a magazine called The Owner Builder on previous occasions, but I hadn't bought a copy for some time. When I spied the Oct/Nov 2010 edition sitting on the shelf I thought it looked like it may have some interesting reading. As I began to flick through the mag, an article titled "Owner building 15 years on. Was it worth the pain?" attracted my attention. It was an interesting article about a Stuart and Judy who had purchased "a very large bush block in the mountains" and how they had constructed their own mud brick home over a period of many years. Yes, it was none other than Stuart and Judy Reid. I thoroughly enjoyed reading the article and I'm wondering if anyone else has seen it? I noticed they even managed to do a great job of promoting HiArts at the end of the story. Well done Stuart and Judy.

Regards Sylvia Read

GRANITE NEWS READERS

It is a fantastic local resource and will be on the web forever; a really good example of what the internet can do for local areas.

<http://strathbogierangesnaturalhistory.blogspot.com/>

From Bridget Clarke

FOR SALE

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BUSH GUARDIANS GRANT PROGRAMME

Bush Guardians is a community based small grants program that aims to protect threatened flora and fauna from the impact of weeds and pests. The program encourages volunteer groups to propose, manage and undertake on ground works on public land.

Through this program community and government work in partnership to find solutions and provide practical hands on management for long term environmental benefits. The closing date for applications is Tuesday 30 November 2010. For more information contact Emily Lee, on 5336 6758 or emily.lee@dse.vic.gov.au

RECENT SIGHTINGS of a RARE and ENDANGERED SPECIES at WALLABY GULLY

A fleeting glimpse of a hither-to thought -to-be extinct species occurred during the recent Wallaby Gully Nature Walk by members of the Burnt Creek and Hughes Creek Landcare Groups and the Strathbogie Ranges branch of the Australian Plants Society.

That doyen of all things animate and environmental, Janet Hagen from Ruffy, was the first to spot two specimens of this rare species and instantly determined that they were a breeding pair. There is hope yet, that with the right conditions and with public awareness growing, a genetically stable population will be established at Wallaby Gully.

The Nature Walkers were so overcome with emotion that they gathered together and composed an ode to commemorate this momentous occasion.

"In the bush from time to time
We might just sight some paradigms
Through the heath they slyly creep
And then suddenly make a paradigm
leap
Oh! it is a wondrous sight
To see two paradigms in full flight"

John McGregor, our Landcare Group Chairman and Wallaby Gully neighbour, will act as the custodian of these paradigms and provide a wildlife rescue service if need be. He would be delighted to hear of further sightings.

Once we can obtain a photo of these wonderful creatures, the Burnt Creek Group will apply for a biodiversity protection grant to erect information boards and install a paradigm bridge over Upton Road similar to the possum rope-bridges on the Hume Freeway. Further suggestions regarding protection measures from readers will be most welcome.

Are You Fire Ready?

The whole state is facing a "bumper fire year" and already the grass and vegetation is drying off rapidly.

Firebreaks around buildings and power lines should have been eaten out or slashed by now and equipment should be prepared and tested. Remember on Black Saturday 2009, there were hardly any fire trucks and crews left to protect our towns and farms in the Seymour/Nagambie/Euroa/Strathbogie areas on that extreme day.

By Sandy McKenzie,
Taken from the Burnt Creek Newsletter

HIGHLANDS CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY BREAK UP

Where: Highlands hall
When: Friday 10th December
Time: 6PM
BYO everything BBQ

PROGRAMME

7.00 PM Start
MC for the evening is Elly Fischer,
Highlands Primary School,
School Council President
Acts begin:
Song from HPS
.Hi Arts Part 1
Hall Committee
HPS Awards and
2011 Leaders announced
CFA
Ramblers
Song from HPS
Mad Hatters
Hi Arts Part 2
HPS leading the singing of Christmas
carols
Santa arrives to Jingle Bells
Tea and coffee

If you would like to suggest changes or additions to this programme please contact Elly Fischer tahlina@hotmail.com or Meagan Callander PH 57969208 Presents from Santa can be left at Highlands Primary School.

IN MEMORY of DEB GARRETT

A "pyjama party" to honour the femmes of Highlands and Caveat.
Highlands Hall
Friday Nov 19, 2010 7.00pm

Wear your PJs (or equivalent) to be comfy, relaxed and a little bit silly. Bring something to drink, a plate to share, a gold coin towards the hall hire, a relevant song, poem or story, a fun activity or something for a laugh.

Tea and coffee provided. All girls welcome. May we have a memorable night of friendship.
RSVP: Andrea Whitaker 57 969 209

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

A big thank you to all those volunteers who turned up for a working bee at the Highlands hall on Saturday 13th November despite the wet weather. The rain focused us indoors & we got an amazing amount of work done.

No Drinks on the Deck

There will be No Drinks on the Deck in December as it coincides with the Community Break Up. Will see you all there on the 10th December.

Rocky Passes



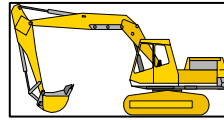
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Mobile: 0458 953 000