



FARMING & ENVIRONMENT

Hughes Creek works support Macquarie perch

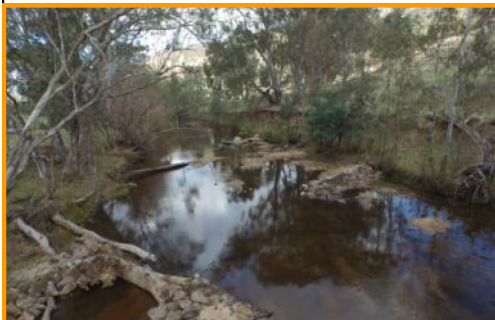
In-stream structures placed in Hughes Creek earlier this year appear to be helping create deep pools needed for threatened Macquarie Perch to shelter in.

Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (CMA) River Health Officer Christine Glassford said 50 structures were placed at three trial sites along the creek in May.

"We placed large rocks & logs in a number of configurations along 2km of the creek, below where we know there are already Macquarie perch," Ms Glassford said.

"The aim is to improve the quality of habitat and extend the range of Macquarie perch downstream from their current stronghold."

The population of Macquarie Perch in Hughes Creek is one of the few remaining in Victoria.



A deep pool created on Hughes Creek by the GBCMA Macquarie perch project

"Sand is the main threat to the confined population, having eroded from the catchment following early settlement activities and accumulated in the creek.

The sand is shifted within the river channel in high flows, filling in the deep pools Macquarie perch shelter in and the riffles they need for spawning, where

fast, shallow waters passes over gravels and larger rocks.

"Establishing in-stream and bank vegetation is another important component to these habitat improvement works. We have plans to trial planting staggered blocks of reeds and rushes to stabilise the sand bars. These plants do a fantastic job of holding the sand in place and reducing the amount transported to degrade downstream habitat."

Monitoring undertaken before and after the works will help measure their effectiveness and shape future activities. Surveys of water bugs, fish and the physical features of the stream, such as depth of pools, location and connectivity, are being conducted to capture changes.

"So far, assessments confirm deeper water has been achieved near the constructed habitats," Ms Glassford said.

"A high flow event, when the most significant amounts of sand are transported, will be needed to test if this depth can be maintained."

"Our aim is to improve habitat for Macquarie perch all along Hughes Creek, and reconnect the population to the Goulburn River to enhance the population's resilience, particularly in drought."

These habitat trials are explained in more detail in a recently produced clip **Protecting Macquarie Perch in Hughes Creek** that can be viewed on the Goulburn Broken CMA's YouTube channel.

The GB CMA offers funding support to landholders along the Hughes Creek and its tributaries to undertake complementary riparian improvement works, such as stock fencing, off-stream watering and revegetation.

Anyone interested in getting involved in the project, should contact

Christine Glassford on 5797 4400



Hughes Creek
Catchment Collaborative

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

This is the final Granite News
for 2015

We thank our Readers, our
Writers and of course
our Sponsors for your
continuing support and we wish
all our readers a safe and happy
Christmas season

The first GN issue for 2016 will be
Sunday January 24th

READERS' WRITES

"Following your article titled 'Agapanthus Agony' I would like to say that agapanthus can be a delightful addition to a garden if managed properly. By removing the seed heads from the plant after flowering, you will ensure that they do not self-seed and get out of control."

Pam Sprunt —Ruffy

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FINDING FOXY Issue 43 2015
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Classifieds and Community Notices

LOCAL GOINGS ON



Since the last of its annual Art Exhibitions, **HiArts** has downsized its activities, but is keen to encourage a continued interest in the arts.

At our recent AGM it was agreed to maintain the **HiArts** annual senior student prizes at Seymour and Yea Secondary Colleges.

The winners this year are Isy O'Connor from Yea and Jema Maygar-Hussein from Seymour.

As is our custom we are arranging for a sample of their works to be displayed alongside the other local artists in the Highlands Hall during the Yea Carnivale over the Australia Day weekend in January 2016.

HiArts will operate with a small Committee but welcome additional volunteers. **HiArts** stands ready to respond to any art opportunities as they arise and will from time to time initiate art activities.

Contact Stuart Reid 5796 9358 kadumbla@mac.com

TRADING PLACES

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More photos available on request

2016 TERIP SOCIAL TENNIS TOURNAMENT

Saturday January 9th

**Section 1 & 2 – Ladies and Men's
Doubles Mixed Competition – Alternating Partners
Juniors**



**Frances 0427 904 262 – Cindy 0429 772 011
Helen 5790 4211 – Sue 5790 4277**



Student Honours projects on Strathbogie Granite — Update by Professor Neil Phillips

Earlier this year we reported in Granite News some research involving Honours (4th year) students at Monash University. Andrew Gordon has now finished his thesis under the supervision of Sandy Cruden and Neil Phillips and passed very well.

Andrew's work involved collecting samples of the granite throughout a broad area between Highlands, Caveat, Ruffy and Avenel. His samples came from roadsides and private property, and he took pieces about the size of a wine cork back to the laboratory at Monash. Although the Strathbogie Granite is completely non-magnetic for all intents and purposes and will not affect a hand held compass, the Monash geoscience laboratory is set up to measure very weak magnetic properties in the granite. This weak magnetism was established in the rock 370 million years ago when the liquid granite material cooled and solidified. The specific method used by Andrew is called anisotropy of magnetic susceptibility (or AMS) and Sandy Cruden has been a pioneer of this method for granites.

The results of Andrew's work help us to understand how the liquid granite flowed into its present position from 10-15 km below the ground surface. One thing Andrew has successfully shown is that the magnetic method does work on the very weakly magnetic granites of Central Victoria; his finding opens new opportunities and will pave the way for future studies.

One of the side benefits coming from the study relates to the geometry of the granite and the flow pathways when it was melt. The passage of the melt 3700 million years ago determines the geometry and density of cracks as the granite cools and what we see today. These cracks are important in determining groundwater access, storage and water movement in granite today in the top 0-200m. Springs are common where some cracks intersect the ground surface.

To the many residents of Highlands and surrounds, thank you for your hospitality, for access to private property, spending time talking about your land and property, and ultimately your contribution to the training of our future scientists. Early discussions are underway for two more student projects for 2016, and we will keep the community duly informed of progress.

The next community presentation on the Strathbogie granite project discusses the Tallarook plateau, and will be held in the Tallarook Hall on 6th February 2016.

Contact Robyn Bowker for details robynbowker@gmail.com

COMMUNITY "WHAT'S ON" CALENDAR DECEMBER 2015/JANUARY 2016



CFA ROSTERS
w/c
20th December

- ◇ RUFFY _____ 1st Lieutenant Travis Tilton's Team
- ◇ TERIP TERIP _____ 2nd Lieutenant Ken Richard's Team
- ◇ HIGHLANDS/CAVEAT W/C 27/12 _____ Driver: Tim Hood—Radio: Elly Fisher
- ◇ WHITEHEAD'S CREEK /TARCOMBE _____ Driver: Michel Becks - Assistant: Shaun Green

Saturday 9th
January
9:30am
10:00am Start

TERIP TERIP ANNUAL TENNIS TOURNAMENT Terip Tennis Courts Top Rd Terip Terip
The annual Terip Terip Social Tennis Tournament is on again.
Section 1 & 2 – Ladies and Men's
Doubles Mixed Competition – Alternating Partners — Juniors
Contact Helen 5790 4211 – Sue 5790 4277 - Frances 0427 904 262 – Cindy 0429 772 011



Saturday 23rd
January
To Tuesday
26th
January

HiArts & YEA CARNIVALE at the Highlands Community Hall
At least five local artists will have their works on show at the Highlands Community Hall while a number will also have their home studios open to visitors.
The Hub of Artists at the Highlands Community Hall will be open over the four days from 10am until 4 pm on each day.



MOTHER NATURE IS NOT MEANT TO BE TIDY!

Is there any understorey on your property?
Can you leave some sticks and leaves on the ground for insects, small creatures & birds to build their nests?
Are there any tree hollows?
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