



BOTANY, BIRDS & CREATURES

WINTER WILDLIFE OBSERVATIONS in MAGGIES LANE

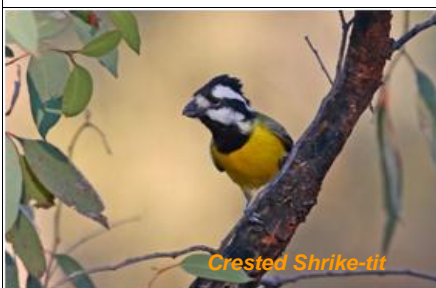
By Martin O'Brien — Melbourne

An opportunity to get up to the Ruffy district again presented itself at the end of my current leave and the forecasted cold and wet conditions didn't stop us from seeing (but mostly hearing) various native species in this part of Victoria.

The onset of wet and cold weather certainly dampened the detection of birds but our visit to the Maggies Lane area north of Ruffy still managed to detect 27 species and the usual Grey Kangaroos plus Common Wombats and a Red Fox.

I can recommend a visit to this area at any time of year and it helps if you can recognise birds by their calls, especially during wintry conditions.

There were two highlights for the weekend. One was seeing a pair of Crested Shrike-tits foraging in a patch of wattles and eucalypts. These yellow, black and white birds have a sturdy beak they use to peel back bark on smooth-barked eucalypts where they find insects, larvae and spiders as food. Their presence can often be detected by the calls (one of which is 'knock-at-the-door') or the tearing of bark from tree branches and trunks. The species is threatened in parts of Australia but is probably still secure here in Victoria. Next time you're out near any suitable habitat, have a listen for this wonderful bird with the Mohican-like 'crest'. Another of our native birds with real character.



Crested Shrike-tit

The other was observing a pair of juvenile Eastern Grey Kangaroos 'playing'. One animal would stand in front of the other, rear up with chest exposed and then race around in loops at high speed before returning to the other animal. This behaviour wasn't well coordinated though and the rearing kangaroo kept losing its balance (falling sideways) which looked quite comical in the drizzly conditions.

NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Student of the Week *Bridie*



**For outstanding Home Learning each week and successful results on her spelling tests.
Well done!**

Woolworths Earn & Learn: Thank you for the Earn & Learn stickers. Keep them coming! The stickers finish this Sunday.

Zone Cross Country: Congratulations to Jessica and Kendall who represented HPS at Thursday's Zone Cross Country, in trying conditions! Well done girls.

Football Clinic: A number of students from years 3-6 enjoyed a football clinic conducted by Richmond Football Club players on Wednesday. Many thanks to Miranda and Kathleen for accompanying students and to Philip Wischer for assisting with transport.

By Meagan Callander-Principal HPS

Here's my list for this area from a day or so surveying for birds.

Birds

Australian Raven—Australian Magpie
Crimson Rosella—White-throated Tree-creeper—Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
Long-billed Corella—Golden Whistler
Grey Shrike-Thrush—Striated Pardalote
Eastern Spinebill—Little Thornbill
Mistletoebird—Pied Currawong—Grey Currawong—Eastern Yellow Robin
Silvereye—White-naped Honeyeater
Crested Shrike-tit—Superb Fairy-wren
Grey Fantail—Wedge-tailed Eagle
Common Blackbird—Welcome Swallow
Brown Thornbill—Galah—Grey Butcherbird—Yellow-rumped Thornbill

Mammals

Eastern Grey Kangaroo—Common Wombat—Red Fox—European Rabbit



Hughes Creek
Catchment Collaborative

READERS' WRITES

* "I salute Susan Sleigh for her article in this weeks GN.
I have been President of WHC Landcare for the past few years and it always worries me that when a project is finished it is never monitored and promises are not honoured.
We planted 500 trees, just my husband and I, on the Goulburn River frontage, when we arrived. We were supplied with the trees, guards etc and some money for fencing. We have honoured our commitment to keep the cattle out as much as possible but the GBMC has never come past to check. Fighting this wind farm I see how with the stroke of a pen these wonderful corridors can be demolished and our work is in vain. We need to work together especially with the follow ups."—Carolyn Braun, Trawool

LANDCARE is LISTENING

The HCCC Landcare meeting was very well attended on Friday May 31st.

Opinions are divided whether it was because of the warmth & ambience of the Ruffy Produce Store, the free drinks, or the opportunity for landholders to come along and express their thoughts about which future Landcare projects they think would be most worthwhile.

Whatever the reason, it was a dynamic & interesting session with everyone making a contribution.

Even Gerry Ginnivan's suggestion to employ remote-control flying Drones to monitor the landscape received consideration!

An extensive list of ideas was recorded by Janet Hagen, including:

- * Remote controlled water points
- * Soil moisture level monitoring
- * Digital mapping and weather stations
- * Investigation into tree die back
- * Nesting Boxes and game cameras
- * Hill top pasture improvement trials
- * Involvement of young people and corporates in our Landcare activities

President, Michael Kopanica explained that the change of format will continue for the next 2 monthly meetings, both at the Ruffy Store, and he encouraged all local landholders to come along and to contribute their thoughts.

COMMUNITY “WHAT’S ON” CALENDAR - JUNE 2013

<p>Now until Sunday 16th June 11am—4:30pm</p>	<p>DARREN GILBERT’S “WILD4ART” EXHIBITION The Light Factory Gallery 21 Brougham St., Eltham Another stunning exhibition of wildlife art by local artist Darren Gilbert Gallery is open Wednesday to Sunday. Contact 9439 1206 or www.thelightfactorygallery.com.au</p>
<p>Sunday 9th June 11:15am</p>	<p>St. DAVID’S UNITING CHURCH, TERIP-RUFFY Ruffy Road, Terip Terip This service with Holy Communion will be conducted by Minister Fred Jungwirth. All welcome. For any information Contact Jennifer Penny 5790 4233</p>
<p>Wednesday 12th June 8:00pm</p>	<p>RUFFY FIRE BRIGADE Post-Season Meeting Tablelands Community Centre (Old Ruffy School) Post season meeting to review the previous fire season and to lay out plans for the upgrade of the Ruffy Fire Shed . All Ruffy CFA members should attend. Contact John Furlanetto 0427 344956</p>
<p>F riday 14th June 6.30pm</p>	<p>LANDCARE COMMUNITY AWARDS DINNER Murchison Community Centre Free dinner and buses from Longwood & Euroa. All Landcare and Conservation Management Network members are encouraged to attend. To book your seat Contact Janet Hagen 5790 4268</p>
<p>Friday 14th June 6.30pm</p>	<p>‘DRINKS ON THE DECK’ at Highlands Community Hall 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. Contact Judy Cameron 5796 9247</p>
<p>Saturday 15th June 9am-1pm</p>	<p>EUROA VILLAGE FARMERS MARKET Rotary Park, Kirkland Ave., Euroa “Meet, Greet, Eat & Shop” A wonderful range of farm fresh produce from “local” producers. Contact Leah Jones 5795 1886 or hunaleah@mcmmedia.com.au</p>
<p>Saturday 15th June 9am-6pm</p>	<p>HISTORIC RALLY ASSOCIATION “PowerPlay” Rally Sprint Yarck-Caveat-Terip The Rallysprint is a one day event and will be based at the Koala Country Orchards Packing Shed on Maroondah Hwy in Yarck. It will run ‘closed stages’ in the local district under authorisation of CAMS, Murrindindi Shire, Vic Police & Vicroads. Contact Mike Conway 0412 590 984</p>
<p>Saturday 15th June 6pm</p>	<p>MIDWINTER CHRISTMAS DINNER Terip Terip Recreation Reserve All are invited to celebrate a Midwinter’s Christmas with the Terip Terip community. Adults \$25—Children Free Please come dressed in your best Christmas Outfit Contact Kate Wright 5790 4148</p>
<p>Saturday 15th June 8:00pm Sunday 16th June 4:00pm</p>	<p>EUROA CINEMA “Performance” 106 mins (M) Drama/ Music **** 4 stars It seems that we have a theme happening with the recent screening of Quartet. This slightly more restrained story about another highly successful quartet whose members are facing the news that one of their members may not be able to continue. The announcement provokes a crisis within the group. This is a moving film, with some lovely music and fabulous performances by the actors – Christopher Walken, Philip Seymour Hoffman and Katherine Keener.</p>
<p>Monday 17th June 7:30pm</p>	<p>TABLELANDS COMMUNITY CENTRE@RUFFY Nolans Road, Ruffy (Old Ruffy School) Monthly Committee Meeting, but everyone is always welcome. Contact Kerry 5790 4392</p>
<p>Friday 21st June 7:00pm</p>	<p>RUFFY HAPPY HOUR (or TWO!) Ruffy Community Hall, Nolans Road “Come along and catch up with friends or meet someone new, everyone welcome!” BBQ provided BYO meat/drinks and a salad or sweet to share Contact Henry 5790 4246</p>
<p>Sunday 23rd June 11:15am</p>	<p>St. DAVID’S UNITING CHURCH, TERIP-RUFFY Ruffy Road, Terip Terip This service will be conducted by James Carter. All welcome. For any information Contact Jennifer Penny 5790 4233</p>
<p>Thursday 27th June 5:30pm</p>	<p>SECRET MEN’S BUSINESS Old Caveat Church, Caveat-Dropmore Rd, Caveat Come along and have a casual chat with other local blokes. BBQ Tea Provided (Gold Coin) BYO Drinks</p>
<p>Friday 28th June From 6pm</p>	<p>ROCKY PASSES TAPAS NIGHT Rocky Passes Winery 1590 Highlands Rd., Whiteheads Creek The popular Tapas Nights provide a relaxing way to end the week by enjoying great food & wine with friends. Contact 5796 9366 or Email contact@rockypasses.com.au</p>
<p>Friday 28th June 7:30pm</p>	<p>TABLELANDS FAMILY BINGO NIGHT Tablelands Community Centre@Ruffy Nolans Road Family Fun & Prizes—20 Rounds—\$1 per Playing Card Every Round Wins a Prize—Final Round Prize \$50 Everyone is Welcome Free Supper Provided Contact Sally 5790 4335 or 0407 904335</p>
<p>Friday 28th June 7:30pm</p>	<p>HCCC LANDCARE MEETING Ruffy Produce Store, Nolans Rd., Ruffy “Free Drinks” All local landholders are welcome & encouraged to attend. The meeting is relaxed & informative and Landcare is interested to hear your views about how we can deliver the most appropriate & effective environmental programmes to support the local community of flora, fauna and people. Contact Janet Hagen 5790 4268</p>

Classifieds & Community Notices

LOCAL GOINGS ON

WOOLSHED DANCE a SHEAR DELIGHT for HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Highlands Primary School held its 2nd annual Wool Shed Dance, Saturday 1st June. A big crowd packed the historic Woolshed at Habbies Howe, generously donated by the McKay family.

Families and community members had worked hard in the lead up to the event- cleaning and setting up the Woolshed, preparing food and collecting donations for the auction and raffle. Everyone enjoyed a hearty meal accompanied by local wines. Thank you to Antcliff's Chase and Rocky Passes wineries for selling wine on the night. Singer Noel Pearson had everyone up dancing early in the night and the dance floor remained packed throughout the night.

A spirited auction, conducted by Fraser and Michael, raised an outstanding \$1900 for the school.



An event like this doesn't just happen and many people need to be thanked. We are grateful to all families and community members for their input into the event- setting up and cleaning up and assisting on the night, to the donors of auction and raffle items and to the people who came along and supported our school.

A huge thank you to Julia and Scott McKay for their generosity and hard work. Money raised from last year's Wool Shed Dance went towards a 5

week swimming program for all students and subsidising school camps to make them more accessible.

This year the money will go towards staffing for HPS. Overall it was a very enjoyable night celebrating life in the Highlands community. By Meagan Callander

DRAFT HUME REGIONAL GROWTH PLAN HAVE YOUR SAY

The Hume Regional Growth Plan is one of eight plans being prepared across regional Victoria. Regional growth plans will provide broad direction for land use and development, as well as more detailed frameworks for key centres. The plans are being developed in a partnership between local government, state government and authorities.

The draft Hume Regional Growth Plan is available for public comment from Monday 3 June 2013 until Friday 12 July 2013.

The draft Hume Regional Growth Plan covers the municipalities of Alpine, Benalla, Greater Shepparton, Indigo, Mansfield, Mitchell, Moira, Murrindindi, Strathbogie, Towong, Wangaratta and Wodonga.

To find out more about the draft plan you can:

- download a copy at www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/hume/rgp
- view a copy at your local council, or
- pick up a brochure and feedback form at your local council.

Opportunities to discuss the draft plan with Department of Planning and Community Development officers will be available as follows:

Thursday 27 June, 2pm - 7pm Seymour Seymour Sports and Aquatic Centre, Chittick Park, Pollard Street, Seymour

Comments can be provided online, by submitting a feedback form or in writing to:
Hume Regional Growth Plan Project-Department of Planning and Community Development
PO Box 1282, Wangaratta, Victoria 3676

Comments must be received by 5.00 pm Friday 12 July 2013.



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FOX ON THE RUN BAITING PROGRAMME



The Hughes Creek Catchment Landcare group are seeking landholders who are interested in a subsidised fox baiting program. The subsidy would cover up to 50% of contractor costs subject to the number of landholders who participate.

This is a one off opportunity, so get in fast to get your name on the list. Expressions of interest are required by end of June 2013.

Contact Simone 5790 4146
hughes.creek1@gmail.com

ALARMING FACT

About 640,000 tonnes of fishing gear is lost or thrown overboard each year around the world - "ghostnets" drift through the oceans and continue 'fishing' for many years - they kill huge numbers of marine mammals, sea turtles and sea birds

The Conversation 31/01/13



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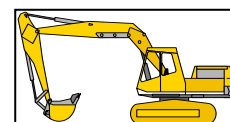
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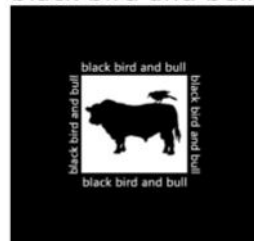
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