



PEOPLE AND PLACES

JACKAROO A MEMOIR BY MICHAEL THORNTON

From choirboy to cowboy....In 1967, fresh from boarding school humiliations, and having lost his father to alcoholism, gangly teen Michael Thornton was packed off to a tough sheep and cattle station to work as a jackaroo. He was to learn the wool trade from the lamb up, under a boss legendary for working his farmhands in an almost military regimen.

Tasked with the dirty, disgusting and downright dangerous jobs, jackaroos are the dogsbodies of our farms. But at Habbies Howe, in central Victoria, somewhere between castrating lambs with his teeth and hauling back breaking bags of fertiliser for no obvious purpose, Michael discovered inner strength, and the friendship and male role models he'd craved.

He also earned respect— enough to later walk into a job with the nation's most famous farmer, the Defence Minister and future Prime Minister PM, Malcolm Fraser.

Text taken from the back of his book, thanks to John Rutter for sending it in.

CLASSIC AMERICAN DRAMA FOR NEXT FILM SOCIETY SCREENING

Friday 18th May at the Yea Shire Chambers where doors open at 6.45 p.m. for drinks and nibbles. The gritty 1961 American drama *The Hustler*, set among the sleazy pool halls of New York City, will be shown in digital format. Paul Newman brilliantly portrays an ambitious young pool hustler who learns to cope with both losing and winning, in the process being forced to accept the reality of his situation and his responsibility to others. Piper Laurie co-stars as his vulnerable girlfriend and there is a great performance by George C. Scott as his unscrupulous manager and a memorable cameo by Jackie Gleason as the legendary pool champion, Minnesota Fats.

Filed in six weeks, entirely in New York City, it is a challenging film shot in realistic style in black and white. It was an Oscar winner for best cinematography and art direction and received seven other Oscar nominations.

First time guests and prospective members of the Society will be welcomed free of charge. Contact Jill Dwyer, on 5797 2480 or jill.dwyer@bigpond.com.

NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY

STUDENT OF THE WEEK



Kendall : For a fantastic effort on camp; pushing herself outside her comfort zone and trying everything, always with a smile on her face! Well done!

Wool Shed Dance:

Julia, Robyn and I were able to meet this week and debrief about this fundraising event. We have had numerous positive emails from people who attended, congratulating everyone on a terrific night. The amount of work to organise such an event is huge and I thank all the families involved. Special thanks to Julia and Robyn. The total funds raised from the Wool Shed Dance were \$3440- an amazing effort!

Senior Camp:

What a fantastic week we had! It was an absolute pleasure to take the seniors away and watch them participate and enjoy all the opportunities Camp Allambee had to offer. Some activities were extremely challenging and designed to push students out of their comfort zone.



HCCC SPRAY UNITS

Ruffy— Don Cook
Habbies Howe— Scott McKay (900 Lt),
Tarcombe— Rob Hayes (450 Lt)
Michael Kopanica (600Lt)

WELCOME TO ISSUE 13

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!**

Expression of Interest Butterfly Festival Art Exhibition

Lepidoptera: This exhibition celebrates the beautiful and ephemeral invertebrate Family Lepidoptera” (Moths and Butterflies). Aside from their beauty these insects also provide critical ecosystem services such as pollination in agricultural, bush land and urban landscapes. They in turn are an important food source for birds and other fauna. Artists are invited to submit ideas for works which:

Are inspired by invertebrates such as Moths and Butterflies

May also explore conceptually some of the broader issues around ecosystem services, biodiversity, climate change, food security and changing land use patterns across Australia

Exhibition Dates: Nov 17-25, 2012

For more info contact: Penny Algar landscapeart@fern hills.com.au
Mb;0439381132

PUPPET HELP NEEDED

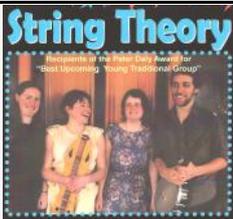
Anyone wishing to help make a family of Mythical Creature Hand Puppets on a Friday afternoons commencing 18th May would be most appreciated. Suzanne Bates shall be coming from Berry St to facilitate.

If you are interested in puppets, can help to glue or instruct in basic sewing we would love to see you. If anyone has any wool, felt, nice things to dress puppets in please drop off at the school. Any queries call Leone 5796

SEYMOUR & DISTRICT U3A MELTING POT

Information about U3A can be found on the website: www.vicnet.net.au-seymu3a email: seymu3a@vicnet.net.au or phone the Secretary: 0409 945 807.

COMMUNITY WHAT'S ON CALENDAR - MAY/JUNE 2012

Week beg 20th May	<i>Terip Terip Recreation Reserve Mowing Roster Geoff & Jan Penny Georgina Bett</i>	
Wednesday 16th May	"Terip Terip CFA Election Meeting to be held at the Terip Terip Recreation Reserve commencing at 7.30 pm. All CFA members and interested community members welcome. Please put this date in your diary."	
Thursday 17th May	Ruffy Community Action Group – Meeting at Ruffy Hall, 7.30 pm. On the agenda are approval of the Ruffy Streetscape Plan and discussion of projects for the next financial year. Everybody welcome at meeting!.	
Friday 18th May	VOLUNTEERS – EVERY ONE COUNTS Volunteers who support the Mitchell Shire communities are invited to the Mitchell Shire Volunteer Luncheon to celebrate National Volunteers Week. 12.00 – 2.00pm. Broadford Shire Hall. R.S.V.P. to Renita Blayney by May 4th on 5734-6338 or renita.blayney@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au .	
Friday 18th May	7.30pm at the Hall is ANTARCTICA night . Pauline & Peter, due to popular requests, will be giving a talk about their fantastic trip to Antarctica earlier this year. No we didn't make it to Mawson's Huts but we saw and had some incredible experiences in this amazing and pristine environment. Come along and discover what a truly remarkable place south of 43 deg.lat. is. RSVP for catering purposes by May 11th please 57969301	
Friday 18 May	Happy Hour at the Ruffy Hall is on again, from 6.30 pm onwards. BYO meat and drinks, a salad or sweet to share, and enjoy a social chat with other friendly 'Ruffians'. For enquiries ring Henry Noye on 5790 4246.	
Saturday 19th May	Livestock management for small and part-time farmers - 9.30-3pm "Worrough", 410 Greenslopes Rd, Seymour. Seymour Ag & P Society Jane Miller janemmmiller@bigpond.com or 5797 0243	
Saturday 19th May		RuffArtZ 'Season of Saturdays' at the Ruffy Hall. The second concert for this season will feature the group String Theory, who won the Peter Daly Award for 'Best Upcoming Young Traditional Group'. They will bring sweet vocal harmonies, fiddles, Appalachian dulcimer, funky cello and banjo grooves to Ruffy. Doors open 7.30 pm for an 8.00 pm start. For tickets (\$25.00) ring Glen on 5790 4318.
May 19 and 20	EUROA COMMUNITY CINEMA "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel" (PG) 4 stars If Euroa cinema had a dollar for every inquiry about this movie we would all be going to India to stay at The Best Marigold Hotel!	
Monday 21st May	"Away with Words" SPECIAL EVENT An evening with Psychologist Andrew Fuller – A clinical psychologist with "heart", Andrew specialises in the well being of young people and their families, he offers hints for building resilience "the happy knack of being able to bungee jump though the pitfalls of life". Come along and find out more about spontaneity, curiosity and other building blocks for good mental health. Join us afterwards at the library for a reflective chat with Andrew and some mind building passionfruit sponge. Bookings 5772 0349	
Monday 21st May	Relax and Sleep Tight All Night 6.30—7.30pm \$10 pp Yea and District Community House 15 The Semi Circle Yea Phone: 03 5797 3070	
Tuesday 22nd May	Alexandra library an essential part of your community! Blokes Night – laid back drinks and a yarn with mates	5772 0349 6.30 – 8
23rd May - 10th June	Leone Gabrielle " Big Breath into Town " 2012 Solo Exhibition Opening Thursday 24th May 6 - 8pm 69 Smith Street Gallery FITZROY wed / Sat 11 - 5 pm Sun 12- 5 pm. www.leonegabrielle.com	
May 25, 26 and 27	EUROA COMMUNITY CINEMA "The Pirates! Band of Misfits" 88 minutes (G) (FRIDAY FAMILY FUN NIGHT – doors open at 6pm) This is Hugh Grants first venture into voicing an animated film. He stars as the Pirate Captain who is desperate to be named Pirate of the Year! However his lucky break comes to an abrupt end when he has stiff competition from another ship! From all reports it is directed at 7 years olds with some adult humour worked into the script to keep everyone happy!	
Friday 25th May	Nest-box project presentations: Lurg-Greta districts, Broken Boosey & > Whroo Goldfields, Warrenbayne-Boho. > Violet Town Community Hall > 6-9 pm > Displays of nest-box designs & monitoring equipment > Yummy supper > Spotlight walk along Violet Town's award Winning HREP > RSVP essential Phone Janet Hagen 57904268	
Sunday 27th May	Highland Ramblers. Meet at Highlands hall 10.30 am. Contact Andrew Shaw ph 0427969297 for more info.	
Monday 28th May	Soil Management & Alternative Fertilisers Site Field Day 10am-2.00pm David Rees, DPI Cath Botta, PCB Consulting , Peter Ockenden, Peter Ockenden & Assoc. Where -Strathbogie Alternative Fertiliser Trial Site David Hamilton's farm "Bolarum" 1948 Strathbogie-Euroa Rd Strathbogie Provided BBQ lunch Bring Appropriate clothing and footwear, chair if you'd like to sit down RSVP by Friday 18th May Greg Bekker 5761 1631 Greg.Bekker@dpi.vic.gov.au We can see what's on top, but what lies beneath? Soil structure and management directly influence air, water and root penetration, affecting pasture growth and productivity. David, Cath and Peter will take us through 3 soil pits in different parts the landscape.	

Classifieds & Community Notices

DEAD FOX COMPETITION

Fox on the run comp, \$500 prize, starts June, to register or for further information contact Simone on 03 5790 4146. hughes.creek1@gmail.com

SOIL HEALTH TEST KITS AND WORKSHOP

Would you like to have your soil tested and attend a workshop to analyse your results? Testing kits are free (one test per 100 Ac) and are a great way to get a baseline for your property. For further information please call Simone on 03) 5790 4146 or email hughes.creek1@gmail.com.

MOTHER GOOSE

Mother Goose aims to assist parents share songs and stories with their infants. This program focuses on sharing oral language and bonding. A Mother Goose program is currently running at the Euroa Library each Friday starting at 10.00am. Come along and join in the FREE sessions available until 29 June. PH1300 374 765

LET'S CELEBRATE 25 YEARS OF LANDCARE

Merton Landcare and the Upper Goulburn Landcare Network invite you to join us for a Walk and Bike ride along the Goulburn River High Country Rail Trail at Merton.

UGLN Landcare facilitator Cath Olive will lead us as we amble or ride along a section of the trail from the Merton Gap back to the Merton Cemetery. Cath will identify the native species in the rail reserve. There will be a treasure hunt and prizes for kids (and the young at heart)! A Celebratory Lunch will be provided at the end of the walk.



When: Sunday 20th May at 10 am
Where : Meet at Merton Memorial Hall
To assist with catering RSVP by 14th May to: Judy Watts 57360105
E: uglandcare@qbcma.vic.gov.au
Or Robyn Rattray-Wood 5778 9540
E: fr-w@bigpond.com

SEYMOUR POPULATION CHANGES

1981 - Census data reports Seymour urban population as 6494 - Population remained relatively stable until the period between 1991- 1996.

1982 - Hume Freeway by-pass of Seymour, gradual closure of old highway businesses, new businesses opened in old premises

1996 - Census reports Seymour urban pop of 6294 - decrease due mostly to relocation of armoured regiment from Pucka to Darwin, railway and textile manufacturing job losses - Defence housing stock reportedly returned to Dept of Housing and used to house people from outside Seymour

1999 - Jesuit Social Services study lists Seymour as the 10th most disadvantaged postcode in Victoria

2001 - Seymour residents hold 2 meetings - first Seymour Community Plan developed, TSWW incorporated

2004 - follow-up Jesuit report ranks Seymour as 110th in terms of social disadvantage in Vic and NSW - a significant change in less than 5 years!

2005 - second Seymour Community Plan 'Seymour 2015' developed, auspiced by TSWW

2006 - Census data reports Seymour population as 6240

2007 - further Jesuit report does not mention Seymour

2012 - third community plan being developed - based on 625 'bright ideas' submitted by community, auspiced by TSWW

Extract from TSWW 'What's Happening e-newsletter #09

FOX AND WILD DOG COLLECTION SCHEDULE MAY 2012

Next round of collection points will be open as follows:

Benalla: Wednesday 23rd May 10;30-12;30 FOX ONLY

Broadford: Thursday 24th May 10;30-12;30 FOX ONLY

Mansfield: Wednesday 23rd May 2;30-4;30 FOX AND WILD DOG

For terms and conditions please visit www.dpi.vic.gov.au

HIGHLAND RAMBLERS

April's ramble was to one of the prettiest spots I've seen in the Highlands, but Andrew should have warned us to bring ropes and hobnailed boots! It started off innocently enough with a gentle stroll along the old coach road to the tree carved with the initials of the road builders in 1887. Then downhill towards Stony creek, the last bit being a very steep slope with loose rocks, slippery grass and nothing to grab onto but the euphemistically-named Prickly currant-bush, which really ought to be called Fiendishly spiky currant-bush. However the falls when we reached them were worth it - a sheer drop of 10 metres or so into a large tranquil pool. A scramble back out after lunch - I don't think I was the only one on all fours, ending with a stroll through Helen & Bruce's property enjoying their beautiful views.

By Louise Currie



BITS OF BOTANY AND BIRDS

Prickly currant-bush *Coprosma quadrifida*

I've seen Prickly currant-bushes in small numbers in various places in the Highlands, but the last rambles' walk was the only place I've seen lots, or taken much notice of them. (I think I've got all the splinters out now.) It's an untidy-looking shrub; often quite short though can grow to 2 metres, with small leaves and long spikes on the branches. In summer it has tiny red-orange fruit which are apparently quite tasty. It prefers moist conditions.

By Louise Currie



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