



FARMING & ENVIRONMENT

EUROPEAN CARP THREATEN OUR RIVER SYSTEMS

The introduced European Carp or *Cyprinus carpio* has infested most of south eastern Australia's waterways. Their invasion of our most important water systems that are used for domestic water needs, irrigated agriculture, recreation and fishing for native fish species has become critical since the ending of the prolonged drought.

Carp are tolerant of a wide range of water conditions including water temperature, pH levels, saline, polluted or poorly oxygenated water and by pumping mud through their mouths they raise turbidity and increase suspended solids so that sunlight is unable to penetrate. These effects kill off water weeds and the chain of life that supports macroinvertebrates, bird life, native fish eggs, platypus habitat and the whole inter-connected environment.



As a carp observer, a widely experienced trout fishing guide and former teacher, Geoff Hall says the recent flooding of many of our valley systems post the drought has transferred carp widely beyond our river channels.

Hall says that major water resource storages like Dartmouth, Hume, Eildon, the Gippsland Lakes and most of our river billabongs and numerous farm dams have massive and exploding carp populations and are now moving up Victoria's major tributary river systems including the Mitta, Big, Jamieson,

Howqua, Delatite and Mitchell Rivers from the major storages.

"Already carp is the major fish biomass and the most abundant freshwater fish in all the water systems of south eastern Australia.

"Densities in some rivers are thirty tonnes to the kilometre and their faecal waste raises nutrient and ammonia levels causing outbreaks of green algae"

"The key is their prolific egg production as carp eggs have a sticky gel like coating that adheres to any means of movement by birds, animals, vehicles and humans as well as by migration of up to 600km in river systems.

"A one year old carp perhaps one kilogram in size can produce 600,000 eggs several times a year while a mature carp probably three kilos or more in size can produce three million eggs a time.

"Birds are one of the major spreaders of the durable carp eggs while other native animals even humans walking through a paddock may unknowingly have the eggs adhere to their bodies or footwear so that their spread is silent and extensive".

Geoff Hall says a toxin known as KHV - Koi Herpes Virus - is the well proven and widespread biologic control of carp. It is judged to have worldwide distribution, except for Australia and NZ, with mortality rates between 70 & 100 percent. Within days of contact with the water borne toxin carp develop the disease and die quickly.

Trials conducted by the CSIRO at the Australian Animal Health Laboratory at Geelong have also shown that KHV has no measurable effect on non-target native fish species including Murray Cod, Golden and Silver Perch, Galaxids and Rainbow Trout. There are no native carp in Australia and all other fish are immune to this virus. "My judgement is that the trials at Geelong demonstrate a case for quickly introducing KHV as a biological control agent for carp in Australia.

The two carp in the photo were caught from a small billabong beside Geoff's property close to the Goulburn River that is estimated to contain hundreds of carp of similar age and size.

Mr Hall encourages everyone who cares for our aquatic environment to contact their State and Federal representatives to expedite the release of the KHV virus.



Hughes Creek
Catchment Collaborative

READERS' WRITES

* "Another great issue. Love the Crested Shrike-tit. Congrats to all."
—David Hibbert

* "A special thanks to the Granite News team. When electronic times caught up with this great community newsletter and it became an email event, I, along with some other locals were disappointed as without a computer in the house or the ability to drive one we were going to miss out on receiving our much loved paper copies. However thanks to the Granite News team for installing the cute mail boxes we are once again in the loop and are thrilled to be able to access it as before. Big thanks from the "Oldies"
—Helen McKenzie, Terip Terip

* "I was cutting wood in a paddock near our property on Ponkeen Creek Road opposite 'Karep' on Friday 31st May at around 12:30pm when I saw what looked exactly like the black panther running and leaping about 50 metres away. I almost froze in fright because it was at least as big as our Golden Retriever. As it took off into the bush it gave me a real disdainful look as if I was encroaching on its patch. There was a cattle carcass nearby and I reckon it had been feeding on that."
—Ben Laycock, Ruffy

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

COMMUNITY “WHAT’S ON” CALENDAR JUNE/JULY 2013

Monday 17th June 7:30pm	TABLELANDS COMMUNITY CENTRE@RUFFY Nolans Road, Ruffy (Old Ruffy School) Monthly Committee Meeting, but everyone is always welcome. Contact Kerry 5790 4392
Tuesday 18th June 2:00pm	UNIVERSITY of the 3RD AGE MEETING Euroa Library, Binney St., Euroa A meeting to explore the opportunity to start a University of the Third Age group in Euroa Contact Judi Hanlon 5795 0020 or judi.hanlon@strathbogje.vic.gov.au
Friday 21st June 7:00pm	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
Friday 21st June 6:00pm Saturday 22nd June 8:00pm Sunday 23rd June 4:00pm	EUROA CINEMA “Iron Man 3” 125 mins (M) Action/ Adventure **** 3.5 stars A third thunderous adventure for the heavy-metal crime fighter Iron Man and his eccentric human alter ego played by Robert Downey Jr. This is full on action, displaying creativity and wit we now expect from these movies! No doubt all those who know and understand this series will also appreciate the appearances by Gwyneth Paltrow and Guy Pearce who will only enhance the entire production. <i>NOTE: Again the Youth Services Department at the Strathbogje Shire will host a Friday night screening. The doors open early and the movie will commence at around 6.30pm. The success with the movie Warm Bodies has encouraged us to do this more often and hopefully engage some of the younger members of our community.</i>
Sunday 23rd June 11:15am	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
Thursday 27th June 2pm-7pm	DRAFT HUME REGIONAL GROWTH PLAN Seymour Sports and Aquatic Centre, Chittick Park, Pollard Street, Seymour Opportunities to discuss the draft plan with Department of Planning and Community Development officers
Thursday 27th June 5:30pm	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
Friday 28th June From 6pm	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
Friday 28th June 7:30pm	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
Friday 28th June 7:30pm	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
Thursday 4th July 10:30—12:30pm	RUFFY PLAYGROUP Tablelands Community Centre (Old Ruffy School) Nolans Rd., Ruffy This Month it’s Cut 7 Paste/Colouring Cost: \$3:00 per Family. Bring a small plate of food to share. Contact Sally 5790 4335
Saturday 6th July 9:00am-2:00pm	YEA COUNTRY MARKET Yea Railway Park, Station Street, Yea Showcasing local producers, growers and makers offering an array of stalls, the best in fresh local produce, arts and crafts, children’s activities, play ground and skate park. Gold coin donation entry
Sunday 7th July 10:am-12pm	RUFFY WEEKEND WALKERS Monthly ramble to High Points of Interest around the district We’re on a Mission to walk to all of the district’s Piniger cairns. Meet at Ruffy Community Hall at 9:45am Contact Neil Doran 0457 253875

Classifieds & Community Notices

LOCAL GOINGS ON

U 3 A 4 EUROA?

You may be interested in attending a meeting to explore the opportunity to start a University of the Third Age group in Euroa

This informal meeting will be held at the Euroa Library on Tuesday, 18 June at 2pm

For those who are not aware – this is a worldwide organisation that encourages people to share knowledge and interests. For more info you can go to the U3A website – u3avictoria.com.au

I recently attended a course on iPad, iPod etc use which was conducted by Benalla U3A – at no charge.

The Benalla members have a very interesting and varied range of activities for members and have been generous in supporting the formation of a group in Euroa

This meeting is not to form committees or do anything onerous – trust me. This is just to ascertain if there is general interest

Anyone aged from 50 years can participate, joining fees are low and generally there is no fee for any course undertaken by members. By Judi Hanlon



Strathbogrie Shire Council
109A Binney Street
Euroa, Vic 3666
5795 0020
Toll Free: 1800 065993

judi.hanlon@strathbogrie.vic.gov.au

NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Student of the Week

Jessica



For being an excellent role model, working hard and making the most of every opportunity.

Well done!

Richmond Football Club Footy Clinic



Richmond AFL Footballer, Shaun Grigg with HPS students at the Tigers' Footy Clinic

TRADING PLACES

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BOX IRONBARK ECOLOGY COURSE

Nagambie, 16th – 20th September 2013

For those interested in gaining a general understanding of ecological processes and principles.

"This course has been run by DSE for the past 14 years and many environmentalists from the Hughes Creek Catchment have attended, all have enjoyed the experience. I can thoroughly recommend it"
—Janet Hagen

Five absorbing days of field studies in the heart of Box Ironbark country

Registrations Now Open!

Location details

The course is based at Nagambie in Victorian Box Ironbark country. Accommodation will be shared, in comfortable on-site units at the Nagambie Lakes Leisure Resort with en suite facilities.

Catering is inclusive of all meals.

Course Fee

The course fee for 2013 is \$1400 (plus GST) which includes accommodation, meals, transport, instruction, and course notes.

Numbers

The course is limited to 30 participants. Further details, including the Course Notes, will be mailed out to registered participants, closer to the date.

Enquiries

Kate Stothers, DSE Benalla

kate.stothers@dse.vic.gov.au

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, Strathbogrie, 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 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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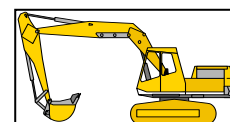
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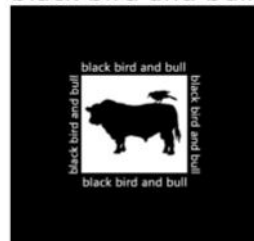
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