



PEOPLE AND PLACES

THE BUZZ ON BEES

Beekeepers or apiarists fall into two categories.

There are hobby beekeepers, like me, who might have one hive or a dozen or more and whose bees deliver enough honey each season for consumption by their own household and friends or as a gift jar or two.

And as a bonus the 40 to 60,000 or so bees that are usually contained in a strong hive will pollinate your home garden or vegetable plot especially flowering plants and often those others which can be located almost anywhere within a five kilometre or so radius.

Then there are large scale apiarists or migratory beekeepers which usually travel their hives over significant distances in the search for a honey flow - i.e. a flower, a broad acre crop like canola or lucerne or just gum trees that are flowering.

It is not uncommon for migratory or commercial beekeepers in Victoria to have a thousand or more hives.

In fact one of Victoria's largest beekeepers is based near Rochester and has another operation at Hillston in NSW.

Another based at Castlemaine, thought to produce about 200 tonnes of honey each season from about 2,500 hives, works throughout northern Victoria including the Little Desert which has some unique vegetation that flowers seasonally.

So they have several semi trailers, a couple of mobile loaders and they travel their bees and hives depending on the season and what they determine to be the best source for honey.

(For the record most commercially produced honey finishes up in the plastic squeeze bottles in the supermarket. I think it's a bit like cask wine, so if you want some really tasty, flavoursome honey try the apiarist with the stall on the side of the road, or one at a local market.

He and sometimes she will invariably have red gum, grey box, messmate, orchard or similar specifically sourced varieties and to my palate the darker the honey the tastier it will be.

Other honeys are site specific - try some Kangaroo Island, Queensland Rainforest, NZ Manuka or Tasmanian Leatherwood and you will taste the difference).

Commercial pollination is another important aspect for big beekeepers.

In recent years there has been major almond tree plantation development around Robinvale. Now if you don't pollinate your almond trees with bees each year you don't get an almond nut next year.

I have seen up to 100,000 hives on the almonds at Robinvale and these included hives that were brought in from as far north as Glen Innes and Toowoomba by the B-double load.

And the beekeeper gets something like \$50 to 60 a hive for the month for having his bees on hire for the pollination work.

This is important as the bees while they are flying pollinating the trees don't actually make much honey, so the 'off season' hive rental is the main source of income for the beekeeper while they are on the road.

Pollination by bees is critical to the strong production of many crops especially in horticulture, including fruit trees, plus olives, clover, lucerne, oilseeds and many others.

In fact it is said that honey bees (scientific name *apis mellifera*) provide the pollination that results in something like 75% of the world's annual food production.

Beekeeping is a time honoured hobby or production system as there are records of hives going back thousands of years in ancient civilisations.

In the Strathbogies and the local area there are a number of small honey producers plus there are a couple of migratory beekeepers who bring their hives here when seasonal conditions are right.

But the looming problem is a mite known as varroa. It has devastated the bee population in many countries (including New Zealand) and if it gets into Australia it has been estimated to cause \$1 billion in damage to our agricultural sector.

Beekeeping is great for the backyarder.

If you do it properly it is quite safe, wonderfully stimulating and quite exciting to see all your little fellas (mainly the female bees) flying about.

But you must register your hives with the DPI at a very modest annual cost and you must be free of diseases. Most established apiarists also happily share their knowledge. Just be involved and learn on the way. **By John Kennedy**

WELCOME TO ISSUE 20

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

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

NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY

STUDENT OF THE WEEK



Bonnie: For terrific skipping and enthusiastically participating in the Jump Rope for Heart Jump Off. Well done!

Rewards Programs:

Thank you to the families and friends who continue to collect the Earn & Learn stickers and the Coles Sports vouchers. The sports vouchers box is in the front office and the Earn & Learn stickers can be brought to the classrooms.

NATIONAL TREE DAY

Sunday 29th July

Bring your bike, your favourite planting tools, (clearly labelled) and a smile on National Tree Day this year and join us at our designated sites on the Rail Trail!

YEA Designated Planting Sites (approved by Murrindindi Shire)
Times: 9am Merton and Homewood Bus or ride
10.45am Cathkin and Cheviot Tunnel Morning tea! Bus or ride
12.20pm Molesworth
2pm Molesworth - Lunch!
3pm Return bus shuttle to Merton and Homewood.
4.30pm Final return bus shuttle to Merton and Homewood.
Bus support with a bike trailer. Seats are limited. All times listed (other than start times) are approximate
Free Morning Tea and Late Lunch!

Please RSVP to Judy Watts
uglandcare@gbcma.vic.gov.au

COMMUNITY WHAT'S ON CALENDAR - JULY/AUGUST 2012

Week beg 29th July	Terip Terip Recreation Reserve Mowing Roster Geoff & Jan Penny Georgina Bett
Tuesday 24th July	ALEXANDRA LIBRARY an essential part of your community! Blokes Night – drinks and a yarn with mates 5772 0349 6.30 – 8
Thursday 26th July	AN INTRODUCTION TO EBAY with Carlie Underhill Are you looking to make some extra \$\$\$? Are you wanting to find one of those bargains that everyone else talks about finding on eBay? Did you know that eBay is the worlds most popular online shopping site? Do you want to do some or all of the above but have been scared off by horror stories from friends? At Yea Community House we have a Certified eBay Educator to show you how to bid, buy and sell the safe way! She will also show you the most successful way to sell your unwanted goods. There are many tools and tricks to help both buyers and sellers on eBay its just a matter of having someone to show them to you. Time: 7pm Cost: \$2 Venue: Yea Community House
Thursday 26th July	SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS will again happen at The Caveat Church, on the last Thursday of the month, 26th July. Everyone is welcome to enjoy a BBQ and chat, BYO drinks.
Fri 27th July (Schools) & Sat 28th July	NATIONAL TREE DAY PLANTINGS Whiteheads Creek & Burnt Creek Landcare Groups, Lambing Gully Road, 10am until 2pm Contact Carol Braun 5792 4212 0448 804 141 carger@skymesh.com.au Sandy Mackenzie 5796 2088 0411 552 426 sandymackenzie@ozemail.com.au
Friday 27th July	TAPAS NIGHT AT ROCKY PASSES from 6pm -Special on the board - Cazuela (mildly spicy, wintery sea-food stew with a tomato base). Please call 57969366 or email contact@rockypasses.com.au to book.
Saturday 28th July	GARDEN Q & A with Rebecca Bowles Garden Q & A with Rebecca Bowles—got lots of unanswered questions? Come along and chat with Rebecca to get some help, advice and new ideas. BYO refreshments if required. Bookings essential. Minimum 6 attendees. Time: 11am—2pm Where: Yea Community House Cost:\$2
July 28 and 29	EUROA COMMUNITY CINEMA "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.
Sunday 29th July	HIGHLAND RAMBLERS 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
Thursday 2nd August	HiARTS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING The HiArts AGM will be held at 7.30pm in the Highlands Hall. All interested in the future of HiArts are most welcome.
Aug 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Sep 7, 14, 21, 28 Oct 5th	MOTHER GOOSE @ Euroa Library Suitable for Birth to 4 years Join us on Fridays 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 All welcome This is a FREE program
3rd Aug-3rd September	GALLERY 34 invites you to a solo exhibition by Terry Swann 'Australian Landscapes on Location' Opening Friday 3rd August 6pm-8pm 34 High Street, Yea. Open Mondays 10-4pm, Thursday to Sunday 9am-4pm Contact Grace Leslie 03 57973222 info@gallery34.com.au www.gallery34.com.au
6th and 7th August	FIRST AID LEVEL 1 AND 2 With Leigh Munro. For Level 1 attend Day 1, for Level 2 attend both days. Requires a minimum of 4 participants to run. Book now! Time: 9am—4.30pm Cost: \$110 level 1, \$190 level 2 Venue: Yea Community House
Tuesday 7th & Wednesday 8th August	NORTH EAST BEEF SCHOOL The pathway to an efficient & profitable beef enterprise, features interactive presentations using live animals and concurrent sessions allowing participants to choose the topics most relevant to their business. The Beef School dinner will be held on the Tuesday evening with an Australian Year of the Farmer director after dinner speaker. Accommodation is available at Dookie Campus for participants seeking to stay on campus prior to participating in Wednesday's conference. For more information contact Julie de Hennin - GOTAFE Tel: 0412 433 499 Fax: 02 6020 1186 jdehennin@gotafe.vic.edu.au
7th, 14th, 21st and 28th August	POINT AND SHOOT PHOTOGRAPHY with the Yea Camera Club Join members of the Yea Camera Club to learn the art of photography over a 4 week course. A small manual will be supplied. Requires a minimum of 6 participants to run. Book now! Time: 7-9pm Cost: \$50 pp Venue: Yea Community House
Friday 10th August	'DRINKS ON THE DECK' at Highlands Community Hall from 6.30pm. Bring food to share for a meal-together and catch up with friends old and new. All welcome - especially new faces. Gold coin donation to cover
Monday 13th August	TABLELANDS COMMUNITY CENTRE MEETINGS are held on the 2nd Monday of each Month, 7:30pm at the centre (formerly the Ruffy School) The next meeting will also be the AGM. All interested people are welcome to attend and contribute. For more information contact President John Furlanetto 0427 344 956

Classifieds & Community Notices

AUSTRALIAN LANDCARE-INTERNATIONAL

Landcare began in Australia in the mid 80's with a focus on community groups working together to address conservation and promote good land management practices within the local area.

Australian Landcare International (ALI) is a non for profit organization that formed in 2008 and its goal is to tap into its members wealth of experience in Landcare for the benefit of people in other countries.

Landcare at an international level is now widespread, with community groups adopting and implementing projects in countries such as Sri Lanka, Philippines, Indonesia, USA, Fiji, Iceland and Canada to name a few, and has the potential and interest to grow even further.

Many small communities and groups have taken on Landcare practices to encourage sustainability and conservation at a local level and it is amazing to see that with very little financial support that many of these groups have been able to benefit and even profit from good land management practices.

Many of these groups have to rely on the produce from their land not only for profit, but for survival. Good land management benefits everyone, and many of these people come up against opposition as sometimes and traditionally it is easier to take the shortcut, or just turn a blind eye to the health of the Land that they work. It is fantastic that with some education and dedication that people around the world are adopting sustainable land management practices.

If you would like to see all the interesting projects that are underway www.australianlandcareinternational.com. For information on your local Landcare group and projects that are running in the Hughes Creek Catchment contact Simone at hughes.creek1@gmail.com.

HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY HALL

Notice is given of a PUBLIC MEETING to be held at the Highlands Hall on Tuesday 7th August 2012 commencing at 7.30pm to nominate persons as the Committee of Management for the Highlands Community Hall for a term of three years. The current committee's term will expire on 23rd August 2012. All positions will be declared open and nominations will be accepted prior to or on the night. Further information may be obtained by contacting the Secretary, Judy Cameron on 5796 9247.

LOOKING OUT FOR RAIL USERS WILL ADD TO THEIR EXPERIENCE

With a high mix of walkers and riders taking advantage of the Goulburn River High Country Rail Trail, Murrindindi Shire Council is reminding drivers to be vigilant when it comes to looking out for pedestrians.

"When entering or leaving a driveway or private property, drivers must give way to pedestrians and bicycles on any footpath, path or nature strip," Mr Chesworth said.

"The Victorian road rules clearly state that pedestrians and riders do have right of way along areas such as defined rail trails."

"It is important that we all work together to make the trail a great success. Time and patience will be appreciated by all when it comes to the welfare and safety of those using the trail, and those accessing their properties."

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

LANDCARER OF THE MONTH

The Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative would like to launch their "Landcarer of the Month" award to recognize and publicly thank any person who has made some outstanding efforts towards caring for our land in some way.

The "Landcarer" can be any person or group who has accomplished something environmentally positive in our catchment, for example blackberry control, protection of remnant bushland, tree planting, hunting of feral animals etc.

If you have someone in mind please record what they have achieved, aim to get a photo (if possible!!) and pass this information on to Simone Ulstrup at hughes.creek1@gmail.com.

An article will run at the start of each month in the Granite News, and at the end of each year one person will be chosen from this group to be titled the Landcarer of the year!!

**THANKS TO THE GOULBURN
BROKEN CATCHMENT
MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY AND
THE HUGHES CREEK CATCHMENT
COLLABORATIVE FOR HELPING TO
FUND THIS NEWSLETTER**

HiARTS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The HiArts AGM will be held on Thursday 2nd August at 7.30pm in the Highlands Hall. All interested in the future of HiArts are most welcome.

BOOK REVIEW

Young Nicks' Head – Karen Hesse

American children's author, Karen Hesse has decided to write a book about Captain Cook's voyage of discovery to the South Pacific in 1868-1770. It is a diary written by the youngest member of Cook's crew, Nicholas Young, who was discovered as a stowaway three weeks after Cook left Plymouth. We are treated to the careful observations of an 11 year old boy about the member's of the ship's crew, the places that they visit and their explorations. It is told with the wonderment of literally discovering a whole new world and the reader also shares the amazement and joy experienced by Nick.

By Pauline Roberts

RUFFY COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 9 August 7.30 pm, Ruffy Hall

Talk by Geoff Starkey, Euroa Historical & Genealogical Society Light Supper

All community members welcome!

NEST BOXES FOR WILDLIFE

A few months ago, the Strathbogrie Ranges CMN held a nest-box forum in Violet Town, to spotlight recent results from local projects and encourage new projects to start.

The turnout was great and the evening a success. The Violet Town Men's Shed, who make excellent nest-boxes, received orders for dozens of nest-boxes as a result of the forum - very pleasing. And we've now summarised the information collected over the last few years, presented at the forum, into 'Nest-box Know-how', useful guidelines for anyone starting their own nest-box project.

'Nest-box Know-how' and a nest-box brochure for the Strathbogrie Ranges region are available on the SR CMN website here:

<http://www.strathbogrierangescmn.com/projects/landscape-linkages-project/nestboxes-for-wildlife/>

From Bertram Lobert

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Weekend Breakfast from 9.00 am.

Groups by arrangement

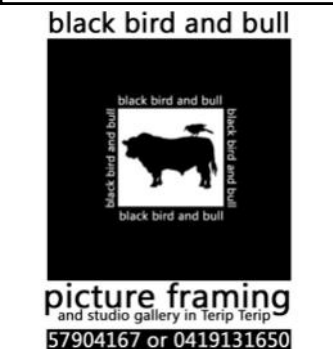
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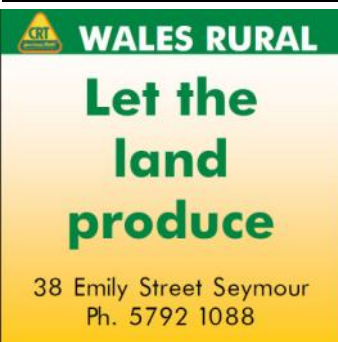
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