



## A BIT of HUGHES CREEK CATCHMENT HISTORY

*Ann Shovelton from Creightons Creek was sorting some papers recently when she came across this gem of local history.*

*Mr John Hill from Ruffy had passed a copy of this memoir to Ann some years ago and we think that it is worth sharing with our Granite News readers.*

*We've transcribed this great memoir verbatim, and we'll present it in two instalments.*

### Recollections of Streams in the North East Victoria

By Mr Robert (Bert) McKenzie

Years 1906 to 1913

All the creeks of the Tableland (ie Terip, Ruffy, Dropmore, Caveat, Tarcombe and Kobayboyn) were packed with Black fish and Silver minnows. All were crystal clear and it was possible to see to the bottom, down to six or eight feet at midday and (as a cousin and I used to do), it was possible to grind up a few worms with sand and drop them in the pool. We would fish for the bigger ones. Fourteen inches was our best. Most of our haul would be round 13 inches down to 9 inches. However, someone caught one 15 inches.

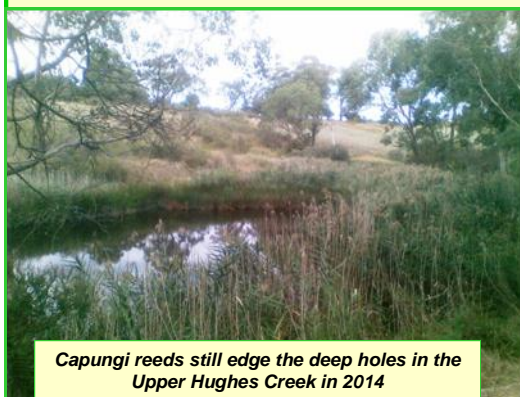
In 1912 or 1911, Mr Jimmy Hobart acquired, from Ballarat, 2000 brown trout and, from somewhere, 6 tench which were released at the Boathole, Hughes Creek, Ruffy. They spread and bred rapidly down stream and were being taken up to seven pounds by 1914. In 1912, 2000 rainbow (trout) were released.

In the spring of 1914, I landed my best some twenty yards behind me and about the same height...??? and by the autumn was handling fish up to four and a half pounds.

Prior to this, in 1903, my father had taken me down twice to the Dropmore on the lower Hughes Creek, just a mile above the Homestead, and using worms and caught small cod (Trout Cod) up to twelve inches and saw my father take several of two and three pounds.

On a later trip with a party of four, everybody caught cod up to six pounds and every hole had six to ten fish galore if worms were used.

Our next trip in 1913 was a disaster. A cousin was killed and virtually ended our Cod trips.



Capungi reeds still edge the deep holes in the Upper Hughes Creek in 2014

The Hughes Creek for two miles above Dropmore up until 1916 was a slow running stream with a series of very deep holes mostly edged with Capungi (*Phragmites*?) reeds. In 1916, a flash flood ripped through and tore the creek bed down to bed-rock and left a long channel of sand and in my opinion swept away the Trout Cod breeding grounds in those Capungi edged pools for the whole of the Hughes Creek.

Whether or not that flood carried the whole of the Cod population down

into the Goulburn and the Nagambie Lake area, I do not know. But around 1918 to 1924, Nagambie was a Mecca for Cod fishermen from all over and in that period and was probably the supply area for all the Trout Cod that inhabited the National Channel which filled Waranga Basin and the Wilson Channel feeding Shepparton, Tatura, etc. Even the smaller channels carried small Cod and an occasional four pound Catfish. I had Cod to Four and a half pounds from both the National and Wilson.

Old Nagambie residents could probably supply the exact dates when suddenly the whole catfish population were wiped out in the Goulburn River system. The same thing happened in the Murray River system, I think after the second stage of the Hume Weir or when???

Anyhow that flash flood was the end of the Trout Cod in the Hughes Creek in the Dropmore area. I certainly caught a few while fishing for trout in 1919 to 1934 or 1924. These were mainly around the four to five and a half pound weight and an odd two pounder, suggesting that there may have been some fluke breeding.

.....to be continued in a later issue of *The Granite News*.



Hughes Creek  
Catchment Collaborative

## LANDCARE NOTICE BOARD

**NEXT HCCC LANDCARE MEETING**  
**FRIDAY MAY 5th 7:30pm**  
**At WHITEHEADS CREEK HALL**  
**Everybody is Welcome**  
**Contact Janet Hagen 5790 4268**

## FOX ON THE RUN 2014



**TEAM WITH THE MOST FOX  
TAILS WINS !**

HCCC Landcare is once again running the "**Fox on the Run**" competition which commences on June 1<sup>st</sup> 2014.

The competition will run for the month of June only, the fox tail will be required as proof of kill.

Fox tails will be tallied on completion of the competition and the team with the most will receive a trophy and grand prize of **\$500**.

- \* Teams must register their interest prior to June 1<sup>st</sup> to be eligible to compete. Teams can consist of groups of 6 people maximum.
- \* Teams must be residents within the Hughes Creek Catchment OR have permission to shoot on properties within the catchment. (Whiteheads Creek, Highlands, Caveat, Dropmore, Tarcombe, Terip Terip, Ruffy)
- \* Hunters must have appropriate licenses and permission to shoot on properties if applicable.

To register your team please email Simone on  
[hughes.creek1@gmail.com](mailto:hughes.creek1@gmail.com)  
prior to June 1<sup>st</sup>

Once the competition has finished you will be asked to bring the tail of each fox shot as evidence to the Tablelands Community Centre (old Ruffy School) on a date to be advised.

The team with the most tails will be notified and prize/trophy presented at a later date.

## FINDING FOXY 'WORDS'

Issue 11: Cricket story Page 3  
and Euroa Farmer's Market Page 4

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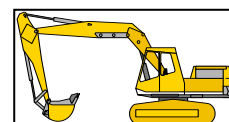
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Dr Doug Norman B.V.Sc.(Hons)  
Dr Denia Ford B.V.Sc.(Hons)  
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EXCAVATIONS**



**GENERAL EARTHWORKS**

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## Classifieds & Community Notices

### NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Student of the Week Freyja

*For great literacy work, learning  
her letters and sounds.  
Well done!*



**Farewell:** Today we say good bye to Angus. We are so sad to see him go but wish him all the best at his new school. Thank you also to Angus' family for their huge contribution to HPS over the years.

**Chook House:** A huge thank you to Dave Clarke who has been researching chook houses for sale, found on eBay, drove to Bentleigh, dismantled it and delivered it to Highlands PS!! The project now is to re ensemble the chook house and build a run. Please watch this space as we will be asking for assistance !

**Odd jobs:** Thank you to Hamish McAlpin who has offered to clean out the gutters. We need someone to help Hamish. If you can spare an hour please let me know and we'll coordinate a time that suits.  
Meagan Callander—Principal, HPS

### THE BEST WOOLSHED DANCE Baa NONE !!

Last Saturday's Woolshed Dance organised by Highlands Primary School was a huge success!

Once again McKay's historic woolshed was packed with people from all over the district and beyond. Everyone enjoyed a beautiful meal and the dance floor was packed.

Many thanks to Fraser Welch whose persistence as auctioneer raised a staggering \$4088 for the school. A huge thank you to the people and businesses who provided donations for the auction- especially Leone Gabrielle and Darren Gilbert whose art pieces are always highly sought after.

A special mention to all the Highlands PS families who contributed in some way to the success of the event.



*Dancing the night away at the Woolshed*

Special mention to Scott & Julia McKay who are so generous with their time and resources, without them this event would never happen. Overall approximately \$6000 was raised, which will greatly benefit our students.

### TRADING PLACES

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

### WANTED

### HORSE OR HORSES

Seymour Riding for the Disabled of Australia, politically correctly now called Riding Develops Abilities, are desperate for two new horses.

RDA will beg, borrow or may, as a last resort buy these horses.

Surely there is the ideal nag languishing in a back paddock that cannot be sold because the kids will scream, the poor thing is lonely, they like company, they need feeding & attention that the farmer or owner does not have time to give.

RDA can collect this neglected nag, groom it, feed it, trim its hoofs and some of our dear children can come and ride high on this pony.

It will be a win/win because the owner is off the hook, we have a much wanted animal to care for and if the child owner of this animal wants, we will deliver it home for the Christmas holidays. We're open to all offers and suggestions.

*Please Contact Carolyn Braun  
5792 4212 or  
Coral Cole 5799 1939*

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### VACUUM CLEANER

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### LOCAL GOINGS ON

### Brave Goose Vineyard Open Day

Please join us for a day of wine tasting, live music, and delicious ploughmans platters, prepared by Ruffy Store, in our garden at Glendoxey Homestead



**Sunday April 27th 11am - 4pm**

**8803 Goulburn Valley Highway Whiteheads Creek 3660**

\$5 entry, free wine tasting, wine sales, platters \$20. For more information email  
ninastocker@hotmail.com 0417553225  
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### FOR SALE

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**Contact Don 5790 4007**

# COMMUNITY "WHAT'S ON" CALENDAR APRIL 2014

## CFA ROSTERS W/C April 6th



- Ruffy ..... 4th Lieutenant Matt Ulstrup's Team
- Terip Terip..... 1st Lieutenant Ed Greenwood's Team

### TERIP TERIP MOWING ROSTER

**W/C 14th Apr** Craig & Jenny Murphy—Neville & Sue Debney—Around Clubhouse & All Four Courts  
**W/C 21st Apr** Scott Rowan & Hayley—Rachel Brown & Chris Hewison—Car Park & All Four Courts

**Sunday 6th  
April  
12 Noon  
Events Start 1pm**

**CREIGHTONS CREEK PICNIC** at the Creightons Creek Reserve **TODAY!**  
 The tradition is being continued - experience a day out as it was in the 1890s. Lots of events & Fun for the whole family  
 Music by the 'Eurokafellas' and a display of working steam engines—Cost \$10 adult- children U15 free (inc afternoon tea)  
**For further information Contact Howard 5790 3282**

**Monday 7th  
April  
7:30pm**

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

**Monday 7th  
April  
8:00pm**

**RUFFY MECHANICS INSTITUTE RESERVE Inc. (Ruffy Community Hall)** Nolans Rd Ruffy  
 Notice is given of a PUBLIC MEETING to be held at the Ruffy Hall. The purpose of the meeting is to nominate no less  
 that three (3) or more than nine (9) persons as the Committee of Management for the Ruffy Mechanics Institute Reserve  
 for a term of 3 years. The current committee's term will expire on 22nd April 2014. All positions will be declared open and  
 nominations will be accepted prior to or on the night. Nominations from women are encouraged.  
**Contact Secretary Sharron Batt 5790 4329**

**Friday 11th  
April  
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 12th  
April  
9:00am**

**HIGHLANDS HALL WORKING BEE** Highlands Hall, Highlands  
 Please come along & help us finish the jobs we started. Bring appropriate tools for painting, plumbing & gardening & join  
 us on Saturday 12th April at 9am & a BBQ lunch at midday.  
**For more information contact Judy Cameron 5796 9247 or Judy Reid 5796 9358**

**Saturday 12th  
8:00pm  
Sunday 13th  
March 4:00pm**

**EUROA CINEMA** "The Hobbit – The Desolation of Smaug" 161 mins (M) \*\*\* 3.5 stars  
*Due to so many requests we are bringing this movie to Euroa – especially now that we have the right equipment*  
 Another movie based on the enduringly popular books by J J R Tolkien.  
 Bilbo Baggins (Martin Freeman) and Gandalf the Grey (Ian McKellan) and the thirteen dwarves led by Thorin Oakenshield  
 (Richard Armitage) continue their quest to reclaim their lost Dwarf Kingdom of Erebor, their homeland, from Smaug.

**Sunday 13th  
April  
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 any information contact Jennifer Penny 5790 4233**

**Saturday 19th  
April  
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 [hunaleah@mcmedia.com.au](mailto:hunaleah@mcmedia.com.au)**

**Saturday 19th  
April  
9am-1pm**

**TERIP TERIP TENNIS CLUB are holding a home cooking/produce stall at the Euroa Farmers Market.**  
 Please come along and buy some of our delicious treats or we would appreciate any donations.  
**Contact Cindy 5790 4226 or Frances 0427 904 262**

**Easter Saturday  
April 19th  
6:00pm-11:30pm**

**RUCKUS ROCKS RUFFY** At the Tablelands Community Centre  
**FOOT STOMPIN'-COUNTRY ROCKIN'-FAMILY FUN** Tickets \$20—Kids Under 12 Free  
**Food Available—BYO Drinks** **For Tickets Contact John 5790 4161**

**Thursday 24th  
April  
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 25th  
April  
1:00pm**

**ROCKY PASSES ESTATE** Live Music with "True Lies" 1580 Highlands Rd., Whiteheads Creek  
 Serving **Parillada Argentina** (Argentinian BBQ).....Music starts at 2:00pm \$40 food and music  
**Contact 5796 9366 [contact@rockypasses.com.au](mailto:contact@rockypasses.com.au)**

**Friday 25th  
April  
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**

**Sunday 27th  
April  
11:00am-4pm**

**BRAVE GOOSE VINEYARD** 8803 Goulburn Valley Hwy, Whiteheads Creek  
 A day of Wine tasting, Foxy Music & Ploughman's Platters  
 \$5 Entry, Free Wine Tasting, Ploughman's Platters \$20 Contact Nina Stocker 0417 553225 [ninastocker@hotmail.com](mailto:ninastocker@hotmail.com)