

## PEOPLE AND PLACES

### CAPTAIN KOALA HELPS to DELIVER FIRE SAFETY MESSAGE

They say never to work with children or animals, but last Sunday our indigenous ‘Captain Koala’ helped Ruffy CFA’s Community Fire Safety Awareness Co-ordinator Felicity Sloman and Captain George Noye to deliver vital pre-season fire safety information to a strong crowd of Tablelands residents.



36 people turned out to hear Felicity and George’s key messages:

- \* **Develop & practice your personal and property Fire Plan**
- \* **Begin your seasonal property preparations early**
- \* **Include arrangements for pets & livestock**
- \* **Monitor the weather, especially wind direction & intensity**
- \* **Listen to local radio or download VicEmergency’s phone App**
- \* **If you plan to stay & defend, be aware that it takes at least two emotionally & physically fit people to defend a property**
- \* **If your Fire Plan is to leave, then leave early**
- \* **Ensure your vehicle is fully fuelled and parked facing your exit**
- \* **If possible, everyone should leave in the one vehicle**



Captain Koala gets Captain George chuckling

Felicity’s experience as a Victorian Bushfire Case Manager at Marysville following the 2009 bushfires was evident as she related some valuable lessons learned from that disaster. Euroa CFA Group’s Brigade Admin Support Officer, Paul Verbeek then took questions on CFA operations.

All the while, Captain Koala listened intently but also made a few quiet interventions to keep the presenters “on message”.

Several recent arrivals to the Tablelands attended and all commented on how valuable they found the session, especially the sharing of local knowledge by Maggie’s Lane resident & CFA member Andrew Bond and others.



Euroa CFA Group BASO, Paul Verbeek takes questions



Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative Landcare

Contact [editor@tgn.org.au](mailto:editor@tgn.org.au)  
To subscribe online go to [www.highlands.org.au](http://www.highlands.org.au)

### READERS’ WRITES

Hi Stuart, Just read your article in our Granite News. How well put my friend, getting out of balance sometimes takes time to adjust to. Nothing wrong with that, human nature is to cling to the old familiar ground because we feel safe there.

Rationality is the need for human kind to progress, old hang ups implanted by our parents and religious zeal does not do the world any good.

Albert Bak — Highlands

### LANDCARE NOTICE BOARD



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is now on Facebook

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### Tablelands Rainfall

Month	Highlands	Ruffy
November	35.1 mm	65.5 mm
2017Total	616.5 mm	674.5 mm
November Rain Days	9 Days	6 Days

### HIGHLANDS/CAVEAT RURAL FIRE BRIGADE



#### Pre-Season Meeting

Wednesday Dec 6th — 7:30pm

At the Highlands Fire Shed

All Welcome

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## LOCAL GOINGS ON



### **PASTURE FIELD DAY at HABBIES HOWE (Re Run)**

**Wednesday 6th December  
9am — 10:30am**

Seymour Equine & Rural is sponsoring another Pasture Field Day at "Habbies Howe" 110 Dropmore Road, Highlands

\* Perennial pastures (as per our demonstration site) relevant to Seymour and surrounds by **Mark Palmer, Stephen Pasture Seeds.**

\* Paddock selection, preparation, weed/pest control by **Tom McCooey (Agronomist), Seymour Equine & Rural.**

\* Westonfence, a new strong but low cost fencing option by **Hamish Burr, Gallagher Australia.**

We look forward to putting on another successful day and we hope to see you there.

To register Please Contact Glenn Barry—Seymour Equine & Rural  
0439 990 480

### **READERS' WRITES**

The recent debates about 'assisted dying' has only reinforced the complexity of the issue. It would be difficult to document here the range of views held and the various ways people have approached the issue.

The debate has been going on with more or less intensity for as long as I can remember. I confessed to have struggled with the question and even today feel some ambivalence.

Taking life, even one's own is not to be taken lightly.

Apart from extremes views at both ends of the spectrum, I have sympathies for both sides, and over the years have swung to and fro as I listen to different viewpoints.

I have great sympathy for those people who live in great pain and face a terminal future, I presently have a brother in law experiencing a terminal illness and whose pain is very real. I can hardly imagine how difficult it would be to live with that day in and day out. It is hard enough for those standing by. I can well understand their wish to end it all and such a wish needs to be respected.

My concern however, lies when someone wants to end it all because they have come to feel they have become a burden on others and an expense on the community. Such messages can easily be picked up in a society that seems so ready to commodify everything and at the same time is slow to provide sufficient resources for comprehensive palliative care.

Dying with dignity can only have integrity when society itself fulfils its responsibility to care for those most vulnerable and does it without judgement and without counting the cost.

People must be treated as human beings and not as things.

What do you think?

Stuart Reid — Highlands

### **HIGH TEA with LORRAINE LEA**

The Ruffy Produce Store  
Sat December 9th from 3pm



High Tea and complimentary champagne will be offered in conjunction with a

#### **Lorraine Lea Linen**

consultant as part of our fundraising efforts for Natania's trip to Borneo.

A great chance for local ladies to get together for a relaxed afternoon.

Please RSVP by 4 December to 0488240408

**Orders for Lorraine Lea guaranteed before Christmas if paid on the day.**

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COMMUNITY "WHAT'S ON" CALENDAR — DECEMBER 2017

**Friday 8th  
December**

**6:30pm**

**HIGHLANDS/CAVEAT COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP** Highlands Hall

Come along and join in the End Of Year Get Together with the Highlands / Caveat community. BBQ starts 6.30pm with meat provided, BYO drink, glass, chair and a salad to share. ALL community members welcome.

**For further information contact Judy Cameron 5796 9247**

**Saturday 9th  
December**

**3:00pm**

**HIGH TEA with LORRAINE LEA**

at Ruffy Store, Nolans Rd Ruffy

High Tea and complimentary champagne will be offered in conjunction with a Lorraine Lea linen consultant . RSVP by December 4th please.

**Contact Kerrie 0488 240408 (Call or Text)**

**Monday 11th  
December**

**11am**

**HIGHLANDS SPINNERS**

450 Caveat-Dropmore Rd. Caveat

We're having a Christmas Break Up day. We'll probably spin a few yarns and celebrate our year's achievements. Bring a Plate to share. Good company assured. All Welcome

**Contact Jan 5790 4361**

**Tuesday 12th  
December**

**4:30pm**

**A PORTRAIT of DENNIS SPITERI**

Yea Library Council Chambers

The feature length documentary film details the life and work of local artist Dennis Spiteri.

**Everyone is Welcome but Booking is recommended 57360036**

**Sunday 24th  
December**

**Christmas Eve  
5:30pm**

**CAROLS at CAVEAT** at the Old Caveat Church, Caveat-Dropmore Rd

Come and celebrate Christmas with the community by singing along or just humming harmoniously. Everybody Welcome.

Family, Friends & Children encouraged . **Contact Susan Bennett 5790 4333**



**HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS**

A big thank you to Andrew Shaw & Louise Currie for leading our Ramblers Walks this year, and thanks to everyone for coming along and making the walks so enjoyable. We are having a break during the hot weather and will resume our walks again in the new year.

**Sunday 25th March is the date of our first Ramblers Walk for 2018.**



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