



FARMING & ENVIRONMENT

I was talking to Adrian Martin yesterday and he was telling me about his stone fruit business in Ruffy and the value of the bees which do all the pollinating. This is the kind of "Natural Capital" we all know is priceless - Adrian said he'd be "in some sort of trouble" without the bees !!

While we sometimes feel that not enough people "get it" - I think we all know the role we play can make a difference. This morning I had a conversation with David McInnes (Earthwatch CEO) who told me that when he started with Earthwatch just over 2 years ago they had 800 people involved in environmental research programs - today they have 25,000 & his target is 100,000 !



By
Shirley
Saywell



Adrian Martin ponders the benefits of Bees in his Ruffy orchard

PEOPLE AND PLACES

2016 Australia Day Award Nominations

Do you know someone who has shown considerable dedication to the community and is worthy of an Australia Day Award?

Or is there a local organisation or community event that stands out?

If so, then we would like you to put pen to paper and submit an Australia Day Award nomination.

The award categories are:

- **Community Organisation of the Year**
- **Community Event of the Year** (event occurred after 27/01/2015)
 - **Junior Citizen of the Year** (under 15 yrs at 26/01/2016)
 - **Young Citizen of the Year** (between 15 - 25 yrs at 26/01/2016)
 - **Citizen of the Year** (over 25 yrs at 26/01/2016)

On 26th January next year, there will be Australia Day celebrations in Avenel, Euroa, Longwood, Nagambie, Strathbogie and Violet Town.

However the main ceremony event will be held in Nagambie; last year it was held in Longwood and next year Strathbogie will host it.



At this year's Australia Day Ceremony, Eliza Hoare won the 2015 Shire-wide Junior Citizen of the Year. Eliza solely raised the idea to organise a fundraiser to help a local friend / family who were struggling with ongoing medical expenses for their son with a medical condition. Eliza was committed right through to the end including set up and pack up of the event.

Nomination forms can be picked up from the Council office in Euroa, Nagambie Visitor Information Centre, the Euroa Hub or online

www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au click on Community > Community Resources.

Nominations should be lodged with Clare Hahnel, Strathbogie Shire Council's Economic Development Officer.

Nominations close 5pm sharp Wednesday 4 November 2015.

Late nominations will not be accepted.



Hughes Creek
Catchment Collaborative

The Granite News
is taking a two week break in line
with the school holidays.

Our next edition will be published
Sunday October 11th

READERS' WRITES

"Thanks for your work in advertising for Rotary Seymour. I have collected about 50 batteries that have been removed from farms in the district."

—Ron Halicki, Caveat

"I do enjoy your dictionary of unusual words. My problem is that I later forget them. Recently reading a book on Australian trees I came across '*umbrageous*' which means providing shade. As you may realize it comes from '*umbrage*' to take offence. I can see the connection between providing shade and taking offence. I offer it as a contribution as we enter the season when we are looking for shade and hopefully not being too ready to take offence."

—Stuart Reid, Highlands

LANDCARE NOTICE BOARD

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**FINDING FOXY Issue 32 2015
Big Idea Fox Page 1**

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Classifieds and Community Notices

LOCAL GOINGS ON

A YEA RIVER CATCHMENT LANDCARE GROUP INITIATIVE



SUSTAINABLE FARMING



Have you seen this weed?



Need advice on how to deal with this one?



Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) are so called because of 'their invasiveness, potential for spread and environmental, social and economic impacts'.

Both Chilean Needle Grass and blackberry are WoNS.

A vigorous (but little known) competitor, Chilean Needle Grass (*Nassella neesiana*) is a perennial tussock-forming grass from South America, which can have a devastating impact on agriculture and local biodiversity.

It is often confused with other grasses, in particular the common native spear grasses (*Austrostipa* species).

And it is now in our immediate area.

The well-known but persistent scourge blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*) can severely decrease the productive capacity of your land, alter water flow, lead to erosion problems and provide harbour for pest animals. It can out-compete and displace native plant species and lead to a loss of biodiversity.

Come along and hear Murrindindi Shire's Environment Officer, Sue McNair, speak on Chilean Needle Grass (there may be flowering Needle Grass on site for identification) and Cam Paterson from the Victorian Blackberry Taskforce on the current management strategies for blackberry.

Where: Ian and Joy Purcell's, 85 Limestone Rd, Yea

When: 10am — 12.30pm, Saturday 10th October 2015

RSVP: 3rd October to Prue King 0412 753 385

prudencenz@hotmail.com

TRADING PLACES

Bits & pieces for private sale or wanted by friendly locals

ARE YOU THINKING of SELLING YOUR BLOCK in the HIGHLANDS AREA?

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USED BATTERY COLLECTION



Do you have old Car, Truck or Tractor batteries lying around?

Seymour Rotary Club is appealing to Farmers and Landholders in the Granite News delivery area for old batteries to be collected for our Battery Collection Project.

Simply Contact Ron Halicki 5797 6212 or 0428 674006
halron1@gmail.com and we'll arrange to pick up.

COMMUNITY “WHAT’S ON” CALENDAR SEPT/OCT 2015

Monday 21st
September
7:30pm

TERIP RECREATION RESERVE — Annual General Meeting at the Terip Rec Reserve
AGM to review the past year and to elect office bearers.
All Welcome **Contact Robyn 5790 4303**

Tomorrow

Thursday 24th
September
from 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 26th
September
10:00am

RAG RUG MAKING WORKSHOP at The Tablelands Community Centre—Ruffy
This is the 2nd workshop by popular demand.
Come along and have fun learning this fascinating craft.
\$40pp including tuition, hessian sack & rugging tool
Contact Gaylene for further information & booking 0407 860907

Saturday 26th
September
8:00pm
Sunday 27th
September
4:00pm

EUROA CINEMA “Paper Towns” 109 Mins (M) Drama/Mystery/Romance 3.5 stars
Adapted from the bestselling novel of the same name, this is a coming-of-age story centred on Quentin and his neighbour Margo who loved mysteries so much she became one!
After an all-night adventure, Margo disappears, leaving cryptic clues for Quentin to decipher. The search proves to be exhilarating, adventurous, hilarious and moving.
In his search for Margo, Quentin finds a deeper understanding of true friendship and love



Sunday 27th
September
10:00am

TABLELANDS COMMUNITY CENTRE — WORKING BEE
at the Tablelands Community Centre Nolans Rd Ruffy
‘Spring Cleaning’ working bee to prepare our Spring/Summer activities.
Everybody is welcome to come along and lend a hand. **Contact Justus 5790 4268**

Tuesday 6th
October
7:30pm

HiArts ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at the Highlands Hall
We would welcome any members of the community to join the meeting
and share their ideas at the 2015 HiArts AGM **Contact Stuart 5796 9358**

Friday 9th
October
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



Sunday 11th
October
5:00pm

TABLELANDS COMMUNITY CENTRE Tablelands Community Centre Nolans Rd Ruffy
Regular monthly committee meeting has changed to Sunday afternoons.
Everybody is Welcome **Contact Justus 5790 4268**

Saturday 17th
October
6:30pm

COMMUNITY SPRING WOOLSHED DANCE at Habbies Howe Woolshed
All Welcome — Bring the whole Family — Bring some Friends — Music Food Fun
Tickets \$25pp or \$20 before Sept 30th. Kids under 13 free !
For tickets contact
Mel Bronca 0417 126 975 Judy Cameron 5796 9247 Cindy Hayes 0429 772 011



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