



THE GRANITE NEWS

18TH JANUARY 2015

VOLUME 9

ISSUE 01

WHITEHEADS CREEK

TERIP TERIP

CAVEAT

RUFFY

HIGHLANDS

HUGHES CREEK

A band of dry lightning carved across north east Victoria on Monday December 15th setting scores of fires from Avenel to Corryong.

Fire crews worked long into the night, and by midday Tuesday 16th most of the CFA and DEPI resources in the north east had been deployed, and most incidents were under control. Then came the wind.

At 3pm Tuesday the mopping-up crews were winding down as they surveyed the blackened but beaten hillside of "The Peak" at Tarcombe, which was fully ablaze the night before and had been crawling with CFA appliances from stations near and far.

At 3:30pm the VicFire radio called a fire on Gap Road, Longwood East.

This initial plume of smoke on Gap Road Longwood East would rapidly develop to become known as the Creightons Creek Fire

The fire-tanker journey from Tarcombe to 'Ardroy Corner', Longwood East took 20 minutes. At the destination there were already several fire-tankers, a CFA FCV as well as private cars facing every direction; UHF radios were going nuts with requests for local knowledge and all the while VicFire was calling in more CFA resources.

It was at about this time that Ruffy Brigade's 1st Lieutenant, Travis Tilton made the observation....."This could get messy".



Upton Hill & Ruffy tankers draft at "The Peak" on Michael & Olga Hill's property at Tarcombe



Avenel refills at "Ardroy" in the face of the rapidly moving blaze



Travis Tilton surveys the Weibye Track from "Frithwood" on McLean's Lane, Ruffy



Fire climbs out of a gully on Doug & Jacqui Bottcher's Creightons Creek property

On the night of Friday January 9th, 20-40mm of blessed rain fell softly to finally take the sting out of the Creightons Creek fire that had started 25 days earlier.

It had raged through 90 properties from Longwood East to Gooram, destroyed 4 homes, taken out 157kms of farm fencing, razed 3 large haysheds, incinerated 193 tonnes of hay, burned 75 cattle & 500 sheep, and severely stuffed-up Christmas for the affected property owners, the CFA volunteers and the broader community.

Travis' prediction was accurate.....it did get messy.

By Don Cook

LANDCARE NOTICE BOARD

Subsidies are now available through the

Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative Landcare group combined pest plant & animal funding for Weed Control and Rabbit Ripping.

Please email Simone on hughes.creek1@gmail.com or call 57904146 for more info.

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 on Invoice from HCCC Landcare

READERS' WRITES

ROAD BLOCKS

This year Victoria Police have amended their protocols to make it clearer when a farmer can pass a roadblock during an emergency. Access would require a minimum:

Identification and PIC card
2 able bodied people
PPE's
2 forms of communication Mobile, UHF, Sat Phone
Adequate water and pump
Chains for dragging debris
Chainsaw for tree removal
First aid Kit
Lighting

The roadblock staff would still require authorisation from the Incident Controller

Victoria Police have the authority to stop people from travelling through a road block regardless of circumstances.

from Scott McKay—Highlands

Source - "Victorian Farmer summer 2014/2015"

Provincial Precipitation

Month	Highlands	Ruffy
December	64.8 mm	43 mm
2014 Total	708 mm	763 mm
Dec Rain Days	8	5



Hughes Creek
Catchment Collaborative

SPEAKING PLAIN ENGLISH

Psithurism is the sound of the wind rustling through leaves.

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Emergency Service

Mobile AH 0408 576056

Dr Doug Norman B.V.Sc.(Hons)
Dr Jacinta Kelly B.V.Sc.(Hons)
Phone: 5772 1600

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0407 904335

FINDING FOXY
Issue 44 2014
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Classifieds & Community Notices

LOCAL GOINGS ON

Agencies Combine to Deliver Support to Bushfire Communities

About 60 fire-affected people from Longwood East, Ruffy, Creightons Creek, and Gooram turned up at Creightons Creek Hall on Tuesday 6th Jan. for breakfast and to hear a well organised presentation by a range of fire-recovery agencies.

Critical and relevant topics covered were:

Animal Health — caring for livestock and feeding, livestock containment
Animal Nutrition — feeding and options for livestock on fire affected properties
Water Protection and Soil Impacts — how to protect your water sources
Strathbogie Shire — Rural Financial Counsellors
Gecko Clan Landcare Network — support & assistance for fencing, water protection
Goulburn Broken CMA — environmental protection programmes



Anyone who has been affected by the Creightons Creek fire was encouraged to seek out the relevant agency representative to assist with their fire recovery programme.

The co-ordinator is Kerri Robson from Gecko Clan Landcare Network.

Kerri can be contacted on
0418 140710 or 5763 2465
landcare2@iinet.net.au



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Department of
Environment and
Primary Industries



TRADING PLACES

Good stuff for private sale or wanted by
friendly locals

For adverts in this column contact
editor@tgn.org.au

LOOKING FOR A SMALL SHED

The Upton Landcare Centre
at the Avenel Maze needs a
shed to house stuff for the
Native Seed Nursery, about
6m x 3m with door that can
be secured. Would prefer a
metal frame and gal iron
sheeting.

If you have one that's in the
way please contact

sandymackenzie@ozemail.com.au

0411 552 426
or 57962088



HONOURING OUR RUFFY HERO

MAYGAR MEMORIAL DEDICATION

Sunday 14th December was windy but fine for the
planting of the Lone Pine in memory of
Lt. Colonel Leslie Maygar VC.

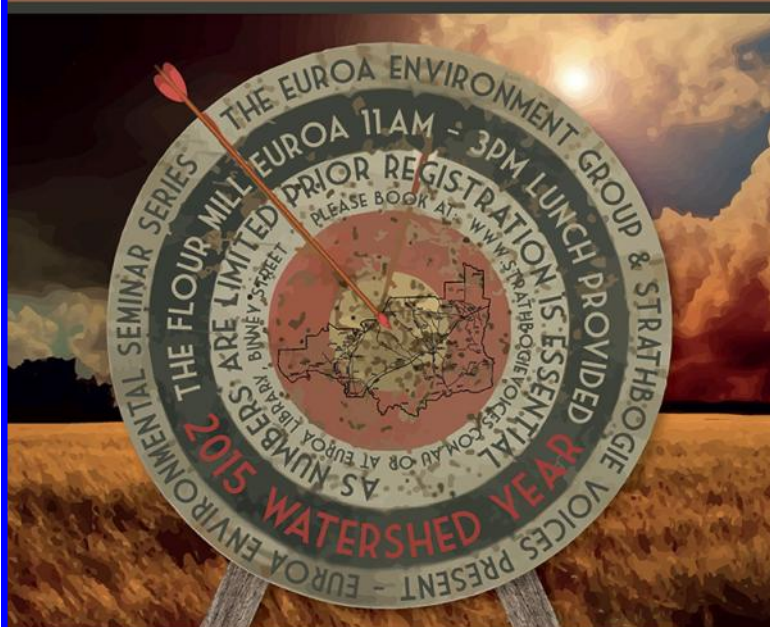
The memorial tree guard & plaque that had been gifted to
the Ruffy community by the Euroa RSL stood proud
and erect adjacent to the entrance at Maygar Park,
which includes the Ruffy Recreation Reserve and the
Ruffy Cricket Ground.

It was fitting that two of the district's most senior
residents, John & Andy Wilson were given the honour
of planting the tree, a seedling cloned from the iconic
'Lone Pine' on the Gallipoli peninsula which itself has
passed into Australian folklore.



**John & Andy Wilson planted the
Maygar Memorial Lone Pine**

2015 EUROA ENVIRONMENTAL SEMINAR SERIES



2015 IS SEEN BY MANY AS THE WATERSHED YEAR FOR ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

What does this mean for the strathbogie region? Come along to participate
in the discussion at a series of seminars to be held throughout the year.
Be part of the action. Bring your ideas.

Details in the "What's On" Calendar



COMMUNITY "WHAT'S ON" CALENDAR JAN/FEB 2015



**CFA ROSTERS
W/C
January 19th**

- Whiteheads Creek/Tarcombe..... Driver: Peter Gramlick Assistant: Mick Sandy
- Ruffy 1st Lieutenant Travis Tilton's Team
- Highlands/Caveat Driver: Callum Lawson Radio: Mel Bronca
- Terip Terip.....2nd Lieutenant Ken Richards' Team

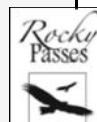
**Sunday 18th
January
11am-5pm**

ROCKY PASSES ESTATE

1590 Highlands Rd. Whiteheads Creek

An Exhibition of 4 Local Artists as part of the Yea Arts Carnivale featuring works by
Sandra Bowkett—Rob Freeman—Philip Wischer—Vitto Oles
Also serving our legendary local TAPAS from 12:30pm

Contact 5796 9366



**Saturday 24th
January
Sunday 25th
January
10am—4pm**

JOIN US AT THE HIGHLANDS HALL



Jan 24 / 2510-4pm for
Fun activities for children

felt, art, making
Light refreshments

Community Art exhibition &
Bonnie Neicho solo Exhibition

Organised by Maree and Leone please join us and tell
your friends.

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**Saturday 24th
January
8:00pm
Sunday 25th
4:00pm**

THE EUROA CINEMA "The Hunger Games-Mockingjay Pt 1" 123 mins (M) 3.5 stars Drama

The long-awaited third in a series of four movies based on the widely read and enjoyed novels. It is incredibly difficult to explain the story – those who know will understand. However, for those who have not read the books nor seen the previous movies this is a good time to borrow them from the library and get a heads up. The story line is unique and at times challenging but well worth the effort.

Starring Liam Hemsworth, Jennifer Lawrence, Julianne Moore, Donald Sutherland, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Woody Harrelson and Josh Hutcherson – it is a significant and talented cast who give their all to make the experience well worth waiting for

**Saturday 7th
February
9am—2pm**

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

**Saturday 7th
February
11am-3pm**

2015 EUROA ENVIRONMENTAL SEMINAR SERIES

The Euroa Flour Mill, Kirkland Ave, Euroa

Conversations—Climate Change and The Strathbogie Region - Prof. David Karoly—University of Melbourne
Presented by Euroa Environment Group — Euroa Arboretum — Strathbogie Voices

Spaces are limited so please book early at www.strathbogievoices.com.au or **The Euroa Library**

**Friday 13th
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.

Contact Judy Cameron 5796 9247

**Saturday 14th
February
10am – 4pm**

RUFFY vs HIGHLANDS ANNUAL CRICKET CHALLENGE

at The Village Green Strath Creek

The much anticipated annual challenge match is on again at the wonderful
Village Green & Pavilion Cricket Ground at Strath Creek.

Can the Highlanders reclaim the trophy from the Ruffians?

Can the unbridled enthusiasm of the flannelled fools compensate for the ravages of old father time?

Teams are being assembled

Contact Scott McKay 5796 9259 or Doug Maclean 5790 4387



TODAY!