



## PEOPLE AND PLACES

Our local region received an exceptional autumn break with warm days interspersed with plenty of rain and a greening of the countryside with plenty of pasture growth and these conditions are ideal for rabbits.

Concerned that a likely plague of rabbits would emerge in this environment landowners and their Landcare groups particularly in the Strathbogie Ranges area held a rabbit awareness day on a property near Avenel, where an ongoing program of rabbit control was carried out.

While rabbits may be considered cute and cuddly by some people for property owners and particularly those running agricultural enterprises their impacts are significant.

Consider these facts. Thomas Austin introduced twenty four wild rabbits to Victoria in 1859 and no-one thought that within sixty years there would be about ten million of the little pests.

One breeding pair can produce 180 more in only eighteen months. Each kitten can reproduce at only three to four months of age.

Each breeding pair can reproduce six times a year with their offspring moving out to colonise new areas.

A single pair of rabbits (and their progeny) can thus expand to well over 100 rabbits in twelve months!

(At Longwood in 1891 there was a rabbit factory that employed 225 people, 75 who worked in the factory and most of the rest were trappers.)

The factory processed 6,000 rabbits a day to produce 4,000 tins of rabbit meat a day.)

Rabbits caused enormous damage to the environment up until about 1954 when the introduction of Myxomatosis was judged to have successfully wiped out about 99.8% of the rabbit population.

But the population more recently has rebuilt after the Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease (Calicivirus) in the 1990s again reduced the population significantly.

But the vernacular reports from landholders currently are that there are a few Myxo-rabbits about while the effects of Calicivirus have reduced.

Rabbits graze selectively close to the ground and are considered very timid animals with quite defined habits, not only of breeding but how they graze

and the area they traverse as well as the grasses, usually clovers and perennial grasses, which they prefer.

It is estimated that two or three rabbits per hectare can stop revegetation of native vegetation and they can reduce pasture availability of up to 75 %. The field day at Avenel reminded farmers that eight rabbits consume the feed of a sheep. And at current wool and lamb prices just "a few rabbits' can cost dearly – something of the order of \$12 to \$15 per rabbit in lost production alone.

The keys to good rabbit control are defined as reducing their habitat by removing their harbour particularly bracken fern or rocks that contain their warrens.

The Granite Creek Project group has produced a very useful publication entitled "A Ute Guide to Rabbit Control".

It is a sturdy small plastic coated spiral bound booklet that advises on rabbit signs, calculating a guide to the number of rabbits present, poisoning with trail baits, ripping, fumigating burrows, integrated rabbit control, and useful references. Contact Janet Hagen or Simone Ulstrop for a free copy.

While 1080 or Pindone poisoning either using carrots or oats is usually the most effective means of rabbit control, it needs to be supported by follow up destruction of warrens and above ground harbour or enough rabbits may survive to maintain the population.



PHOTO: Removal of a cluster of warrens adjacent to a rock outcrop where the burrows had earlier been fumigated.

The ripped soil extracted is usually replaced and seeded and any evidence of the disturbance soon disappears. Usually on the sandy granite country in the Strathbogies it is important to avoid creating unchecked disturbances which can lead to soil erosion.

Extract from article by John Kennedy

## WELCOME TO ISSUE 18

Please send any news to me at [mirandayorston@bigpond.com](mailto:mirandayorston@bigpond.com) or ring 57969261.

If you would like to receive The Granite News by email [www.highlands.org.au](http://www.highlands.org.au) and just **subscribe, it is as easy as that!**

This is an interesting article, sent by a friend, on alzheimers

<http://www.theage.com.au/national/health/have-no-fear-alzheimers-just-a-normal-part-of-ageing-20120627-212vc.html>

**ROAD KILL:** I have only just learnt that when you see a dead animal on the side of the road with paint sprayed on it, often a cross, it means it has been checked for babies.

## Extract from Councillor Comment by Sally Abbott Smith Cheviot Ward CITTASLOW

Whilst Yea is a designated Cittaslow town there is no invisible boundary across our Shire that marks where Cittaslow starts. Our whole shire can reflect the Cittaslow values of caring for the environment, community decision making, encouraging local food producers and artists, supporting local businesses, encouraging a healthy lifestyle, preserving our history and celebrating the unique qualities of the area and welcoming visitors to our region.

Essentially Cittaslow is about creating a great quality of life that brings benefits to the community. Cittaslow towns take the time to identify what is important and special about their town and region and then implement ideas to preserve these unique qualities.

Businesses can apply to display the Cittaslow snail logo and like the Ruffy Produce Store who plan to display the snail, make the link with what they do.

Slow down, go for a walk through our picturesque towns and buy local, seasonal produce, supporting small producers and restoring time-honored methods of the production of slow food. Cittaslow enquiries can be directed to Adele Anderson on 03 5797 2650 or [adele@cittaslowyea.org](mailto:adele@cittaslowyea.org)

## COMMUNITY WHAT'S ON CALENDAR - JULY/AUGUST 2012

Week beg 15th July	<i>Terip Terip Recreation Reserve Mowing Roster Alec &amp; Marion Rowan Brad Kellett &amp; Kate Wright</i>		
11th July to 5th August	<b>DARREN GILBERT'S NEXT EXHIBITION</b> The Light Factory Gallery Opening Sunday 2pm 15th July 2012 21 Brougham Street, Eltham VIC 3095 03) 9439 1206 <a href="http://www.thelightfactorygallery.com.au">www.thelightfactorygallery.com.au</a> , includes 7 artworks (pen and ink), 17 sculptures and some more in the sculpture garden		
Thursday 12th July	<b>Alexandra library</b>	an essential part of your community! Holiday Activities – Monster Toy Sculpture BYO old toys to chop	5772 0349 3 – 4pm
Saturday 14th July	<b>Terip Terip Annual Community Dinner</b> at the Recreation Reserve commencing at 6.30 pm, \$20 per head or \$50 per family. 50's and 60's Rock and Roll theme. Prizes for the best dressed female and male rock-ers. Everyone welcome. Come along and enjoy a yummy casserole dinner and wonderful company. Bring your dancing shoes and rock along to the great music provided by Jimmy Davidson.		
Saturday 14th July,	The next <b>Black Market</b> will be held at 'Abdallah House', home of the Telford / Yoshimoto clan, 1a Abdallah Road, Seymour, 10 am to 12 noon. Richard Telford will give a tour of their cool cupboard, which they've recently completed. A story on it will feature in the next Owner Builder magazine. For more information visit <a href="http://www.abdallahhouse.com">www.abdallahhouse.com</a> If you have food you want to bring to sell or swap, let me know and later in the week I'll send out a list of what is likely to be available. The Black Market - a monthly local informal food exchange and "open garden". You can bring your own home-grown excess veggies, fruit, etc to swap or sell, or produce you've made yourself such as preserves, bread, jam, pickles, etc. If you don't grow or make your own, you can come to the Black Market and buy from those who do. The Black Market is also open to local people who grow commercial produce (e.g. olives, nuts) on a small scale. Paul Macgregor ph 5797 0229		
Tuesday 17th July	<b>Annual Casserole Luncheon</b> at St. David's Uniting Church Hall from 12 o'clock onwards. A warm welcome is extended to everybody to come along and enjoy this home cooked meal and be entertained later on by an interesting speaker. There will also be a trading table with a variety of goods offered. Cost only \$10.00 per person. For information please ring Joan Penny on 5790 4262.		
Tuesday 17th July	<b>Alexandra library</b>	an essential part of your community! Tuesday Show- Antarctica Tour, rug up!	5772 0349 1-2pm
Friday 20th July.	The Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative would like to invite you to attend the <b>"Fox on the Run"</b> trophy and prize presentation night. We will be kicking off at 6:30pm with a BBQ to be followed by the presentation of a trophy and prize to the winning team. RSVP Simone on 03) 5790 4146 or email <a href="mailto:hughes.creek1@gmail.com">hughes.creek1@gmail.com</a> . Tablelands Community Centre (old Ruffy School) Starts 6:30		
Friday 20th July to Sunday 22nd July	<b>WEEKEND RETREAT FOR FAMILIES</b> This is a rare and exciting opportunity for families who are interested in assisting their family member with a disability to plan for and pursue a diverse and meaningful life in the community. This weekend has been developed in response to families who have not found congregate, group, segregated or "specialised" services suitable to the needs and aspirations of their family member with a disability. Further information: Phone: 03 9739 8333 Fax: 03 9739 8333 E-mail: <a href="mailto:admin@plavic.net.au">admin@plavic.net.au</a>		
Friday, 20th July	<b>Happy Hour at the Ruffy Hall</b> from 6.30pm onwards. Enjoy a warm dinner on a cold winter's evening in the company of some locals. Bring along a casserole or a dessert to share and of course BYO drinks. For inquires contact Henry Noye on 5790 4246.		
July 21 and 22	<b>EUROA COMMUNITY CINEMA</b> "Men in Black" (awaiting confirmation) 105 mins Action, Adventure (PG) 3 stars Men in Black are back! Apparently this is better than its predecessors. For those in the know ... J has seen some inexplicable things in his time with the Men in Black, but nothing perplexes him as much as his wry, reticent partner. When K's life and the fate of the planet are at stake, Agent J will have to travel back in time to put things right. Secrets will reveal themselves as he teams with young Agent K to save his partner, the agency and the future of humankind! Starring Will Smith, Tommy Lee Jones and Josh Brolin		
24th July	<b>Alexandra library</b>	an essential part of your community! Blokes Night – drinks and a yarn with mates	5772 0349 6.30 – 8
July 28 and 29	<b>EUROA COMMUNITY CINEMA</b> "Wish You Were Here" 93 mins Drama/ Mystery (PG) 4 stars Two couple's lives are irreparably changed after one of the group goes missing during a spontaneous vacation. Alice (Felicity Price) and Dave (Joel Edgerton) are about to become new parents when they agree to join Alice's little sister and her new beau on a sun-soaked trip to Cambodia. Their tropical retreat quickly turns bad, when one of them vanishes without a trace. Meanwhile, as the investigations into the disappearance begins to reveal the nefarious motivations behind their trip, the remaining three struggle to carry on with life with their lives in Sydney amidst the threat that even more damning details will emerge.		
.Sunday 29th July	<b>Highland Ramblers</b> Join us for another of Andrew's magical mystery tours to hidden wonders of the Highlands. See two eagles or your money back. Meet at the Highlands hall 10.30 am. More details: Andrew 0427 969 297		

# Classifieds & Community Notices

## MOTHER GOOSE

@ Euroa Library  
Suitable for Birth to 4 years  
Join us on the following Fridays in

August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

September 7, 14, 21, 28

October 5th 10.00am - 11.00am  
At Euroa Library ( 62 Binney St,  
Euroa)

To Register contact: Anne Tomietto  
Goulburn Valley Regional Library  
Ph: 58321622 or 1300 374 765

Email: [annet@gvrlc.vic.gov.au](mailto:annet@gvrlc.vic.gov.au)

## BOOK REVIEW

### Two Weeks in Grade 6 – Anna & Mary K. Pershall

This book was written by a mother and daughter combination and is a great little read about the trials and tribulations of friendship when one is a girl in grade 6. At the start of third term Mr Callaghan, obviously frustrated with the social circles happening in his grade, decides to reorganize all the seating arrangements despite the howls of protest from the students about it not being fair that they can't sit next to their friends anymore. He suggests that they just give it a trial for two weeks and then he may review the decision. For Kaitlin it is the longest two weeks of her life as she discovers what it means to have friends and also gets to know her English grandmother for the first time.

By Pauline Roberts

## FOX ON THE RUN COMP HAS A WINNER!!

The "fox on the run" competition that ran for the month of June in the Hughes Creek Catchment has recently ended. With much interest many teams registered and braved the icy, wet weather to get involved in a large scale fox cull.

Speedy (Ian) Williams from Seymour came out as winner submitting 49 rather large fox tails. Coming in a very close, and I mean very close second was George and Mark Noye from Ruffy handing in 48 tails.

It is a great effort from all involved to bring in these numbers, and our local sheep population should be breathing a sigh of relief! (not for long I'm sure). If you would like to know if and when another comp will be running please send me an email and I can keep you on a mailing list for any feral animal hunting activities within the catchment.

Simone at [hughes.creek1@gmail.com](mailto:hughes.creek1@gmail.com).

## BITS OF BOTANY AND BIRDS

### Common correa *Correa reflexa*

We've seen this small shrub on a couple of recent rambles, at the top of stony creek and on Rantin Robin Rocks. It grows well in shady spots and locally it doesn't seem to reach more than a metre. The petals are small, oval, thick and hairy. The flowers are pale greeny-yellow elongated bells and are present from autumn to spring. It's fairly common as a garden plant and I've seen cultivated ones quite a bit taller than our local ones, and with red rather than greeny flowers.

By Louise Currie



## WANTED TO BUY

Fresh goats milk for home cheese-making. I am looking to purchase a few litres to try my hand at French-style aged fresh cheese. I am in Melbourne and come up to Caveat every few weeks.

If you can help, please give me a call 0427 542 100. Alison

## CENSUS 2011 DATA SHOWS POPULATION INCREASE IN SEYMOUR

2011 Seymour  
Total pop - 6369  
Male - 3095 Female - 3274  
Children 0-14: 17.8%  
Adults 65 and over: 18.4%  
Median age: 42  
Average children per family: 1.9  
No of families: 1630

## STRATHBOGIE SHIRE TRANSFER STATION OPEN HOURS CHANGE

RUFFY COLLECTION POINT  
WEDNESDAY & SUNDAY 1PM-5PM

AVENEL COLLECTION POINT  
WEDNESDAY & SUNDAY 10AM-2PM

LONGWOOD COLLECTION POINT  
WEDNESDAY & SUNDAY 8AM- 12

## HIGHLAND RAMBLERS

We had a grey day and low numbers for June's ramble, but the rain held off and the walking soon warmed us up. After an easy stroll through sheep paddocks full of frisky lambs and anxious mothers we stopped for lunch at an abandoned house beside Hughes Creek. The walk back along Hughes Creek took us above a spectacular granite-lined gorge with numerous small cascades after the recent rains. Early on we'd seen the obligatory two wedge-tails mandated for every Ramblers walk, and in the afternoon eagle-eyed Helen and Bruce spotted another perched on a rock on a far hillside. Through binoculars we were able to see what huge powerful birds they are. It was good to have Carole back again.

By Louise Currie

## FIREWOOD COLLECTION

Murrindindi Shire Council is reminding residents to check rules and regulations prior to collecting firewood from public land or roadsides.

Council's Climate Change and Environment spokesperson Cr Sally Abbott Smith said many people wrongly assumed that firewood was free to take from any public land, be it state forests and parks, the sides of major roads and/or highways or local roadsides.

"This is not the case and different rules do apply to the collection of firewood on public lands," Cr Abbott Smith said.

"These rules are in place to reduce risks to public safety, to avoid environmental damage and to protect areas of cultural significance.

"Firewood collection from Murrindindi Shire Council road sides is not permitted without a Local Law permit from Council's Local Laws officers.

"The Autumn collection season ceased on 30 June and the next collection season in spring will begin in September.

"VicRoads is the responsible authority for state highways and major roads in the Shire and it does not allow firewood to be collected from road sides under any circumstances."

Information about the location of DSE designated firewood collection areas and the rules that apply can be found on the DSE website [www.dse.vic.gov.au/forests/firewood](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/forests/firewood) or by contacting a DSE office.

Enquiries in relation to Councils Local Law permits should be directed to Council's Local Law Officers on 03 5772 0333.

Rocky Passes



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