



PEOPLE AND PLACES

NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACES.....REALLY ?

Editorial By Don Cook

Interesting to read the article in last week's *Weekly Times* highlighting the de-commissioning of the old mineshaft as the designated Bush-fire Refuge in the town of Woods Point; despite it having previously proven effective during the 1939 bushfires and it still having the support of the local community as their preferred place of refuge in the event of future bushfires.

I was bemused by the reported comments from the Victorian Government Bushfire Response Minister that there are three other purpose built refuges around the State "which were currently being evaluated."

I have no doubt that these evaluations will be conducted by qualified professionals using solid & reliable data, but you'd reckon that the ultimate evaluation would be performance in a catastrophic fire scenario..... as the 'adit' at Woods Point has already done. Only mother nature can deliver such a test, and nobody wants that.

While we're on the subject; I'm not aware of any significant community consultation prior to the designation of the Recreation Reserve at the end of Noye Lane as Ruffy's Neighbourhood Safer Place.

However, I am aware that no local community member to whom I've spoken would dream of retreating to the Recreation Reserve in the case of a significant bushfire, due mainly to the narrow and heavily treed access tracks leading to that facility.

Would it be mischievous to suggest that perhaps there's another non-consultative plan afoot to clear the native vegetation along the roadsides leading to the Ruffy Neighbourhood Safer Place ?



THE SEARCH
For THE PERCH

NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Student of the Week

MAX

For a fabulous start to the 2014 school year, and being the 1st prep to complete his Golden words. Well done!



Fire Safety: Highlands Primary School is on the Code Red Closure list issued by the Department of Education.

On Code Red days the school will not be open.

On Code Red days the bus will not run. Where possible 3 days notice is provided of a planned closure, although often the notice will be less.

I will contact families if the school is to be closed.

During days of extreme heat, as we have been experiencing since school returned, we are all keeping cool by staying inside, drinking lots of water and eating icy poles!

Families are reminded that students need to bring a bag of fire clothes to school.

Termites: The toilet floors have been replaced. We thank Webby and Michael for their quick work with this task, ensuring that we weren't inconvenienced any longer than necessary. The lino was measured up this week so hopefully the task will be completed soon.

School Council: There are 2 positions available on School Council. Please come and see me if you are interested. The closing date for nominations is Monday 10th February.

By Meagan Callander-Principal, HPS



Hughes Creek
Catchment Collaborative

WELCOME to ISSUE 04 2014
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*

LANDCARE NOTICE BOARD

HCCC Landcare Meeting

Friday 21st February
at The Ruffy Store
All Welcome

Contact Janet 5790 4268

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

RABBIT RIPPING SUBSIDY AVAILABLE NOW FROM THE HCCC LANDCARE GROUP



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hughes.creek1@gmail.com



**GOULBURN
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CATCHMENT
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AUTHORITY

FINDING FOXY

Issue 03 2014, upper centre Page 2 and middle right of Page 3, oh yeah, and also top Page 4 but that was actually a misprint !

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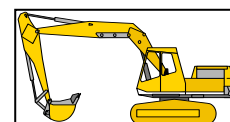
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Dr Doug Norman B.V.Sc.(Hons)
Dr Denia Ford B.V.Sc.(Hons)
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Regular trips to the Tablelands on Friday
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**A.J. & S.L. SHAW
EXCAVATIONS**



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Andrew 0427969297
Sharyn 0437281072

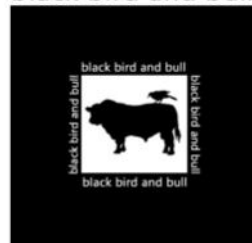
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Classifieds & Community Notices

LOCAL GOINGS ON



Rakali - the Australian Water Rat

The Yea Wetlands Committee is proud to present another Special Evening with Guest Speaker, Ron Litjens.

This time Ron will talk about Rakali, the Australian White Tailed Water Rat.

Those who attended our night on the Powerful Owl will recall Ron as the speaker who impressed everyone with his engaging knowledge and passion.

A member of the Strath Creek Landcare Group and the Platypus Conservancy

and foundation member of the King Parrot Creek Environment Group, Ron co-writes blogs for both the Focus on Fauna project and the King Parrot Creek Environment Group; cheekily, he considers himself a 'citizen scientist'.

The Rakali, is one of only two semi-aquatic mammals in Australia – the other being the better known platypus. Once hunted for their fur, the Rakali is now protected and consequently more commonly found living near permanent bodies of fresh and salt water. They are elusive creatures. Very often all you will see is the flash of its white-tipped tail as it disappears from view.

Ron will amaze us with the story of the Rakali living in a dam in Flowerdale.

Bookings are open now and we encourage you to book early. Why not organise a table with friends and enjoy a relaxed, informative evening together? You simply won't be disappointed!

When: Friday, April 4th

Where: Maranatha Hall, Lyons St, Yea

Time: 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm

Cost: \$40 per person — drinks at bar prices

Nibbles and Two course meal Coffee and chocolates to follow

To book contact Glenda Woods 0428 321545

or woodsygm@bigpond.net.au



TRADING PLACES

Good stuff for private sale or wanted by friendly locals

FOR SALE

Simpson 8kg Top-Loader Washing Machine



Good Working Condition
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Contact Denise 5790 4251

HAY FOR SALE

Large round bales of pasture hay cut in December 2013 available for sale.

Price by negotiation

Buyer to pick up from Tarcombe Road, Avenel.

Interested buyers Contact John

0414 982 275



TABLELANDS CRICKET CALENDAR 2014

Saturday 15th Feb 2014 11am
Highlands v Ruffy
At Village Green & Pavilion
Strath Creek
Lunch at 1.30pm

Saturday 8th March
Highlands/Ruffy Combine
vs Maygar's Hill Winery
At Ruffy Cricket Ground
Then Dinner at Ruffy Store

Saturday 22nd Mar 2014 11am
Wilderness (Us)
v Riverine (Them)
At Beechworth
Lunch 1.30pm
Dinner at Brewery 7pm
Everyone is Welcome to Play
Call Scott McKay for further info
5796 9259 or 0427 969259

RUFFARTZ ready to RUN AGAIN

Ruffartz "Season of Saturdays" is one of regional Victoria's most enduring annual performing arts programmes, delivered right in our midst at the Ruffy Community Hall.

It has stood the test of time and is widely regarded as a cultural highlight in the Tablelands calendar.

An ever changing mix of entertainment from a wide range of ethnic and musical genres continues to deliver exceptional performances for the enjoyment of local and sometimes not so local audiences.

Ruffartz's driving force is long time Ruffy resident Sharron Batt who leads a team of equally dedicated supporters to ensure the longevity of this important local programme.

With the departure of Glen George from the district, Verena Weinmann has assumed the role of Ticket Secretary and she is keen to continue the tradition of "sold out" performances. **Verena's advice is to book early.**



Cafe Culture Series 2014

Program:

Sat 1 Mar Saoirse

Sat 17 May Dandyman and Love & Baggage

Sat 13 Sep Ultrafox

Sat 6 Dec The Wild Women Show

Tickets are now available for another
"Season of Saturdays"
Discounted Season Tickets
all 4 shows for \$75

Individual Show Tickets \$25

Student concession (16-18 years) available
Children 15 and under are free

For tickets and brochure contact Verena
Tel. 5790 4309 or alpli@yahoo.com.au

COMMUNITY "WHAT'S ON" CALENDAR JAN/FEB/MAR 2014



CFA RUFFY TERS
W/C Feb 9th

- Whiteheads Creek/Tarcombe..... Driver: Alan Coulson Assistant: Carli Hall
- Ruffy 4th Lieutenant Matt Ulstrup's Team
- Terip Terip..... 1st Lieutenant Ed Greenwood's Team

TERIP TERIP MOWING ROSTER

W/C 17th Feb Alec & Marion Rowan-Brad Kellett & Katie Wright—Around Clubhouse & all four courts
W/C 10th Mar Sue Martin—Andrew Holloway & Tim Andrews—Car Park & all four courts

Sunday 9th February
11:15am

ST.DAVID'S UNITING CHURCH TERIP-RUFFY Ruffy Road, Terip Terip
This service with Holy Communion will be conducted by our minister, Reverend Glenys Gill. All welcome.
For further information Contact Jennifer Penny 5790 4233

Monday 10th February
8:00pm

TABLELANDS COMMUNITY CENTRE@RUFFY Nolans Road, Ruffy (Old Ruffy School)
Monthly Committee Meeting, but everyone is always welcome. **Contact Ros Goodwin 5790 4161**

Friday 14th February
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.

Saturday 15th February
9am-1pm

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

Saturday 15th February
11am


HIGHLAND vs RUFFY CRICKET MATCH at Village Green & Pavilion (ex Hume & Hovell) Strath Creek
This is the annual grudge match between Highlands and Ruffy, played on turf by cricketers wearing creams. Australia's Test opening batsman Chris Rogers' father John has purchased the 'Hume & Hovell' cricket ground and he's sure to be telling some stories about his son's excellent performances against England in the recent Ashes series. All Welcome
For further information Contact Scott McKay 5796 9259

Saturday 15th 8:00pm & Sunday 16th Feb 4:00pm

EUROA CINEMA "Philomena" 98 mins (M) Bio/Drama **** 4 stars
This is a wonderful movie to re-open the cinema. Based on the true story of a young Irish girl, who as a teenager has a baby which she is forced to put up for adoption. Starring Judi Dench & Steve Coogan
To celebrate there will be wine tasting and sales of some fine Strathbogie Wines at both screenings

Wednesday 19th February
8:00pm

RUFFY COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP TCC, Nolans Road, Ruffy
Quarterly meeting of the Action Group to consider and advance local projects and ideas.
Everyone is Welcome. **For further information Contact Justus Hagen, President, 5790 4268**

Friday 21st February
7:30pm

HCCC LANDCARE MEETING Ruffy Produce Store, Nolans Rd., Ruffy
Monthly committee meeting to consider local environmental initiatives.
All welcome to come along & contribute. **Contact Janet Hagen 5790 4268**



Sunday 23rd February
11:15am

ST.DAVID'S UNITING CHURCH TERIP-RUFFY Ruffy Road, Terip Terip
This service will be conducted by our minister, Reverend Glenys Gill. All welcome.
For further information Contact Jennifer Penny 5790 4233

Friday 28th February
6:30pm

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. This month we also have a special presentation by historian **Paul McGregor** on one of our colourful local early settlers—**Lowe Kong Meng**. **Contact 5796 9366 or Email contact@rockypasses.com.au**

Saturday 8th March
Time TBA

HIGHLANDS/RUFFY vs MAYGAR'S HILL WINERY—FAMILY CRICKET MATCH at the RCG
The Lowlanders from Maygar's have challenged the Highlander/Ruffians for cricket bragging rights. It'll be a terrific family day at the delightful Ruffy Cricket Ground, followed by dinner at The Ruffy Produce Store. Everyone is welcome to play—especially the kids.
Contact Scott McKay 5796 9259

Monday 10th March
9am-2pm



SEYMOUR LABOUR DAY BUSH MARKET Goulburn Park, Seymour
Brought to you by Seymour Apex Club—Eastern Hill Cricket Club—Seymour Goulburn Lions Club
A host of stalls, food, entertainment and activities capped off by the Great Duck Race.
Gate Entry \$2 Under 16s Free **Contact Betty 5796 9295**

Saturday 29th March
2014

HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL WOOLSHED DANCE at Habbies Howe, Dropmore Road Highlands
SAVE THE DATE more information coming soon

