



WOOLSHED DANCE

Wool shed dances are part of our Australian tradition and they were often held after a hard week or season of rural living as a way to celebrate and bring communities together. Are they a thing of the past?

I remember from some of my earliest childhood memories, the impending excitement in the days leading up to a community get together such as a wool shed dance. The mere thought of catching up with your school friends, 'out of hours, out of teacher power', was spine tingling, not to mention the neighbouring community kids who, with a bit of good fortune, would also arrive. Then the dilemma of what to wear, how to co-ordinate the colours and what could I get away with as I was walking out the door past mum to get into the car to leave was very stimulating.

Once there and past the shy awkward first moments of hellos, the chance to act like an adult, pretend to be a current legend (movie star, singer, dancer or whoever was the flavor of the day) and to stay up way past my bed time was a refreshing break from normal life.

And to the adults, did they enjoy themselves? Well they spent the subsequent weeks chatting about what people wore or said, the important local issues that came up on the night and the discussion about how and what can be done about it plus there seemed to always be a spin off invitation. So I am guessing they did.

It can be said that life on the farm and living in a rural community is completely different now than when I was a snapper years ago. The opportunity that fast cars, internet, technology in general and the social interaction that small rural schools have with the wider community and cluster schools is a far cry from the past. However have we out grown the good old fashion simple fun of getting together to enjoy music, food and simple activities?

I am keen to expose my child to the simple wonders of 'old fashion fun' and I invite you to also be a part of it. So leave your phones (they won't work anyway) DS, TVs, Ipods and come to the Highlands Wool Shed Dance at Habbies Howe, Dropmore Rd Highlands on April 21st.

Come on your own, bring your family or get a table of friends together and join in this Aussie tradition at for a night of fun, food and friends! Enquiries or table bookings Robyn Richards 0357904303

By Robyn Richards

SEVEN CREEKS NO FISHING ZONE

There is a section of the Seven Creeks, between Polly McQuinn's Reservoir and the Galls Gap Rd bridge, where fishing is prohibited and for a good reason. In this reach of the creek live two special and very threatened fish species: the Trout Cod and Macquarie Perch.

The creek contains one of only two remaining wild populations of Trout Cod, *Maccullochella macquariensis*, (the other is in the 'upper Murray'); this species has suffered an almost catastrophic population collapse since European settlement. And its one of only a handful of wild populations of Macquarie Perch, *Macquaria australasica*, remaining in the Goulburn Broken Catchment. One of the other wild 'Macca' populations is close by, in the Hughes Creek.

Fishing is strictly prohibited in this short section of the Seven Creeks! Unfortunately, that doesn't stop some greedy folk; most of the Seven Creeks catchment is open to recreational fishing.

Each year fish biologists from DSE's Arthur Rylah Institute survey several reaches of the Seven Creeks, above and below Polly's, to see how fish populations are faring. Each captured fish is identified, measured and recorded. Adult Trout Cod and Maccas are electronically tagged to allow subsequent identification. A unique electronic tag is implanted into muscle tissue, or the gut cavity of the fish and can then be 'read' remotely.

by bertbohossouth
Strathbogie Ranges - Nature View



WELCOME TO ISSUE 9

Please send any news to me at mirandayorston@bigpond.com or ring 57969261.

If you would like to receive The Granite News by email please go to www.highlands.org.au and just **subscribe, it is as easy as that!**

THANKS TO THE LOCAL ADVERTISERS, KIND DONATIONS, GOULBURN BROKEN CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY AND HUGHES CREEK CATCHMENT COLLABORATIVE FOR HELPING TO FUND THIS NEWSLETTER

Thanks to Leslie Dalziel for sending in this quote.

"We are like tenant farmers chopping down the fence around our house for fuel when we should be using Nature's inexhaustible sources of energy -- sun, wind and tide. ... I'd put my money on the sun and solar energy. What a source of power! I hope we don't have to wait until oil and coal run out before we tackle that."

Thomas Edison, inventor
(1847-1931)

THANKYOU HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Highlands Primary School is funding a trial period of The Granite News printed in colour EVERY 3 WEEKS. Let me know if you think it is a significant improvement.

NEXT WEEKEND, DON'T MISS IT!

Highlands Primary School Major Fund Raiser. **Nearly sold out.** Tickets sales definitely close on Wednesday 18th May.

NO TICKETS PAST THAT DATE

WOOLSHED DANCE AT HABBIES HOWE, DROPMORE ROAD, HIGHLANDS

Saturday 21st April 6.30pm
We would love all the community to be there for a night full of enjoyment, dancing and camaraderie . There will be a BBQ dinner and live music. Bring some friends and book a table. Contact Robyn Richards 57904303 to make your booking.

COMMUNITY WHAT'S ON CALENDAR - APRIL /MAY 2012

Week beg 22nd April	<i>Terip Terip Recreation Reserve Mowing Roster Peter Short & Betty Jenkins Max & Joan Eddy</i>
Wednesday April 18th	CARBON IN FARMING SESSION An Invite for all landholders & community members to attend: Confused by all the jargon about Carbon in Farming and the Carbon Farming Initiative? What are carbon credits? How will you be affected? What are the \$ benefits and how can you access them? Charlie Sexton - GB CMA Presents an evening session on the Carbon Farming Initiative. 7.30pm RSL Hall – 27 Murchison St, Broadford Supper Provided Please RSVP by 11th April to allow for catering, Sonia Sharkey, SWG Landcare Facilitator 5734 6312 or email: swg_landcare@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au
Friday 20th April	Whitehead's Creek Soils Workshop and AGM
	Whiteheads Creek Landcare Group Soils Workshop Learn how to use a field soil test kit to make better on-farm management decisions What? BBQ starting at 6PM followed by soils workshop, then AGM. Soil test kits are available for loan. DPI can assist with interpreting results. Where? Whiteheads Creek Hall, Kobyboyn Rd, Seymour When? 6 PM - 9 PM (BBQ provided) Guest speakers: Brad Costin and Claire Wade, DPI Broadford Please RSVP by Tuesday 17th April to Eileen Freeman on 5792 3693
Sunday 22nd April	TERIP TERIP REC RESERVE WORKING BEE at 10am. All are very welcome to join us at the Terip Terip Recreation Reserve for a working bee to tidy up and do a few small repair jobs, followed by a sausage sizzle for lunch. For further information, call Andrew Holloway on 57904080.
Tuesday 24th April	Alexandra library an essential part of your community! 5772 0349 Blokes Café – laid back drinks and a yarn with mates 6.30 – 8
Wednesday 25th April	TERIP TERIP ANZAC DAY SERVICE at 9am at the Recreation Reserve. All are welcome to join the Terip Terip Community as we commemorate ANZAC day. Morning tea will follow a brief commemorative service. For further information, call Andrew Holloway on 57904080.
Thursday 26th April	“Profitable sheep systems for now & the future” Gary McLarty’s property “Woodsomlea”, 1690 Northwood Road, Seymour, Then onto Ken Hall Room Seymour Showgrounds Time 2.00pm to 6.00 pm • EverGraze site – Gary McLarty, producer & Lisa Warn, Mackinnon - pasture species & variety selection, - pasture establishment, time of sowing & management, economics of sowing phalaris vs annual ryegrass, • Profitable sheep production systems – Jane Court, DPI Vic, - impact of climate variability, - ‘tweaking’ the sheep system, • Profitable Ewe Systems – Kieran Ransom, – Elmore trial site results (comparison of 5 ewes breeds for meat and wool production) Please RSVP by 23rd April Jane Court, DPI Seymour Phone: 5735 4351 Mobile: 0427 200 451
April 28 and 29	EUROA COMMUNITY CINEMA “Hugo” 96 min Adventure/Fantasy/Drama (PG) 4.5 stars A thrilling journey to a magical world in this movie based on Brian Selznick's award-winning, and imaginative New York Times best-seller, "The Invention of Hugo Cabret." Hugo is the astonishing adventure of a wily and resourceful boy whose quest to unlock a secret left to him by his father will transform Hugo and all those around him, and reveal a safe and loving place he can call home. A movie for young and old alike. This is the 2D version, not 3D!
Sunday 29th April	According to the book The History of Molesworth, ‘Whanregarwen’ is an Aboriginal word meaning ‘Valley of Lagoons’. Come and visit the stunning lagoons/ billabongs at Ken and Di Folletta’s property on Whanregarwen Road. Ken and Di enjoy river frontage on the Goulburn River and a series of wonderful billabongs. They have fenced and protected all of their billabongs and these are frequented by an array of seasonal water birds, from cormorants, herons, spoonbills, mountain ducks and the occasional swan. Ken and Di have been thoughtful in their paddock layout, and despite the difficulty of having so many billabongs to negotiate, have divided their paddocks to allow ease of stock movement and rotational grazing. Another beautiful property to visit. Everyone welcome. A light lunch will be provided. Meet: 630 Whanregarwen Rd, Whanregarwen Time: 10 am – 12 pm RSVP: Judy Brookes: juncball@bigpond.com or 57 972 563
Sunday 29th April	River Connect Festival 2012 Join us in celebrating our rivers and wetlands. 10am-2pm Victoria Park Lake (river side) Shepparton FREE interactive kids activities, canoeing, guided bus and walking tours, Aboriginal Elders Talking Circles, BBQ lunch and much more! Bookings are essential for guided bus tour. For more information or bookings please email: riverconnect@shepparton.vic.gov.au or phone (03) 5832 9714 In partnership with: Parks Victoria, Department of Sustainability and Environment, Department of Primary Industries, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Central Sub Region, Yorta Yorta Joint Body, Yorta Nations, Rumbalara Cooperative, Word and Mouth and Goulburn Murray Landcare Network.
May 5 and 6	EUROA COMMUNITY CINEMA “My Weekend with Marilyn” 99 mins Drama (M) 4 stars The movie captures a week with Marilyn Munroe in 1956 when she went to England to star in “The Prince and the Showgirl”. It has all the elements you would expect from a movie about Marilyn – delightful, funny, poignant, also showing her sensuality and insecurities. Michelle Williams plays Marilyn along with a solid cast of Zoe Wanamaker, Kenneth Branagh, Judi Dench and Dougray Scott. Based on two books by Colin Clark and diaries kept around this time it is a step back in time to a different world and one which has a fascination for us all.
May 12 and 13	EUROA COMMUNITY CINEMA EUROA COMMUNITY CINEMA “Margin Call” 107mins Drama / Thriller (MA) 4 stars We follow key people at a New York investment bank, taking us through the multitude of decisions on the trading floor. Lives are changed in a moment in the aftermath of the GFC and all its implications. Do not be late for the start of this dramatic movie as I believe that the strong story line deserves your full attention from the beginning. Starring Kevin Spacey, Simon Baker, Stanley Tucci, Jeremy Irons and Paul Bettany.

Classifieds & Community Notices

TALLAROOK ART SOCIETY EXHIBITION

The exhibition will be held on the long-weekend of 9th and 10th June at the Tallarook Mechanics Institute Hall, Tallarook.

As with previous years we have an emerging artist category targeting artists who has not sold any works but would love to develop their skills; open to all ages as well as student artists of school age. Emerging/ student artists works is to be on a 9x5 canvas or alternatively framed as per the conditions. This year's theme

"Earth, Wind, Water"

encourages you to vividly capture the spirit of our central Victorian region through your art – whether it be the dramatic landscapes, the flora, the fauna, the people or the preciousness of water as a resource. We encourage all styles of art including photography with a new category born for our 2012 exhibition - sculpture.

All details and forms are available on our web site
www.tallarookartsociety.com.au

Closing date for applications is May 22nd, 2012.

FILM SOCIETY SEASON OPENS WITH A BRITISH THRILLER

Murrindindi Film Society opens its ninth season on Friday 20th April with the British 1961 suspense film *The Innocents* in DVD format. Adapted from the Henry James novella, *The Turn of the Screw*, it tells the story of an impressionable Victorian era governess who finds herself in charge of two rather unusual orphaned children in a large country estate. Soon she begins to be haunted by spectres who may or may not exist beyond her imagination. Deborah Kerr gives a brilliant performance as a naïve, repressed woman who is deeply affected by her desire to save the children from what she sees as the evil influence of past unspoken events. With a script co-written by Truman Capote and wonderful black and white imagery, this supremely atmospheric film is not to be missed.

Doors open at the Yea Shire Chambers at 6.45 p.m. for drinks and nibbles. Subscription payments can be made and programmes will be distributed. Screening will commence at approximately 7.30 p.m. and supper, after the film, will round off the evening. The Society is happy for first time visitors and prospective members to attend the session free of charge. Jill Dwyer, on 5797 2480 or ldwyer@bigpond.com.

FOX ON THE RUN- \$500 PRIZE UP FOR GRABS

FOX ON THE RUN- \$500 PRIZE UP FOR GRABS

The "Fox on the run" competition is due to commence on June 1st 2012. The competition will run for the month of June only, and submitted evidence of foxes shot will be required. Details of what evidence will be required will be given to those who register their teams no sooner than 1 week prior to the competition start. Foxes will be tallied and the winners will receive a trophy and grand prize of a \$500 voucher.

Teams must register their interest before June 1st to be eligible to compete.

Teams can consist of individuals or groups of 6 people maximum. Teams must be residents within the Hughes Creek Catchment OR have permission to shoot on properties within the catchment. (Ruffy, Highlands, Caveat, Terrip Terrip, Whiteheads Creek, Dropmore, Tarcombe)

Hunters must have appropriate license and permission to shoot on properties if applicable. To register your team please email Simone on hughes.creek1@gmail.com prior to June 1st. If any landholders wish to be involved by having a "fox drive" on their property, you can also forward details to Simone on the above email address.



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rrichards@4upskilling.com.au

INKWEED FOUND IN THE CATCHMENT

It has recently been reported that Inkweed has crept into our catchment and is suspected of causing death to livestock.

Inkweed {*Phytolacca octandra*} is a soft woody perennial shrub up to 2m tall. Stems are often red in colour and soft when young and tend to become woody and branch out with age. The leaves are pointed and range from light bright green to a dark green and can have a strong unpleasant odour when crushed. Flowers mature from green to crimson and there are usually clusters of purple/ black berries. Inkweed is usually found in disturbed ground, after burn-offs and along creek beds.

Inkweed is regarded as an environmental weed in Victoria and although it is noted that livestock do not usually eat the plant, it is known that the plant is poisonous.

Removal prior to seed set is ideal, and if dug out manually you will need to dig quite deeply to remove the root. Application of a herbicide such as brush off is also effective and is recommended on any new growth.

For more information call Simone on 5790 4146. Information sheets are available from the Landcare office in the Tablelands Community Centre,



FOX AND WILD DOG COLLECTION

SCHEDULE APRIL 2012

Next round of collection points will be open as follows:

Benalla: Thursday 26th April 10:30-12:30 FOX ONLY

Broadford: Friday 27th April 10:30-12:30 FOX ONLY

Mansfield: Thursday 26th April 2:30-4:30 FOX AND WILD DOG

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