



BOTANY, BIRDS & CREATURES

Feral Cats Prospering at the Expense of Native Wildlife



*Looks Cute....
but looks can be deceiving*

Feral cat populations began to establish in Australia soon after European arrival, as early as the 18th century.

Today, feral cats exist over much of Australia and have successfully colonised most habitats.

It is common for feral cats to grow to larger sizes than their domestic relatives. Feral cat adult males normally weigh from 3.4 to 6.4 kg (average weight 4.5 kg) and adult females from 2.4 to 4.4 kg (average weight 3.2 kg).

The most common coat colour of feral cats is striped tabby, but blotched tabby and black are also common.

Other colour variants are also seen in the wild.

Although feral cats may be active at any time, they are usually more active at night, with the two periods of greatest activity centred near the times of sunrise and sunset. Often during the day, feral cats will lay up in sheltered areas, usually in rabbit burrows, hollow logs or dense thickets of scrub.

Feral cats prefer live prey. They are opportunistic predators and will eat a wide range of foods, usually the most available prey species.

Individual cats become specialists at hunting particular prey species.

Feral cats are skilled hunters and are a threat to the survival of many native species including small mammals, birds and reptiles.

Feral cats are thought to be involved with the extinction of Australian native animals and have been implicated in the failure of endangered species reintroduction programs (eg. numbat, bilby, bandicoot).

Feral cats have no economic value. The cost of feral cat management and research has been estimated at \$2 million per year nationally. The economic loss inflicted by feral and domestic cats, based on bird predation alone, has been estimated at \$144 million annually.



Phascogales & other Native Wildlife are prey

Feral cats are also potential carriers of disease which may be harmful to stock and/or native animals. The disease, toxoplasmosis, can be transmitted by cats to humans, domestic stock and some native animals and can cause foetal disease and miscarriage.

Control mechanisms include Confinement Trapping, Habitat Manipulation or Exclusion Fencing.

The Department of Land Water Environment and Planning (DELWP) recommends integrated pest management using all available control measures implemented in a coordinated manner at a landscape scale.

<http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/agriculture-and-food/pests-diseases-and-weeds/pest-animals/a-z-of-pest-animals/?a=223199>



Skulls & Skeletons

I received this from a friend in response to my skull article in the Granite News.

This fossilised lizard skeleton was collected by Hamish while on holiday in Ruffy twenty years ago. It still survives today on a shelf in Hampton.

Janet Hagen



Hughes Creek
Catchment Collaborative

Contact editor@tgn.org.au 5790 4007
To subscribe online go to
www.highlands.org.au

LANDCARE NOTICE BOARD

Subsidies are now available through the Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative Landcare group for Rabbit Ripping.
Please email Simone on hughes.creek1@gmail.com or call **57904146** for more info.

Planning your Tree Planting for 2015 is Easy !

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Step2— Google the Goulburn Broken revegetation guide. Then go to Upper Hughes Creek catchment and Mid Hughes Creek catchment for list of plants suitable for your location.

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Contact Cath Olive 0429 127399

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Provincial Precipitation

Month	Highlands	Ruffy
March	14.0 mm	7.5 mm
2015 Total	118.4 mm	141.5 mm
Mar Rain Days	8	4

FINDING FOXY Issue 10 2015
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Classifieds and Community Notices

LOCAL GOINGS ON

TERIP TERIP TENNIS TOURNAMENT CHRISTENS COURTS

The old oak trees provided the shade on a magnificent Autumn day.

The brand new Modgrass tennis courts looked great and played straight & true.

MC Geoff Penny welcomed the guests & dignitaries and kept the formalities moving along nicely.

Robyn Richards informed and entertained the crowd with a potted history of the Terip Tennis Club & Courts.

The Murrindindi Mayor, Margaret Rae and her Councillors were all smiles as they absorbed the accolades for supporting the \$100,000 tennis court upgrade.

The Murrindindi Shire Councillors' broad smiles were shaded by the looks of satisfaction on the faces of the Terip Tennis Club's committee.

Lifetime local, Max Eddy was the perfect choice to help the Mayor unveil the plaque while players old and not so old relished the opportunity to catch up with tennis mates and adversaries.....and then there was the Afternoon Tea. What a Spread !



Serve and Volley is back in vogue on the Terip Terip courts



Robyn Richards delivers a history lesson



Max and Margaret do the honours



Sue, Helen, Tim, Max, Cindy, Geoff, Margaret & Francis



The heritage oak trees shaded the large crowd

2015 Terip Tennis Tournament Results

Section 3 Ladies: Winner – Tash Penny	Runner Up – Laura Penny
Section 3 Men: Winner – Topias	
Section 2 Ladies: Winner – Claire Debney	Runner Up– Mary Kelly
Section 2 Men: Winner – Alex Horvath	Runner Up – Brian Law
Section 1 Ladies: Winner – Cindy Hayes	Runner Up – Robin Audehm
Section 1 Men: Winner – Peter Wallis	Runner Up – Scott Rowan

TRADING PLACES

Good stuff for private sale or wanted by friendly locals

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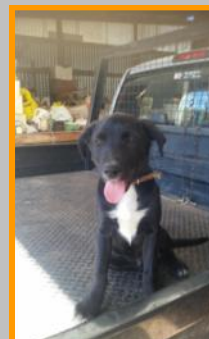
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Kelpie x Border Collie Pups



Kelpie type Female

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Border-Collie type Male

m/c 956000004303639

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0429 969276

COMMUNITY "WHAT'S ON" CALENDAR APRIL/MAY 2015

TODAY !



Every Sunday 11am—5pm	ROCKY PASSES ESTATE 1590 Highlands Rd. Whiteheads Creek <i>Come join us for a relaxing lunch including the famous Tapas accompanied by our estate-grown wines</i> Contact 5796 9366
Thursday 9th April 10:00am-12noon	RUFFY PLAYGROUP at the Tablelands Community Centre Opposite The Ruffy Store Nolans Rd. April's Playgroup has been re-scheduled due to Easter. It has gone back a week to April 9th Cost: \$3:00 per Family. Bring a small plate of food to share. Contact Sally 5790 4335
Friday 10th 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 11th April Sunday 12th April	EUROA CINEMA No Cinema This Weekend Instead there will be a Talent Competition on Sunday, 12th April with great prizes on offer Do you have a band, are you are a dancer, singer, musician, comedian, poet? Anyone with talent is welcome to enter — open to all ages For more details strathbogie@fasttracktalent.com.au or 1300 327 801
Sunday 12th April 11:15am	ST.DAVID'S UNITING CHURCH TERIP-RUFFY Ruffy Road, Terip Terip This service will be conducted with Holy Communion by our minister, Reverend Glenys Gill. All welcome. For any information contact Jennifer Penny 5790 4233
Monday 13th April 7:30pm	TABLELANDS COMMUNITY CENTRE@RUFFY Nolans Road, Ruffy (Old Ruffy School) Monthly Committee Meeting, but everyone is always welcome. Contact Justus 5790 4268
Friday 17th April 7:00pm	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 18th April 9am-1:00pm	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 Helen Brook 0456 723331 www.euroavillagefarmersmarket.org
Saturday 18th April 10:30am	'WILDERNESS' vs 'RIVERINE' ANNUAL CRICKET MATCH at Latrobe Cricket Ground Beechworth The annual challenge match with the boys from across the border is on again. Post Match Dinner Beechworth Brewery Currently we have a team but all are All Welcome to come watch score or Umpire. Contact Scott McKay 0427 969259
Sunday 19th April 11:00am-4pm	EUROA HOSPITAL GARDEN PARTY at The Sevens Creek Estate, Seven Creeks Estate Rd., Euroa It will be great day for all the family for a very worthy local cause. Entry \$10, with children under 18 free. Details on www.euroa.org.au or phone Jim 0417 392880
Thursday 30th 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
Saturday 2nd May 9am-12noon	HIGHLANDS WORKING BEE at the Highlands Community Hall There will be a working bee at the Highlands Community Hall on Saturday 2nd May from 9am - 12 noon. Please bring appropriate tools & join us for a morning of pruning, weeding & brush cutting as well as the opportunity for catching up with friends at a BBQ lunch. For more information contact Judy Cameron 5796 9247 or Judy Reid 5796 9358
Monday 18th May 8:00pm	RUFFY HALL COMMITTEE MEETING Ruffy Community Hall, Nolans Road Quarterly committee meeting and all welcome. Contact Sharron Batt 5790 4329