



## BOTANY, BIRDS & CREATURES

### THE ROOSTER TREE

How often can you pass by a landscape and totally miss something that is blindingly obvious to so many others? That's the question I asked myself after my kids started talking about the "Rooster Tree" at a recent family get together.

Most people driving down and back from Melbourne are fairly aware of some of the major or quirky landmarks along the way; the Cross on the Hill near Wandong, the Allans Temperature and time sign near Broadford, ("Guess what the temperature will be at the Allans Sweets Sign" has lost its shine a little with the advent of car thermometers!), and the massive ALP OUT! mowed into a large hill face close to Beveridge just before the last State election was a major achievement by the landowner.

Many years ago I was always amused by the sign that publicised the meetings of the "Kilmore Young Farmers" Group.

But just near the Clonbinane turn off as you're driving North there's a tree perched high on the ridge almost straight ahead that looks uncannily like a rooster. "Of course you've seen it dad! All our friends know about it!"

Well, maybe I had seen it but never really noticed it, if you know what I mean. And now that I'm aware I can't drive past it without seeing it.

The Rooster Tree has its own Facebook page. There have been poems written about it and Youtube Clips. During the 2009 fires a Fire truck was up there protecting the Rooster Tree, (or is that an urban myth?) There's even a Hume Highway Rooster Tree Appreciation Society.

Mal Webb's written a lengthy song about the famous Tree, here's just one verse:

*Heading up the Hume  
My eyes behold a sight that delights me  
once again  
High on yonder hill, it cheers me up no  
end  
To see the Rooster Tree, my  
Friend around the bend.*

See if you can spot it on your next drive home! And maybe you know of some other quirky highlights that can be seen along the Hume that you can share with Granite News readers?

By Justus Hagen

## NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Student of the Week Angus



**For his great idea for a Children As Authors' book and his winning entry. Well done!**

**Children As Authors:** Congratulations to the award winners in this competition.

Thank you to Libby for organising it.

**Best Factual Book:** Honour to Angus Shaw for *The Titanic Fact Book*

**Best Illustrations:** Equal winners Bridie Hayes for *Colours* and Gabby Kirkham for *Dolphin and Shark Make Friends*

**Best Storyline:** Kendall Richards for *My Fairytale Pony*

**MARC Award:** Jessica Bennett for *Little Mr Pig*

**YPS Fundraiser:** Yea PS are holding a shopping tour fundraiser on Saturday 9th November.

It is \$50 to get on the bus leaving at 7am from car park opposite school and returning at 7pm.

Complimentary champagne on the trip home and many raffle prizes on the bus. Cool drinks provided all day on the bus.

Call Kay Granter for more details on 57849202.

By Meagan Callander-Principal, HPS



Hughes Creek  
Catchment Collaborative

### WELCOME to ISSUE 29 2013

Contact editor@tgn.org.au 5790 4007

*The Granite News* has always been an open but moderated community forum. We encourage our readers to contribute articles and we also encourage you to air your views on things that interest or concern you within our community. We certainly encourage feedback from you, positive or otherwise on anything that is published in *The Granite News*

### READERS' WRITES

*"Great reading the TGN, and locating 'The Fox'. I found him, and am just waiting to see where he pops up next time. Keep up the good work"*

—Jan Sporry, Caveat

### INSPIRING FACT

AS PART OF A GOVERNMENT ENERGY SAVING PLAN, French businesses must turn off their internal lights one hour after everyone has left - lighting in shop fronts can only remain on until 1.00am. The government hopes the ban will save 2 terrawatthours (TWh) of power a year - equivalent to the energy consumption of around 750,000 homes - and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 250,000 tonnes a year - it is also hoped the rule will reduce the impact that artificial lighting can have on ecosystems - for example, by altering migration and reproductive systems of animals - and reducing sleep disturbance for nearby residents

EcoNews 310113.

### FINDING 'FOXY'

Issue 28, LHS of Page 4



The famous Hume Hwy "Rooster Tree"



# COMMUNITY "WHAT'S ON" CALENDAR AUGUST/SEPT 2013

<b>Monday 19th August 8:00pm</b>	<b>RUFFY HALL COMMITTEE MEETING</b> Ruffy Community Hall, Nolans Road Quarterly committee meeting and all welcome. <b>Contact Sharron Batt 5790 4329</b>
<b>Wednesday 21st August 7:30pm</b>	<b>TERIP TERIP TENNIS CLUB AGM</b> Terip Recreation Reserve All welcome. For any enquiries please <b>Contact Cindy Hayes 5790 4226</b>
<b>Friday 23rd August 7:30pm</b>	<b>TABLELANDS FAMILY BINGO NIGHT</b> 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 <b>Contact Sally 5790 4335 or 0407 904335</b> <i>This Will Be The LAST Bingo for 2013</i>
<b>Saturday 24th August 10am-11am</b>	<b>HCCC LANDCARE CAMERA TRAINING</b> Tablelands Community Centre (Old Ruffy School) If you're interested in monitoring native fauna and other wildlife, then come along and be trained to use Landcare's new movement activated wildlife cameras. Morning coffee will follow at The Ruffy Store. janethhagen@gmail.com <b>Contact Janet Hagen 5790 4268</b>
<b>Saturday 24th 8:00pm &amp; Sunday 25th August 4:00pm</b>	<b>EUROA CINEMA "Rust and Bone"</b> 120 mins Drama Romance **** 4 stars (subtitles) A movie by French film maker Jacques Audiard. It is the story of a relationship between two fragile individuals. Ali is a bit of a user who has come to stay with his sister in Antibes. He gets a job as a bouncer at a night club where he meets Stephanie who trains orca whales at the local aquarium. Stephanie has a dreadful accident and calls on Ali to help her. These two don't necessarily like each other and this is what makes this movie as interesting as it is; complex characters, some challenging moments, but one that local audiences will appreciate for its honesty, frailty, and strength of the human condition.
<b>Sunday 25th August 11:15am</b>	<b>St. DAVID'S UNITING CHURCH Terip-Ruffy</b> Ruffy Road, Terip Terip This service will be conducted by our Reverend Glenys Gill. All welcome. For any information please <b>Contact Jennifer Penny 5790 4233</b>
<b>Friday 30th August 6:00pm</b>	<b>ROCKY PASSES TAPAS NIGHT</b> 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 <a href="mailto:contact@rockypasses.com.au">contact@rockypasses.com.au</a>
<b>Saturday 31st August 7:15pm</b>	<b>CHIZIA (Colossal Challenges, Quirky Quizzing, Terrific 🦋 ) @ Ruffy Hall.</b> BYO drinks and nibbles. Memorable Ruffy supper. Meet your neighbours. Adults \$10, pre-teens free on pre-teens table with own activities. Make up a table team and secure your tickets <b>Contact Roger 0437 771 580</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>RUFFY PLAYGROUP</b> Will Not be Happening in September We'll Resume Playgroup in October....We hope to see you and your children then. <b>Sally 5790 4335</b>
<b>Saturday 7th September 9am-2pm</b>	<b>YEA COUNTRY MARKET</b> 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
<b>Sunday 8th September 11:15am</b>	<b>St. DAVID'S UNITING CHURCH Terip-Ruffy</b> Ruffy Road, Terip Terip This service with Holy Communion will be conducted by our Reverend Glenys Gill. All welcome. For any information please <b>Contact Jennifer Penny 5790 4233</b>
<b>Friday 13th September 6:30pm</b>	<b>'DRINKS ON THE DECK'</b> 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. <b>Contact Judy Cameron 5796 9247</b>

# Classifieds & Community Notices

## LOCAL GOINGS ON

### RUFFY COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP

At the recent AGM of our RCAG the following committee was elected:

Justus Hagen	President
Erwin Weinmann	Vice-President
Treasurer	Janet Hagen
Secretary	Verena Weinmann
Web Page	Cathy Artridge

Over the past few years some quite large projects have been tackled by our Community, eg Streetscape, Tablelands Community Centre entrance, Rec Reserve, Soldiers' Memorial to name a few, which were all assisted by the Action Group.

Now it's time to look to the future .

We look forward to an active 2013/14 but we can only achieve goals with the help and input of the whole community.

We will need to indicate to the Shire how we propose to spend our funding allocation of \$6,000 for 2013/14. The following project ideas were put forward at the meeting:

- *Playground equipment for Tablelands Community Centre*
  - *Upgrading Recreation Reserve kitchen*
    - *Replacing Ruffy Hall roof*
    - *Starting a Men's Shed*
  - *Artist in Residence or Open Studio weekend*

**The Action Group** has been the link between the various Groups in our District and the Strathbogie Shire. Although it can't pay for every project it can provide seeding grants to help projects get started and give leverage for further grant applications.

Justus and Erwin plan to finalise the submission to the Shire later next week. Could you please send any comments on the list of projects or suggestions for other projects to Justus [jjmhagen@yahoo.com.au](mailto:jjmhagen@yahoo.com.au) or give him a call on 5790 4268 by Wednesday 21 August.



M: 0404 736 729

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Sept 23-25 Kids Holiday Cooking



## LANDCARE NEWS & NOTICE BOARD

### THE TIME IS CLOSE FOR SPRAYING PATTERSONS CURSE

Once again the time has come to think about looking for and spraying infestations of Pattersons curse.

Paton Air will be in our area over the next few months for helicopter spraying, so it's a good idea to contact them early if you are interested.

The HCCC is once again offering a subsidy on chemical and helicopter fees, limits apply.

Please contact Simone as soon as possible to get on the list.

[hughes.creek1@gmail.com](mailto:hughes.creek1@gmail.com).

### HCCC SPRAY UNITS

Tarcombe— Rob Hayes **5790 4319**

Caveat—Michael Kopanica **5790 4235**

Highlands— Scott McKay **5796 9259**

Ruffy— Don Cook **5790 4007**

**\$33 per Spray Day/\$100 per Season**

Payment to Janet Hagen  
Coordinator--HCCC Landcare

5790 4268  
[jhagen@harboursat.com.au](mailto:jhagen@harboursat.com.au)



### WHAT'S GOING ON OUT THERE ?

HCCC Landcare Cameras Will Tell You !

At our recent community meetings there has been strong interest in using new technologies to monitor native fauna and feral species.

As a result of this community input, HCCC Landcare has purchased six new movement activated cameras.

**Bandicoot, Quoll and Phascogale** spotters will now be able to record the presence and movement of any rare native fauna AND **Fox, Deer and Black Panther** hunters will also be invited to take advantage of this Landcare initiative.

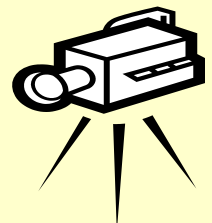
A training session on the use of these cameras will be run at the Tablelands Community Centre (Old Ruffy School) on Saturday 24th August from 10am-11am followed by morning coffee at the Ruffy Produce Store.

**Anyone interested in borrowing our cameras should attend this training**

Colin Cook runs a business called "Monitor Cameras" and is an expert on setting up and using wildlife cameras. He is supplying our cameras and will run the training session.

The cameras will be available for loan from the Landcare office. Please contact Janet Hagen if you are interested in attending.

[janethagen@gmail.com](mailto:janethagen@gmail.com) . 5790 4268 .



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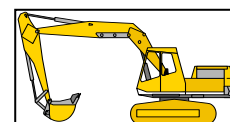
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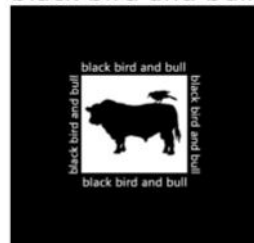
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