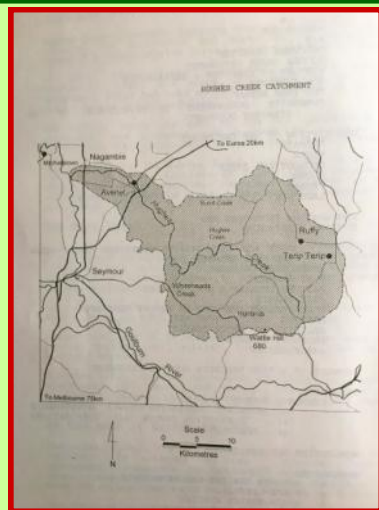




## FARMING & ENVIRONMENT



### 'Attaining a Balance'

### Landcare Strategy for the Hughes Creek Catchment

**Sarah Nicholas – 1995**

In 1994 the National Landcare Program and BP supported the Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative to hire a consultant and develop a strategy document for the area with as much community input as possible.

The document was split in to two parts, one as a resource document complete with recommendations and references and the second part promoting the projects and practical applications of the recommendations in the reference document.

Our aim was **'to achieve sustainable and viable agriculture and other land uses within an ecologically balanced catchment'**.

The outcomes we expected were:

- \* Increase profitability
- \* Weeds and pests controlled or eliminated
- \* Wide adoption of new management systems to improve productivity
- \* Increased amounts of on ground works
- \* Increased participation and knowledge in the community
- \* Improved quality of water leaving the catchment
- \* Increased number of strategically place trees and shrubs
- \* Improved wildlife habitat

There was no time frame for these tasks as they were freely able to admit that setting a time frame to reverse over 100 years of unsuitable land management would be unrealistic.

The Hughes Creek Catchment likely had both the Molka and the Taungurung Aboriginal tribes in the area; however at the time of this document being produced in 1995 no survey for significant Aboriginal sites had been carried out. The Dropmore pastoral lease was one of the first in the area and comprised of almost 104 square kilometres mostly in the Hughes Creek Catchment and was taken up in 1838 just 4 years after permanent European Settlement began in Victoria.

Other large leases in the catchment included Tarcombe, Rocky Passes and Habbies Howe. Areas of forest were cleared by ringbarking, tracks formed and hard hoofed sheep introduced. The resource 'Landcare Strategy for the Hughes Creek Catchment' gathered their information from a comprehensive survey of the farmers in the area. With 32% of landholders covering over 50% of the productive land contributing.

Over the next few weeks I will outline some of the strategies included in this document and where we are sitting now, 22 years on.

*By Mel Bronca—Facilitator, HCCC Landcare*



**Hughes Creek**  
Catchment Collaborative

Contact [editor@tgn.org.au](mailto:editor@tgn.org.au)  
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Thanks to all those readers who've chosen to make a donation.....your support is appreciated

## LANDCARE NOTICE BOARD

### FOX on the RUN



The 2017 competition is officially closed, but if you still have Fox Feet to hand in  
Please Contact  
Mel at HCCC Landcare  
**0417 126975**

We are currently building a Database of weeds in the district. If you know of a roadside or property that has significant issues with Blackberries, Patersons Curse or any other weed of concern please contact  
Melinda Bronca.

**0417 126975 5796 9157**

[hughes.creek1@gmail.com](mailto:hughes.creek1@gmail.com)  
All information will remain  
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**FINDING FOXY Issue 23 2017**  
**Boathole Foxy Page 4**

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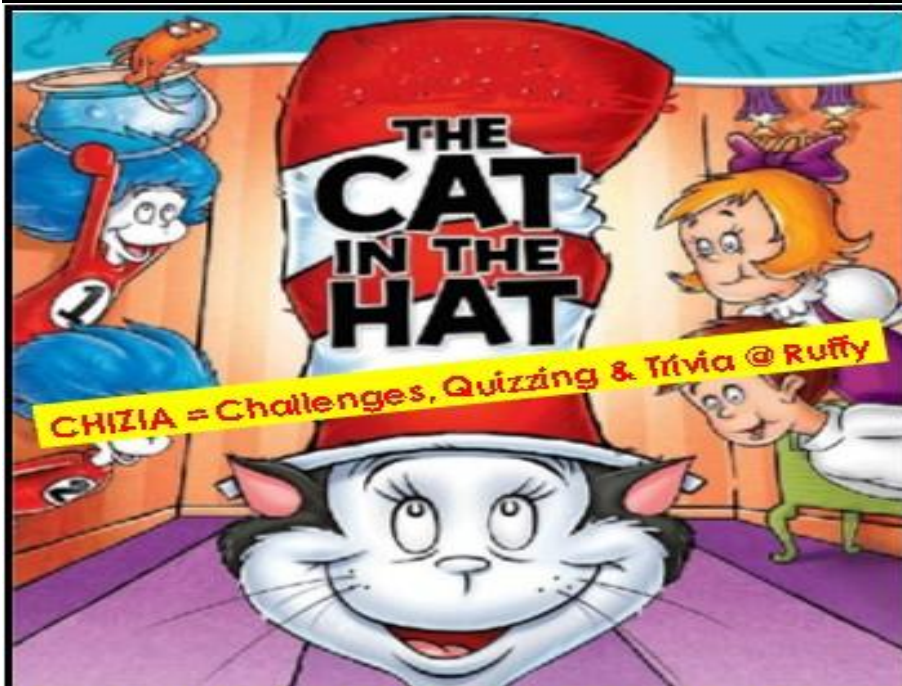


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# Classifieds and Community Notices

## LOCAL GOINGS ON



Sat 12th Aug 2017, 7-15 for 7.30 @ Ruffy Hall.  
Adults \$10, pre-teens free. BYO drinks & nibbles.  
Enjoy our warm'n'cosy hall & an amazing supper.  
Numerous rare and unique prizes.  
**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL - Phone Roger 0437 771 580**

*By the Ruffy Hall Committee*



**Why did the Tachyglossidae  
(Echidnas) cross the road?  
....you mind your business  
& I'll get on with mine !**



*Thanks to the very observant Peter Saglietti—Ruffy*

## READERS' WRITES

### Justice and Freedom

I am trying to discover the primary values that underscore current political activity.

The Prime Minister trying to bring together the Liberal Party factions, recently said, 'the Liberal Party stands for freedom or nothing'. He would probably explain this further in terms of free enterprise, free trade, free speech, freedom from regulations, freedom from government interference, freedom from high taxation and free competition.

There is however, a dark side to freedom. Some use freedom as an excuse to exploit people (Uber did it during train emergency) and abuse the environment (some cotton farmers steal water). Others avoid taxation (to rob you and me) and abuse those 'who look different'. Freedom does not produce equity and is not necessarily fair for everybody.

There is another possible value that is not often expressed, namely 'justice'. This includes social responsibility, equality, equity, fairness, respect for the environment, care for those most vulnerable, cooperation and sharing resources.

Though it is not always explicitly stated, there appears to be a struggle between freedom and justice, as the paramount value that determines policy and action. I confess to be rather sceptical when people go on and on about freedom.

In many ways, it is a song sung mainly by the privileged.

You cannot have true freedom without real justice. Justice is essential to freedom. Freedom without justice is an illusion. I do not regard myself as free when there are people who are not free. How can we be free, when we neglect the most vulnerable in our society, neglect the stranger, reject the refugee, despise those who are different, abuse children and monopolise wealth?

Are we a free or a just country?

Sadly, we are neither.

What do you think?

**Stuart Reid —Highlands**



# COMMUNITY "WHAT'S ON" CALENDAR — JULY/AUGUST 2017



<b>Sunday 30th</b> <b>July</b> <b>10:30am</b>	<b>HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS</b> <i>meet at Highlands Hall</i> Weather permitting, the next Highlands Ramblers Walk will be from Fassifern Road to Chisholm Road following Jacks Creek (or as the older folk say Fassifern Creek) and then on to Spaniaiks Road. Bring water and a carry lunch. Those coming from the east may choose to meet our convoy at Fassifern Road at 10.45am. <i>Contact Judy Reid 5796 9358</i>
<b>Friday 4th</b> <b>August</b> <b>Time TBA</b>	<b>RUFFY COMMUNITY FORUM DINNER</b> <i>at the Ruffy Hall</i> Here's an opportunity for you to come together over dinner with other local people to contribute your ideas and suggestions about Ruffy's future. More details will be available later in July.
<b>Saturday 12th</b> <b>August</b> <b>7:15 for 7:30pm</b>	<b>CHIZIA (Colossal Challenges, Quirky Quizzing, Terrific Trivia)</b> <i>at Ruffy Hall</i> BYO drinks and nibbles. Memorable Ruffy supper. Many unique prizes. Adults \$10, pre-teens free. Bookings essential - <i>Contact Roger 0437 771 580</i>
<b>Saturday 19th</b> <b>August</b> <b>9am—1pm</b>	<b>EUROA VILLAGE FARMERS MARKET</b> <i>Rotary Park, Kirkland Ave., Euroa</i> <b>"Meet, Greet, Eat &amp; Shop"</b> A wonderful range of farm fresh produce from "local" producers. <i>Contact Helen Brook 0456 723331 <a href="http://www.euroavillagefarmersmarket.org">www.euroavillagefarmersmarket.org</a></i>
<b>Thursday 27th</b> <b>July</b> <b>5:30pm</b>	<b>SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS</b> <i>Old Caveat Church, Caveat-Dropmore Rd, Caveat</i> Come along and have a casual chat with other local blokes. BBQ Tea Provided (Gold Coin) BYO Drinks
<b>Sunday 30th</b> <b>July</b> <b>9am—1pm</b>	<b>NAGAMBIE FARMERS MARKET</b> <i>on centre median strip High St Nagambie-</i> Experience a true accredited farmers' market in the picturesque lakeside town of Nagambie. <i>Further details Contact <a href="http://nagambiefarmersmarket.com.au">nagambiefarmersmarket.com.au</a></i>
<b>Friday 11th</b> <b>August</b> <b>7:30pm</b>	<b>HCCC LANDCARE</b>  <i>at Tablelands Community Centre Ruffy</i> Monthly Landcare meeting to discuss and promote essential and innovative environmental management issues that affect every landholder. All welcome <i>Contact Mel Bronca 0417 126975</i>
<b>Saturday 23rd</b> <b>Sunday 24th</b> <b>September</b>	<b>YEA GARDEN EXPO</b> <i>at the Yea Racecourse</i> Everything from rare trees, plants & bulbs through garden tools, ornaments & equipment to compost & soil. <i>Food, Drinks and Good Coffee will be available.</i>



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