



PEOPLE AND PLACES

Antechinuses in the house

If you think you have a mouse problem in your house, have another look at the droppings. If some are over 1cm long, thin and black, then you've probably got antechinuses - a small carnivorous marsupial - instead.

The most common species locally is the Agile Antechinus, which is about the same size as a mouse, maybe slightly larger, and has a more pointed face. I've found a few dead ones and they have very sharp and fierce-looking teeth, but so far all the live ones I've seen have kept their mouths firmly shut. They're very good climbers and get into our house by climbing up the outside mudbrick wall and finding a hole somewhere under the eaves. They seem to live in the spare bedding in the loft but we also find their droppings throughout the kitchen, and have seen them running down the kitchen walls a couple of times. From across the room I couldn't tell them from mice.

Another local species, the Dusky Antechinus is a bit larger and doesn't climb, and Peg Lade has once found one in her house.

We've been setting Elliot traps baited with muesli mixed with peanut butter and honey, and have so far caught three from about 10 attempts, and released them away from the house. I'm hoping they find the experience scary enough not to come back inside, and to warn off all their friends.

Strangely for marsupials they don't have pouches, which I would have thought contradicted the very definition of marsupial! The males only live a year - dying exhausted after a few days vigorous mating.

By Louise Currie



NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY

STUDENT OF THE WEEK



Student of the Week

Emily Gilbert: For working really hard on her writing and independently having a go. Well done!

Burma

Thank you to Jenny Webb and Pete who spoke to the students about life in Burma. Students from HPS are completing samples of work and video clips to send over to the school with Jenny in January. Jenny mentioned that the school had an enrolment of 7000 students, with approximately 100 students in each classroom!

If anyone in the community has any high quality children's books that they no longer need and would be happy to donate to the orphanages of Burma, please drop them in to HPS before the end of term as both Pete and Miranda are going over in January to do some teaching with Jenny. Olivia McKay, an ex student of HPS is also going to help in the schools so there's a lot of HPS representation heading off.



All the students were absorbed in what Jenny had to tell them and they wanted to know how to help the students of Burma. It certainly helped them appreciate all the amazing resources and support they experience at HPS. How lucky we are!

WELCOME TO ISSUE 39

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

Next week will be the last Granite News for 2010. Unfortunately the current mailman has lost the tender for the Highlands mail run. I have not spoken to the new mail person so I can't be sure that they will be prepared to continue the free community service of delivering TGN. If you don't receive one next week you'll know why, fingers crossed.

In case this is our last issue by snail mail for this year I'd like to thank all the people who have helped keep the newsletter going this year. A huge thank you to Louise Currie for her excellent 'Bits of Botany and Birds', Cindy Hayes for collecting the Ruffy newsletters from HPS each week, to the folders Jan Hayes, Mavis Cooke, Margaret Milburn, Dennis Spiteri, Pauline and Peter Roberts, Kylie Horne and Karli Chase.

ADVERTISING IN THE GRANITE NEWS IN 2011

If you would like to secure a spot on the back of The Granite News you need to act now.

Please send a cheque for \$250 made out to the HCCC (Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative) and post it, with your email details to:
M Yorston,
1537 Ghin Ghin Road,
Highlands 3660

as soon as possible. Whoever gets their cheque in first secures a spot.


LOCUST PLAQUE

The Department of Primary Industries has repeated its call to landholders to report locust egg laying as swarming activity increases over large parts of Victoria. State Locust Director Stephen Nee said locusts had taken flight across areas along the Murray and south of Swan Hill, with some swarms stretching up to 25kms.

Locust swarms can be unpredictable, but with warmer weather forecast in the state's north this weekend, it's expected that greater numbers of locusts may start to fly.

"We urge motorists to take care as swarms can impact on visibility when driving. Drivers should pull over or slow down if their vision is impaired by swarms." DPI Daily Situation Update - 5.00pm, Saturday December 4, 2010

Community What's On Calendar - December/January 2010

Fortnight beg 29th Nov	Terip Terip mowing roster Merv Penny Max & Joan Eddy Car park and all 4 courts
Week beg 19th Dec	WHITEHEADS CREEK- TARCOMBE RFB TRUCK Kate Coulson Ralph Provan
Friday 10th December	HIGHLANDS CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY BREAK UP Where: Highlands hall Time: 6PM BYO everything BBQ Acts start at 7pm Presents from Santa can be left at Highlands Primary School contact Elly Fischer tahlina@hotmail.com or Meagan Callander PH 57969208
Friday 10th December	AFFORDABLE ART FAIR AT GALLERY 34 YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR DRINKS WITH THE ARTISTS Christmas Show 6 o'clock at 34 High Street Yea RSVP info@gallery34.com.au Ph 03 57 973 222 • Original unframed Artworks by Peter Hook, Karen Pirie, Corinne Border, Tony Flint • Sculpture • Jewellery • Ceramic tableware • Handmade Christmas Cards Christmas Trading Hours Thursday 9th December 9-4 Friday 10th December 9-4 Saturday 11th December 9-4 Sunday 12th December 10-4 Monday 13th – Sunday 19th December 9-4 CLOSED FROM 20th DECEMBER www.gallery34.com.au
Saturday 11th December Black Market	Black Market 10am - 12pm: Swap & sell your home produce at this local food exchange and "open garden". This month it's being hosted by Megan Hollick (home of metier aromatherapy), 10 Collas St, Seymour. Megan has a delightful herb and flower garden, and will talk about the uses of various plants which she grows and uses in her aromatherapy and massage treatments. Contact Paul Macgregor on 5797 229, diversity@diversity.org.au , or Megan on 5799 0284 for more information.
Sunday 12th December	Terip/Ruffy Uniting Church meets at 2.00pm. Songs, music and stories of Christmas followed by afternoon tea.
Friday 14th January	'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. "Don't forget the Aerogard!!".
Sunday 19th December	 <p style="text-align: center;">LIVE AT THE WHITE HART HOTEL The HAIRY LASSO'S back from another sell out world tour. 4.30pm. Return taxis– price per person \$10 Euroa/Avenel/ Longwood East \$15 Nagambie \$20 Seymour./Violet Town Bookings are essential 63 Hill Street, Longwood PH 57985203 white.hart@bigpond.com</p>
Saturday 18th December	Ruffy & Highlands Cricket Match 1pm at the Ruffy Rec., is the annual end of year grudge match between Ruffy & Highlands . Any actual cricketer with any connection to Ruffy, however slight, is invited. We need to reclaim the trophy and bragging rights. As much as the ageing cricketers may think that the match is the main event, it is just background entertainment for our district Christmas get together. Santa will visit; BYO food & drinks for the BBQ that follows. Hobbies Howe sausages & steak available at the Ruffy Store
Friday 24th December	The Christmas Eve Service will be held in the Caveat Church at 5pm. It will be a simple service catering for all ages. We are still wanting someone able to play Christmas carols. Contact Stuart Reid 5796 9358.
Friday 7th January	Leone Gabrielle Solo Exhibition at Ruffy Store."BIRD SONGS" Paintings and Sculpture. 7 Jan Opening night. Exhibition runs till 14 March 2011.
Saturday 8th January 2011	TERIP TERIP ANNUAL SOCIAL TOURNAMENT - Come along and enjoy a relaxed family day of tennis. Sections 1 & 2 and Juniors. Entry includes approx 4 sets tennis, morning and afternoon tea. Light lunch, BBQ tea and cold drinks all available. 10.00 start \$10 entry includes morning and afternoon tea (Children & Family concession) Enquiries: Helen McKenzie – 5790 4211 Cindy Hayes – 5790 4226 Frances Lawrence – 0427 904 262 Sue Martin – 5790 4277
Wednesday 26th January	SEYMOUR AUSTRALIA DAY CEREMONY AND MARKET - from 8.30am to 1pm Venue: Old Courthouse Precinct, cnr Tallarook & High Streets, Seymour The 2011 event commences with a free Australia Day Breakfast at 9.00 am, followed by a ceremony with Ambassador Tony Beddison AO, former Australia Day Committee Chairman and current Chairman of Royal Children's Hospital, including citizenship ceremony, presentation of Australia Day Awards by local Councillors and music by Mitchell Shire Concert Band. From 8.30am - 1.00pm there is also a market running in the adjacent area which will have a range of goods and produce and displays by local community groups and emergency services. Stall enquiries ring 5796-9295. Contact: Carol Smith on 5799 1970

Classifieds & Community Notices

FOR SALE

USED 3'6" GALV NETTING FROM TENNIS COURT - HEAVY DUTY. \$2 METRE. APPROX 50 METRE ROLLS.

Also: USED 50MM GALV POSTS - 3 MTR. HEAVY GAUGE \$20 EA. INQUIRIES T. GEORGE 5790 4318.

FOR SALE

3 ROLLUP LIGHT BLUE BLINDS 2.5M WIDE AND ONE 2M WIDE BLIND CALL MEAGAN 57969208

ATTENTION all FILM MAKERS and PHOTOGRAPHERS!

People wishing to exhibit photographs in the HiArts "Film and Family Festival (4th to 6th March 2011) and those who would like to screen their own produced films are encouraged to contact Stuart Reid for details of entry (5796 9358 kadumbula@mac.com). There is no fee for such entries. We would want to encourage young and old to 'have a go' at portraying their local community, its people and the environment.

WHAT IS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT?

Community development is a broad term used to describe specific activities that improve participation, coordination, efficiency, investment and connectivity in the community. The focus is primarily on working with local groups and organisations rather than one-on-one with individuals or families.

Alexandra and Yea Hospital use community development to achieve the Social Model of Health. This recognises the effect of social, economic, cultural and political factors and conditions on health and wellbeing. It is aimed at preventing and reducing illness and addressing inequalities and disadvantage that exist within the community.

1. Recognition of the broad social, economic and environmental determinants of health and illness
2. The importance of health promotion and disease prevention
3. The importance of community participation in decision making
4. The importance of working with sectors outside of health
5. An understanding that equity is an important outcome of health service intervention

Alexandra District Hospital - 5772 0800
Yea Community Health - Yea & District Memorial Hospital - phone 5736 0410

BITS OF BOTANY AND BIRDS

Yellow-faced honeyeater *Lichenostomus chrysops*

This little honeyeater spends the winter in NSW or southern Queensland and returns each spring to nest in the grapevine on our verandah. They build a new nest each year and it doesn't rest on a branch but is woven and suspended from 2-3 twigs like knitting on needles. The birds are a dark greyish-olive-brown, paler below and with a distinct black-edged yellow stripe across the eye.



POULTY EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

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

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GENERATOR - Gentech 2.5Kva
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\$100 from the sale will be donated to the Tablelands Community Centre Project. Contact Don Cook 57904007 or 0408929818 A GREAT BUY!

WANTED Musicians for Christmas Eve Service!

A Christmas Eve Service is being planned in the Caveat Church at 5pm on Friday 24th December.

We need someone who can play carols (well known ones) to accompany the singing. A key board can be supplied. Contact Stuart Reid 5796 9358.

RUFFY STORE EARLY SUMMER NEWS

Season – a farmer's view

What a fantastic year. Rain, just when we wanted it. Grass knee high. Excellent sheep and cattle prices (if you are selling). All our native plants making up for past drought conditions. Hay and silage bales scattered all over the paddocks. Farmers aren't allowed to be so positive, therefore should we mention locusts?

The store's garden is marvelously green and lush providing even more shade this summer to enjoy outdoor lunch. We are keen to grow more of our own and are experimenting with veggies grown in wooden fruit bins. Excellent reviews from the possums so far.

Wild 4 Art On the walls and in the garden, an exhibition of sensationally good Australian wildlife paintings, linocuts, drawings and sculptures, by noted artists Darren Gilbert, Vida Pearson, Janet Matthews and Rodger Scott until 3 January 2011

More Klop in the shop. A great log tossing game from the forests of Finland and a great Christmas present. The first Strathbogie Ranges Klop Challenge to be held in autumn.

A Christmas /New Year wine bar special 10% off a mixed half dozen wines from the Strathbogie Ranges and Upper Goulburn Wine Regions

COMMUNITY MESSAGING PILOT IN YEA

Delivering key and critical messages to the community will be trialed in Yea before the end of the year with a Community Messaging System (CMS) across the northern Victorian town.

Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor Peter Beales said the system, developed by the not-for-profit EduHelp Foundation, would be extended from Yea High School to allow certified and authorised personnel to send messages direct to the local community.

The CMS will allow certified and authorised personnel to send messages direct to the local community via the SMS on the mobile phone. Funding for the project will come from philanthropy and grants assembled by the Bendigo Bank Community Fund, Berry Street, and other benevolent groups. The pilot will be well established before the official start of the bushfire season.

People wanting further information are asked to contact Pip Smibert on 0412 527 082 or at

pip.smibert@safestudent.com.au

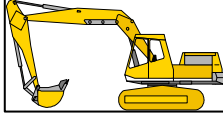
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