



FARMING & ENVIRONMENT

TOM'S PADDOCK UNIQUE EGG PRODUCTION—By John Kennedy

Tom Abbott-Smith Youl is the third generation farmer to be involved with the family's Graceburn property at Glenburn.

Like most farmers he became concerned at the inability of a traditional family farm to yield a return to its owners and for its labour inputs in particular.

A year ago Tom attended a lecture presented by Joel Salatin a down to earth American organic small farmer, lecturer and author who practices environmentally responsible, ecologically beneficial and regenerative agriculture.

Salatin's thought provoking ideas about holistic farm management, methods of animal husbandry, free of potentially harmful chemicals and the sustainable agriculture that he practices on his own farm in Virginia caused Tom to think deeply about what new and potentially innovative enterprises he could introduce to the family property at Glenburn.

Tom settled on establishing this unique method of free range/nomadic egg production that he markets under his 'Tom's Paddock' brand name delivered regularly to a growing network of clients in the local Yea and Yarra Valley area.

Joel Salatin is also a key proponent of direct to the customer marketing and this was another route which appealed to Tom.

So he has invested his time, energy and capital in establishing a paddock reared range of eggs which although only currently building up to a reasonable scale has also opened up ideas for other potential direct to the customer niche opportunities for farm produce.



Tom Abbott-Smith Youl & his 'Paddock Eggs'

Although free range in the paddock egg production has some established practices Tom has adopted one of these as well as implementing his own production ideas.

Currently he has built up to about 450 nomadic hens but his target is to shortly have 900 hens moving around the family property.

An added bonus from Tom's egg business is that his hens provide their manure which enhances pasture growth.

At the present time Tom is concentrating on commercial clients who can take a box of 150 fresh eggs on a regular weekly basis.

So the growth of the cafe culture both locally and in the Yarra Valley is an important market for 'Tom's Paddock' pastured eggs.

The resident wedge tail eagles pose a threat to hens running outdoors but the incidence of eagle attacks appears to have been reduced just by stringing some colourful bunting over the hen's grazing area.

Tom is not anticipating to get rich from paddock egg production.

RABBIT RIPPING SUBSIDY AVAILABLE NOW FROM THE HCCC LANDCARE GROUP



The DPI has recently completed a Rabbit Control Survey within the district and many Landholders have been issued with a Directions Notice

A 50% subsidy may be available to you for warren ripping.

Contact Simone 5790 4146
hughes.creek1@gmail.com



Hughes Creek
Catchment Collaborative

WELCOME to ISSUE 24 2013

Contact editor@tgn.org.au 5790 4007

NO GRANITE NEWS NEXT WEEK

We are taking a short break in line with the 2nd week of school holidays and there will be no TGN published on Sunday 14th July.

The next issue (25) will be published Sunday 21st July.—Don & Mavis

READERS' WRITES

* "Always enjoy getting the Granite News, many thanks for continuing with it, laughed my head off at Justus's snake story. Cheers"

— Alexandra Handley

BOTANY, BIRDS & CREATURES

PLATYPUS SIGHTING WEBSITE & APPS



Ornithorhynchus anatinus

If you'd like to report sightings of Platypus, or if you are interested in platypus conservation you can use this link <http://platypusspot.org>

There is also an iPhone app available from the Platypus Conservancy (it's apparently called "Platypus Sighting").

If you are interested in the app follow this link to contact them <http://www.platypus.asn.au/>.

You can also report Platypus sightings at a link from this site. By Jim Castles



GOULBURN
BROKEN

CATCHMENT
MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITY

FINDING 'FOXY'

Issue 23, Top of Page 4

COMMUNITY “WHAT’S ON” CALENDAR JULY 2013

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
Monday 8th July 7:30pm	TABLELANDS COMMUNITY CENTRE@RUFFY Nolans Rd., Ruffy (Old Ruffy School) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. Election of Chairperson and Secretary following recent resignations. All tablelands residents are encouraged and welcome. Supper will be provided. Contact Kerry 5790 4392
Friday 12th July 6:30pm	'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
Saturday 13th 8:00pm Sunday 14th July 4:00pm	EUROA CINEMA “Amour” 122 Mins (M) Romance / Drama ****4.5 stars This movie takes a profound look at the love between a couple who have lived together for many years, know each other but then face ill health and do it with such serenity and dignity. It is about the human condition and the emotional challenges that accompany humanity - and is brilliant! We have been waiting for this to come to Euroa for some time and we trust you will appreciate it for the way it will move you. <i>This is a French film with subtitles</i>
Sunday 14th July 11:15am	St. DAVID’S UNITING CHURCH Terip-Ruffy Ruffy Road, Terip Terip This service with Holy Communion will be conducted by our Reverend Glenys Gill. All welcome. For any information Contact Jennifer Penny 5790 4233
Friday 19th July 7:30pm	WHITEHEADS CREEK LANDCARE GROUP Whiteheads Creek Hall, Kobyboyn Road Annual General Meeting with Guest Speaker David Wakefield This AGM will be a great chance to get together and talk about how much we have accomplished in the past 30 years. It is hoped that past members will also share some of their experiences over the years. Contact 5792 4212
Friday 19th July 7pm	RUFFY HAPPY HOUR (or TWO!) Ruffy Community Hall, Nolans Road <i>“Come along and catch up with friends or meet someone new, everyone welcome!”</i> BBQ provided BYO meat/drinks and a salad or sweet to share Contact Henry 5790 4246
Saturday 20th July 9am-1pm	EUROA VILLAGE FARMERS MARKET Rotary Park, Kirkland Ave., Euroa <i>“Meet, Greet, Eat & Shop”</i> A wonderful range of farm fresh produce from “local” producers. Contact Leah Jones 5795 1886 or hunaleah@mcmmedia.com.au
Friday 26th July 6:00pm	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 26th July 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
Sunday 28th July 11:15am	St. DAVID’S UNITING CHURCH Terip-Ruffy Ruffy Road, Terip Terip All welcome. For any information Contact Jennifer Penny 5790 4233
	SECRET MEN’S BUSINESS It has been overheard that the Secret Men’s Business group that meets at the Caveat Church on the last Thursday of each month has decided not to do whatever it is they do in July & August. Normal secrecy will resume at 5:30pm, Thursday 26th September

Classifieds & Community Notices

PEOPLE and PLACES

Throughout the north east there is an established and expanding artisan community. Fortunately we have a wealth of accomplished practitioners of the arts including painters, potters and crafts people of all types based in our local districts.

Gary Male the artisan woodworker from Yea sees his name recognised quite regularly in a local context but is gaining increased and much wider appreciation for his woodworking skills.

Gary and his business Gabra Timber Creations has been winning commissions from clients in the Melbourne metropolitan area and throughout Victoria and he has recently completed commissions on behalf of clients as far afield as the Australian Capital Territory.



Gary at home in his Yea workshop

Gary has spent all his life involved in timber and especially carpentry.

Apart from commissions received Gary always has a stock of his completed woodwork on display and for sale at Yea's Gallery 34.

Gary says that 'real timber' is the key to his creative works.

"I can quite often source a log locally and recently I have been making buying trips to the Island Specialty Timbers depot in Geeveston Tasmania where some of the best woods available are offered for sale.

"They are usually expensive choices but the timber – including Black Heart Sassafras, Myrtle, Blackwood and Huon Pine can be judged as the best quality material available in Australia.

"The graining especially of burl or fiddle back patterns is often quite exceptional" Gary says so he drives his ute down to Tassie to make his handpicked timber selection.

Gary says some time ago he found a red gum log on the ground in a farm paddock in the Limestone district near Yea.

"It was in the way of a planned dam excavation and the owner of the log pretty much regarded it as only useful for firewood.

"But it had been air dried for a long time and I judge it to have been from a tree that was about 300 years old when felled".

Although short in length it was just too good to waste so Gary bought the log and carefully milled it down into workable sections.

Gary has a preference for multiple coats of carefully applied lacquer and oils to give his work a final finish that over the long term should be enduring and require minimum maintenance.

Apart from his one off pieces to his own designs or to suit the preferences of his commission clients Gary also undertakes limited commercial projects.

The bars and tables in two of Yea's hotels are also testimony to his skills.

Gary's blanket box won the first Frank Hargraves Prize at the 2013 Yea Rotary Club Art Show and apart from the selection of his timber work of various types on show at Gallery 34 in Yea he will be having a major exhibition there later in the year.

Gary can be contacted on 0428 595 411 or see www.gabra.com.au

By John Kennedy

TRADING PLACES

*Good stuff for private sale
or wanted by friendly locals*

BEEF SCHOOL

Local Beef Producers have the opportunity to participate in the third North-East Beef School at Dookie.

This event provides information and resources aimed at building skills and knowledge to manage difficult seasonal and market conditions.

Beef School is open to all beef producers.

The one-day activity, which is preceded by a dinner, combines relevant topics and leading industry speakers in a programme that includes practical activities in cattle yards and concurrent sessions allowing participants to select the topics most relevant to them.

Amongst a number of presenters, Tim McRae (MLA), Paul Cusack (Australian Livestock Production Services), Brian Cumming (Brian Cumming Agriculture), Claire Geri (Department of Environment and Primary Industries) will cover topics from the market situation, nutritional management techniques to obtain good production in ruminants, bull structure through to how the rumen functions.

Darren Hickey, DEPI 'BetterBeef' Project Manager, said that due to the successes of last year's events and, more recently, the Gippsland Beef School in May, where close to 100 participants attended, we are again conducting the school in partnership with Goulburn Ovens TAFE this year.

"Commercial cattle producers tell us that they value the hands-on and practical nature of the beef schools. The live animal assessment exercises in the yards are always very popular as is the hands-on nature of other sessions.

Breaking into smaller groups and having closer interaction with the technical experts is highly valued by participants," Mr Hickey said.

WHEN: 6th--7th August

WHERE: Dookie Ag College

**CONTACT: Alison Desmond,
0409 424 274
or Leigh Kildey 0457 543 622**

INTERESTING BUT USELESS FACT

The price of petrol in Dubai hasn't moved from around 35 cents a litre for the last 5 years.

Sydney Morning Herald- 29/12/12

**KOPANICA PASTORAL
EXCAVATIONS**



PH. 0357 904 235
MOB. 0429 804 235

RABBIT RIPPING, DAMS, DRIVEWAYS
GENERAL EARTHWORKS &
MACHINERY HIRE

**HABBIES HOWE
BEEF**

Mature, well hung &
available. Prahran,
Yarck, Ruffy or Habbies
5796 9260
www.habbieshowe.com.au

**Cavanagh Hayes & Assoc.
Management Consultants**

*"Helping you focus on
what is important!"*
Customer Value Discovery -
understanding what is
important to your clients and
community
cavhayes@westnet.com.au
0419557571



Tastings &
"blackboard
menu" lunch
Sundays
11am - 5pm



Tapas bar
last Friday of
the month
from 6pm

Bookings 57969366
1590 Highlands Rd
www.rockypasses.com.au

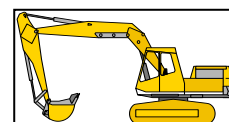
DONATION FROM A WEDGE
TAIL EAGLE LOVER



open lunch fridays
wood fired pizzas
every friday night
weekends & holidays
breakfast from 8.30am
lunch from 12 noon
bookings a good idea
phone 5790 4387

DONATION FROM A WEDGE
TAIL EAGLE LOVER

**A.J. & S.L. SHAW
EXCAVATIONS**



GENERAL EARTHWORKS
Andrew 0427969297
Sharyn 0437281072

**FRANZ KLOFT
MECHANICAL REPAIRS**

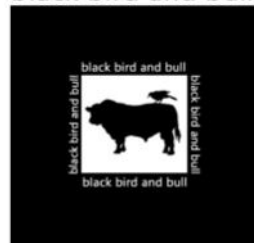
Repairs & service of
vehicles
Tyres, Windscreens, Batter-
ies, Brakes, Exhausts, Wheel
alignment, Automatic
transmission
Phone 57952910
38 Railway Street, Euroa
FREE QUOTES

AG Fencing

**&
Contracting Services**

All fence constructions,
Equipment maintenance &
Pump repairs,
Blasting Service,
"Not sure if we do it?"
Give us a call 0407 028 122

black bird and bull



picture framing
and studio gallery in Terip Terip
57904167 or 0419131650

**ALEXANDRA VETERINARY
CLINIC**

Emergency Service

Mobile AH 0408 576056
Dr Doug Norman B.V.Sc.(Hons)
Dr Denia Ford B.V.Sc.(Hons)
Phone: 5772 1600
Regular trips to the Tablelands on Friday
afternoons with discounted travel



LAWSON
General earthworks & hole boring
Diesel repairs & servicing
Metal fabrication & welding
Shed construction & removal
Callum - 0437 182 223 5796 9265
lawsonbluetop@gmail.com



Phone Ian on
: 0408990487
: 57904328
Registered Electrical Contractor:
License No. 16959

WALES RURAL
**Let the
land
produce**
38 Emily Street Seymour
Ph. 5792 1088

**Digit Downs Deco
Painting, Maintenance,
Design, Decoration**

**Neil Doran
Ruffy**

0457 253875
DigitDowns@gmail.com



Come see Rodwells Alexandra
for all your Farm Supply
requirements, from Fencing &
Animal Health needs to
Agronomic Advice.

Please phone (03) 57 722 444
Free Delivery Available



SUSAN & PETER KRICKIC
0421 407 721 (03) 5796 9192

**BAILEY'S FUNERAL
SERVICES P/L**

27 Highlands Rd, Seymour
Offering a caring and
professional service
Prices starting from \$3500
Cremation, \$4500 Burial plus
cemetery fees.
Contact Garnet on
57992007 24 Hours.



Abseiling, BMX bikes,
9 hole golf course, cabins,
camping and much more.

Bookings: 0423 006 667
Site ph: 5797 6351
www.mafekingroverpark.com

TRADESMEN
Specialising in
renovations, alterations, and
repairs. Shed
erections, concrete floors,
paths, paving etc.
Contact Ken on 5797 6255 or
Michael on 5795 1109

SOLAR ELECTRICS

Now in Euroa
eBay Prices- Local Service
Solar Elec Fence Units \$99
NEMTEK Electric Fencing
Inverter Silent Generators
Diesel Generators 6Kva-16Kva
www.commodoreaustralia.com.au
44 Tarcombe St., Euroa
Ph 5795 1567 or 0408 619779

**Koponica
Pastoral
Company P/L**
Livestock, Water and
General Cartage
Will cart anything

Phone 5790 4235
Mobile 0447 775 247

CF & HL HANDASYDE BUILDERS
Established 1978
NEW HOMES, EXTENSIONS,
RENOVATIONS, DOMESTIC, RURAL
ALL YOUR BUILDING REQUIREMENTS.
Registered Building Practitioner
Call Colin for a quote
Telephone: 0419 502 782
handasydebuilders@bigpond.com