



## THE MERINO SHEEP

Written by Banjo Paterson (1864-1941) serialized by "the world's most famous sheep loather".

### Introduction

People have got the impression that the merino is a gentle, bleating animal that gets its living without trouble to anybody, and comes up every year to be shorn with a pleased smile upon its amiable face. It is my purpose here to exhibit the merino sheep in its true light.

First let us give him his due. No one can accuse him of being a ferocious animal. No one could ever say that a sheep attacked him without provocation; although there is an old bush story of a man who was discovered in the act of killing a neighbour's wether.

"Hello!" said the neighbour, "What's this? Killing my sheep! What have you got to say for yourself?"

"Yes," said the man, with an air of virtuous indignation. "I am killing your sheep. I'll kill any man's sheep that bites me!"

But as a rule the merino refrains from using his teeth on people. He goes to work in another way.

### The Art of Dying

The truth is that he is a dangerous monomaniac, and his one idea is to ruin the man who owns him. With this object in view he will display a talent for getting into trouble and a genius for dying that are almost incredible.

If a mob of sheep see a bush fire closing round them, do they run away out of danger? Not at all, they rush round and round in a ring till the fire burns them up.

If they are in a river-bed, with a howling flood coming down, they will stubbornly refuse to cross three inches of water to save themselves. Dogs may bark and men may shriek, but the sheep won't move. They will wait there till the flood comes and drowns them all, and then their corpses go down the river on their backs with their feet in the air.

A mob will crawl along a road slowly enough to exasperate a snail, but let a lamb get away in a bit of rough country, and a racehorse can't head him back again. If sheep are put into a big paddock with water in three corners of it, they will resolutely crowd into the fourth, and die of thirst.

There is a well-authenticated story of a ship-load of sheep that was lost because an old ram jumped overboard, and all the rest followed him. No doubt they did, and were proud to do it.

A sheep won't go through an open gate on his own responsibility, but he would gladly and proudly "follow the leader" through the red-hot portals of Hades: and it makes no difference whether the lead goes voluntarily, or is hauled struggling and kicking and fighting every inch of the way.

Sent in by Scott McKay

### Next week the counting and Intelligence of Sheep

## BLACK MARKET FOR RUFFY AND TERIP TERIP??

Today I was out mowing my lawns in the beautiful sunshine (trying to ignore the icy breeze) thinking about how much I love spring and can't wait to have beautiful flushes of colour in my garden, when I thought I really should ask Helen McKenzie for some bulbs and tubers to add to my collection (she if you are unaware has a beautiful garden).

Then suddenly I thought back to an episode of Gardening Australia I watched months back about a community free trade, where people brought their excess products, whether it be jams or sauces, plants or bulbs, fruit or vegetables, even eggs. and swapped what they had for things other people had and they wanted.

I was thinking we could start something similar locally in Ruffy, (or Terip I have seen a lot of beautiful gardens around Terip) where say 1 Sunday a month (or more if people were really interested) we could have a produce swap, it only needs to be for half an hour to an hour.

I know now I have way too many of some bulbs and berry canes in my garden, and not enough of some I would like to have, and come summer, I always have excess amounts of tomatoes and other vegies.

I just thought if there are other people who have the same problem with excess, or would love to take others excess in trade, then we could do a similar thing to on Gardening Australia.

If this is something you are interested in, please e-mail me at [reneedrysdale@bigpond.com](mailto:reneedrysdale@bigpond.com) and I will see what I can organise so we can get it up and running!!!

Happy Gardening!!! From Renee.

## WELCOME TO ISSUE 25

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 go to [www.highlands.org.au](http://www.highlands.org.au) and just subscribe, it is as easy as that!

## VICTORIAN LANDCARE NUMBER PLATES

The South Gippsland Landcare Network (SGLN) is administering and marketing Landcare Number Plates on behalf of Landcare in Victoria. All enquires should be directed to Belinda Brennan, Network Coordinator on 5662 5759 or 0409 004 901 email: [belindab@wgcm.vic.gov.au](mailto:belindab@wgcm.vic.gov.au)

South Gippsland Landcare Network must pay for the first 100 plates up front before they are issued. If sufficient plates are not sold by 30th November 2012 to cover the cost of the creation of Landcare number plates, they will NOT be produced and all money will be returned. To ensure Landcare number plates become a reality, purchase your plate today.

The purpose of Landcare Numbers Plates is to raise awareness, promote Landcare and raise much needed funds for Landcare Projects in Victoria.

The first 100 Victorian Landcare Plates 000-LC to 099-LC are now available for purchase. Landcare Number Plates are available in standard and slim line format. Landcare Number Plates are special interest plates issued by Vicroads and as such are subject to all regulations governing registration in Victoria.

Pricing: All prices include GST  
000-LC \$2,200 001-LC \$2,200  
002-LC \$1,100 003-LC \$1,100  
004-LC \$1,100 007-LC \$2,200  
Allocation of plate numbers will be on a first come first serve basis.

## YEA ACOUSTIC JAMMING

All levels of acoustic musicians, singers and listeners are welcome. The session is held on the 1st Friday of each month (except January) and is part of the Yea Community House program. This is a relaxed session where many musical genres get a good airing. Beginners are mentored by the more experienced musicians and we often get people who come to chill out on the couches with a cuppa and to listen to live music. Phone the House on 5797 3070 if you have any queries.

## COMMUNITY WHAT'S ON CALENDAR - SEPTEMBER 2012

Week beg 9th September	<b>Terip Terip Recreation Reserve Mowing Roster</b> Peter Short & Betty Jenkins Max & Joan Eddy
Week beg 9th September	<b>WHITEHEADS CREEK -TARCOMBE RURAL FIRE BRIGADE TRUCK ROSTER</b> Geoff Halpin James Matters
Tuesday 4th September	<b>U3A MELTING POT NATIONAL BROADBAND NETWORK - HOW WILL IT CHANGE OUR LIVES?</b> Seymour & District U3A's Melting Pot will have Ms Mary Todorov, Community and Account Manager for the National Broadband Network Company as Guest Speaker for the September Meeting. The session will provide an opportunity for all to ask questions about the timelines for Seymour and the impact it could have on issues such as Health, Education, Commerce, etc. The Talk will commence at 1.30 pm in the Salvation Army Hall in Victoria Street, Seymour. Everyone is invited to a light lunch commencing at 12.30 (prior to the meeting). Bookings are required if you wish to attend the lunch - contact Pat Coffey: 5799 1119.
Wednesday 5th September	<b>ATTRACTING BIRDS TO YOUR GARDEN</b> The Goulburn Murray Landcare Network and Bird Life Murray Goulburn Invite you to attend an evening talk Birds in the Backyard: Attracting Birds to your Garden Presented by Mike Kerr, Bird Life Australia. 7.30 pm, Senior Citizens Club Rooms, Welsford Shepparton. By understanding a little about the needs of our native birds you too can help create a brighter future for many of those species by creating a bird-friendly garden. So come along and enjoy a close-up view of many of the native birds that are waiting to be invited into your gardens in and around Shepparton. Supper Provided For more information contact Wendy D'Amore, GMLN Mob 0407 331 376 or email <a href="mailto:gmln@iinet.net.au">gmln@iinet.net.au</a>
7th & 21st September, 5th & 19th October	<b>YEA COMMUNITY HOUSE</b> An Introduction to <b>POTTERY</b> with the Yea Pottery Group Time: 6.30-8.30pm Cost: \$50 (+ clay) Minimum 8 participants - please book now! 15 The Semi Circle Yea Phone: 03 5797 3070 Fax: 03 5797 2860 Mob: 0477 492 543 Email: <a href="mailto:info@yeahouse.org.au">info@yeahouse.org.au</a> Web: <a href="http://www.yea.com.au/commhouse/index.htm">www.yea.com.au/commhouse/index.htm</a>
Friday 7th September	<b>YEA RIVER CATCHMENT LANDCARE AGM</b> 6.30 pm for dinner (meeting 7.30 pm; speaker 8.15 pm) WHERE: New Gallery 34 cafe, 36 High Street (where The Chronicle used to be; not the gallery itself) COST: Two-course meal (choice of: two meat/one vegetable curries; two desserts) for \$25 (alcohol/coffee/tea are extra) RSVP: Judy Brookes by email or 57 972 563 (by Monday, 3 September) <b>SPEAKER ON BEES:</b> Bees and other pollinators are vital in the production of up to one-third of all the food we eat. The world-wide collapse of honeybee colonies has been linked to the varroa mite, the destruction of flowery habitat in which bees feed and the widespread use of pesticides in crops. Local Flowerdalian Steve Joblin will be talking a little bit about the above, a little more on native bees and quite a lot on beekeeping (touching on the complex society in which honeybees live).
7th September to 1st October	<b>EXHIBITION by Darren Gilbert and Janet Matthews.</b> This exhibition will include, 7 artworks (pen and ink), and 17 sculptures of Darren's. Janet Matthews, a noted Wildlife Artist, works mainly with coloured pencils and graphite, will have a large selection of her finely detail artwork. Gallery 34 Opening, 6 to 8pm, Friday 7th September 2012 34 High Street Yea VIC. 3717 03) 5797 3222 <a href="http://www.gallery34.com.au">www.gallery34.com.au</a>
Thursday 13th September	<b>ALEXANDRA LIBRARY</b> an essential part of your community! 5772 0349 Murrindindi Writers – all aspiring writers welcome 10am Storytime for under 3's, rhymes, stories, activities & songs 11 – 12
Sunday 16th September	<b>WILDLIFE WALK</b> in the Kinglake National Park. Presented by Michael Cincotta of Latrobe University Meeting at the Kinglake Library 10:00 AM - finish 1:30. Free - lunch provided To register you interest contact Tim Connell <a href="mailto:timnanna@iprimus.com.au">timnanna@iprimus.com.au</a> or phone 0408 599 485
Monday 17th September	<b>ALEXANDRA LIBRARY</b> an essential part of your community! 5772 0349 Vintage Readers - grey power book discussion group 2 - 4
Friday 28th September	<b>ALEXANDRA LIBRARY</b> an essential part of your community! 5772 0349 28 Ukulele Heaven BYO ukulele everyone welcome 6 – 8
Sunday 30th September	<b>STEEP HILL COUNTRY – FARM WALK</b> Yea River Catchment Landcare Group 10.00 am – 12 pm Coolongolook, 141 Monkey Creek Road <b>LIMESTONE</b> RSVP: Judy Brookes ( <a href="mailto:juncball@bigpond.com">juncball@bigpond.com</a> or 57 972 563) Judy Brookes and Duncan Hall took over the family farm, Coolongolook, in February 2009. They have continued to plant out erosion gullies, creeks and steep hill country in this 450-ha (1100-acre) beef property. The property has also since changed its grazing regime, made possible by land classification and slowly decreasing the size of paddocks. There is still a long way to go, but the benefits can already be seen. They have also built laneways to the west, centre and north of their property, making herd management far simpler. Most of the rotations can now be done easily by one person. You are welcome to come for a farm tour. As well as mass plantings, you will see how they drought-proofed five (and potentially more) paddocks on the north side of the property by pumping water up to a saddle with a 130-m head. This 28 000-L tank now feeds troughs in surrounding paddocks that were unusable in 2006 due to lack of water. But, if none of this appeals, come for the views! Limestone boasts some spectacular hills on the edge of the Black Range. This might be a chance to glimpse part of your catchment you have never seen before. A light lunch will be provided and, weather permitting, you can enjoy it in Coolongolook's shady garden.

# Classifieds & Community Notices

## FOR SALE

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## BOOK REVIEW

Hoot – Carl Hiassen

This is Hiassen's first book for children and he does an excellent job of transferring from one audience to another. Roy Eberhardt has just recently moved to Florida and as the new boy on the block is attracting unwelcome attention from the local bully. As a result of having his face mashed against the bus window he notices a boy running effortlessly away from the bus, with no school bag and most curiously, in bare feet. He is intrigued and decides to find out who he is. At the same time as Roy starts his investigation the site for a new Mother Paula's All-American Pancake House is being sabotaged so that construction is continually delayed. Is there a connection between the two occurrences and why does anyone want to stop Mother Paula from selling her pancakes? Throw in a couple of really cute burrowing owls and it makes for a great story. By Pauline Roberts

## FARM CHEMICAL USERS COURSE

The UGLN is planning a free two day course (10hrs total) which will qualify attendees for the Agricultural Chemical Users Permit (ACUP).

We need at least twelve confirmed registrations before we can run the course.

When: October 2012 (TBC)

Where: Yea Shire office

Cost: FREE

To register contact: Chris Cobern

Fire Recovery Landcare Coordinator

Ph: 5736 0104

[ugrecovery@gbcma.vic.gov.au](mailto:ugrecovery@gbcma.vic.gov.au)

## CERTIFICATE IV in TRAINING and ASSESSMENT

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## SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS

There will be no Secret Men's Business BBQ for the months of August & September. The weather is cold for our usual outdoor gathering. Hope to see a large group on the last Thursday of October.

## WANTED PLEASE

Lamb Marking cradles, marking equipment, portable yard panels and stock crate.

Home spinner for an alpaca fleece, enough for a little boys jumper.

Contact Peter -

[paw6@optusnet.com.au](mailto:paw6@optusnet.com.au)

## HIARTS 10th ANNIVERSARY ART EXHIBITION

Advance Notice. Yes it's ten years. Our Exhibition will be held on 1st to 3rd March 2013

It will begin with a Gala opening and Preview on Friday 1st at 7.30pm followed by two days for viewing art and engaging with our various Artists in Residence, (Potter, Visual Artist and Multi Media). There will also be workshops on digital photography. Excellent food, coffee, wine etc. will be served throughout the weekend.

Interested artists should contact Stuart 5796 9358 or Karli 5796 9396, email [kadumbra@mac.com](mailto:kadumbra@mac.com)

Registration forms can be down loaded from October [www.hiarts.org](http://www.hiarts.org)

## WANTED

Farmhand/manager. Terip property turning off approximately 300 PTIC heifers per annum. Minimum 2 days p/w. Contact Neville Debney 0408564895 or [ndebney@hunthunt.com.au](mailto:ndebney@hunthunt.com.au)

## PLAN YOUR FIREBREAKS THIS WINTER

While summer and the fire season seems a long way off as we shiver in this unusually cold and wet winter, now is actually the time to think about firebreaks and how to plan and prepare them.

Traditionally many landowners in the past would burn breaks with the assistance of the local brigade in late spring or early summer. These breaks were often quite wide, up to 100m, and were placed around buildings, pumps and power poles with transformers, along road reserves and especially along railway lines in the days of steam trains.

Most farmers had their own firefighting units and neighbours would help each other burn the breaks. Now it is rare to see breaks being burned and only few landholders have significant fire units. This is partly because the window of opportunity to burn breaks is more limited under CFA and local government regulations. Further, many brigades are reluctant to have their volunteers' time taken up with burning breaks. These days it is all-too-common to see landholders making little effort to protect their assets or to do so with quite inadequate measures.

Winter is the time to implement your fire protection strategies when not much farm activity is going on. With climate uncertainty, longer and hotter summers and fewer (and older) CFA volunteers, landholders will have to be much better prepared for the inevitable fires that will be experienced.

One of the stark realities of Black Saturday was that most of the fire brigades in this area were called out to Wandong or Broadford and large areas and many towns were left without a truck on what was the worst day ever experienced. Communities like Avenel, Longwood and Ruffy were highly vulnerable to a fast moving grass fire had it occurred. Many landholders would not be aware of the near disaster for Longwood in the 1965 fire that tragically took the lives of seven women and children.

Firebreaks can be formed by a variety of means. The most effective is a wide strip (30m and preferably wider) that is fenced permanently or seasonally with electric fencing. In arable country the pasture can be mown for hay, slashed or grazed heavily in late winter - early spring. A great advantage in mowing/slashing in cold conditions is that sheep will quite dramatically preferentially graze the area and temporary fencing is not necessary. Extract from the Burnt Creek Landcare Newsletter

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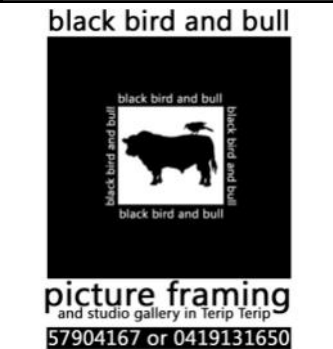
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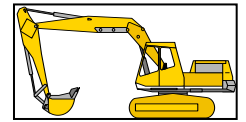
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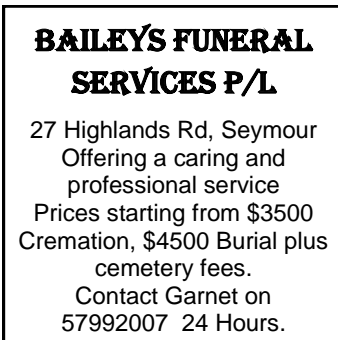
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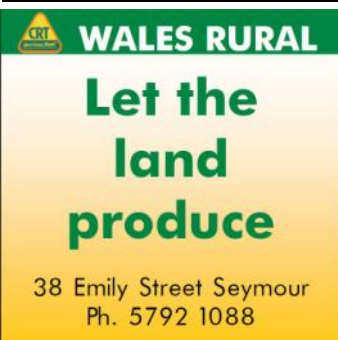
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