



THE MERINO SHEEP CONTINUED

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

COUNTING SHEEP

When being counted out at a gate, if a scrap of bark be left on the ground in the gateway, they will refuse to step over it until dogs and men have sweated and toiled and sworn and "heeled 'em up", and "spoke to 'em", and fairly jammed them at it. At last one will gather courage, rush at the fancied obstacle, spring over it about six feet in the air, and dart away. The next does exactly the same, but jumps a bit higher. Then comes a rush of them following one another in wild bounds like antelopes, until one over jumps himself and alights on his head. This frightens those still in the yard, and they stop running out.

Then the dogging and shrieking and hustling and tearing have to be gone through all over again. (This on a red-hot day, mind you, with clouds of blinding dust about, the yolk of wool irritating your eyes, and, perhaps, three or four thousand sheep to put through). The delay throws out the man who is counting, and he forgets whether he left off at 45 or 95. The dogs, meanwhile, have taken the first chance to slip over the fence and hide in the shade somewhere, and then there are loud whistlings and oaths, and calls for Rover and Bluey. At last a dirt-begrimed man jumps over the fence, unearths Bluey, and hauls him back by the ear. Bluey sets to work barking and heeling 'em up again, and pretends that he thoroughly enjoys it; but all the while he is looking out for another chance to "clear". And this time he won't be discovered in a hurry.

THE INTELLIGENCE of SHEEP

For pure, sodden stupidity there is no animal like the merino. A lamb will follow a bullock-dray, drawn by sixteen bullocks and driven by a profane person with a whip, under the impression that the aggregate monstrosity is his mother. A ewe never knows her own lamb by sight, and apparently has no sense of colour. She can recognise its voice half a mile off among a thousand other voices apparently exactly similar; but when she gets within five yards of it she starts to smell all the other lambs within reach, including the black ones – though her own may be white. The fiendish resemblance which one sheep bears to another is a great advantage

to them in their struggles with their owners. It makes it more difficult to draft them out of a strange flock, and much harder to tell when any are missing. Concerning this resemblance between sheep, there is a story told of a fat old Murrumbidgee squatter who gave a big price for a famous ram called Sir Oliver. He took a friend out one day to inspect Sir Oliver, and overhauled that animal with a most impressive air of sheep-wisdom.

"Look here," he said, "at the fineness of the wool. See the serrations in each thread of it. See the density of it. Look at the way his legs and belly are clothed – he's wool all over, that sheep. Grand animal, grand animal!"

Then they went and had a drink, and the old squatter said, "Now, I'll show you the difference between a champion ram and a second-rater." So he caught a ram and pointed out his defects. "See here – not half the serrations that other sheep had. No density of fleece to speak of. Bare-bellied as a pig, compared with Sir Oliver. Not that this isn't a fair sheep, but he'd be dear at one-tenth Sir Oliver's price. By the way, Johnson" (to his overseer), "what ram is this?"

"That, sir," replied the astounded functionary – "that is Sir Oliver, sir!"

Next week THE CROSSBRED
Sent in by Scott McKay

NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY

STUDENT OF THE WEEK



Hayley

For creative ideas and terrific help during puppet making. Well done!

WELCOME TO ISSUE 26

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

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

We now have 380 subscribers to The Granite News. Remember that we won't be producing a paper copy in 2013 for the Highlands area .

NATIONAL WATER WEEK 21st- 27th OCTOBER 2012

To celebrate National Water Week, Twilight Family Fishing events will be visiting towns in the catchment during October.

Participants will have the opportunity to learn more about the native and feral fish species that live in our waterways, as well as try their luck at landing a fish. Other activities may include

Fishing and Casting Competitions

Know your limits

Fishy games

Bait, knots and hooks

Tastes of the creek cooking demonstrations

Free sausage sizzle

To find out where and when these fishing events will take place visit www.gvwater.vic.gov.au/education/waterweek or for more details contact waterweek@gvwater.vic.gov.au

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTORY- LOCAL BUSINESSES AND SERVICES SOUGHT

The Hughes Creek Catchment Land-care group is currently compiling a list of local businesses and services to be recorded in a directory specifically for the catchment area. The directory will be aimed at new landholders in particular, to give a helping hand when moving to the area with details of local services that may be available, but not so widely known.

It is free to list your business or service and all advertisers in the Granite News will automatically be included.

Please email any details to Simone Ulstrup at hughes.creek1@gmail.com or call 03 5790 4146

COMMUNITY WHAT'S ON CALENDAR - SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2012

Week 16th September	Terip Terip Recreation Reserve Mowing Roster Neville & Sue Debney George & Trish Uden
Week 16th September	WHITEHEADS CREEK -TARCOMBE RURAL FIRE BRIGADE TRUCK ROSTER Rob Hayes Lindsay Heffer
7th September to 1st October	EXHIBITION by Darren Gilbert and Janet Matthews. 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 www.gallery34.com.au
Thursday 13th September	ALEXANDRA LIBRARY 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
Friday 14th September	'DRINKS ON THE DECK' at Highlands Community Hall from 6.30pm. Bring food to share for a meal together and catch up with friends.. All welcome - especially new faces. Gold coin donation to cover power.
15 and 16 September	EUROA COMMUNITY CINEMA "Not Suitable for Children" 97 mins Rom/Com (MA) 3.5 stars Jonah, Ryan Kwanten, lives in an inner-city house and enjoys a hedonistic lifestyle, that is, until his latest girl-friend, Kathryn Beck, discovers a lump the size of a pea ... the diagnosis of which is testicular cancer. This means that following surgery, Jonah will be sterile. He suddenly decides he needs to be a father and sets about seeking the ultimate joy of parenthood. This film brings an honesty to a very sensitive situation but there are also some laughs along the way. A highly regarded Australian movie from a screenplay by Michael Lucas, which in part is based on his own experiences.
Sunday 16th September	WILDLIFE WALK 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 timnanna@iprimus.com.au or phone 0408 599 485
Monday 17th September	ALEXANDRA LIBRARY an essential part of your community! 5772 0349 Vintage Readers - grey power book discussion group 2 - 4
Tuesday 18th September	MYTHS & LEGENDS night at Alexandra Library 7-8 pm You and your family are invited to attend an evening storytelling with professional storyteller Gael Cresp. Myths and legends were an attempt to explain nature and the wonders and dangers of the world. Enduring themes of betrayal, lust, greed, discovery, fear and quests are as central to ancient myths as they are to the modern world. These stories give an insight into some of the foundations of our cultural heritage, as well as an understanding of the naming of the planets and exploration missions in modern times. They may also help you solve a crossword or two. Heroic supper afterwards in the library. Bookings 5772 0349
Friday 21st September	HAPPY HOUR at the Ruffy Hall from 6.30pm onwards. Bring along a casserole or a sweet to share and of course BYO drinks. After dinner, sit back and enjoy watching on the big screen photos of the George's travel on their 'Long Boat Parrindi' through some of the beautiful channels in England. For inquires contact Henry on 5790 4246.
22 and 23 September	EUROA COMMUNITY CINEMA "The Dark Knight Rises" - 162 mins Drama (M) 3.5 stars Despite his tarnished reputation, eight years on Batman is compelled to come out of self-imposed exile and return to protect Gotham City from a new terrorist threat, Bane, a metal-muzzled menace who will provoke fear and fascination in everyone. Those who love this kind of movie will not be disappointed. An unbeatable cast : Christian Bale, Tom Hardy, Anne Hathaway, Michael Caine and Morgan Freeman.
Wednesday 26 September	TERIP TERIP RECREATION RESERVE AGM and election meeting 7.30pm at the Terip Terip Recreation Reserve. All welcome please put this important date in your diary.
Wednesday 26th Sept & Friday 5 Oct	EUROA LIBRARY 2.30pm-3.30pm with Anne FREE events at our libraries during the September/October school holidays. Join in Sculptionary! Do you like making things with play dough? Come along and race the clock! Vote for your favourite sculpture! For more information contact 1300374765
Sunday 30th September	STEEP HILL COUNTRY – FARM WALK Yea River Catchment Landcare Group 10.00 am – 12 pm Coolongolook, 141 Monkey Creek Road LIMESTONE RSVP: Judy Brookes (juncball@bigpond.com 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

HIGHLAND RAMBLERS

August's walk had our best turnout for a while, and it was particularly nice to have a youngster and a baby along.

The walk was along a ridge towards Mount Concord, though we fell slightly short of the actual summit. Along the first part we had picturesque views eastwards over Yarck, then passing to the other side of the ridgeline we had views east across the Molesworth cutting to the hills where we'd walked the previous month.

On the way back we detoured down the hillside into the bush to a scenic waterfall. Most of the way was quite an easy stroll, with just a couple of steepish bits. And for the first time in ages I didn't see a single eagle. A lovely day.
By Louise Currie

BOOK REVIEW

Tales of the Otori – Lian Hearn

For those of you who have yet to discover the fast paced, brilliantly told story of Takeo and the Otori indulge yourself in some riveting and compulsive reading. There are 5 books set in the mythical Three Countries where customs and traditions owe a lot to medieval feudal Japan. Here Takeo is born little realizing where his destiny lies. Although brought up among The Hidden, he also possesses the supernatural skills of The Tribe and is subsequently adopted by the mysterious Lord Otori Shigeru, which alters his life irrevocably.

The tales offer the reader a powerful journey of emotions – revenge and treachery, honour and loyalty, beauty and magic, but above all the passion of love as Takeo discovers his soul mate for life, the beautiful Kaede. Well written, the reader will be drawn into the world of feudal allegiances and intrigue.

By Pauline Roberts

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

FURNITURE FOR SALE

One cupboard (coat or broom), four padded wooden stools (two with backs), one rocking chair, one large easy chair. All in good condition and at nominal prices. Best offer. Contact Judy or Stuart 5796 9358

HUGE CAR SHOW

Nagambie is going to be invaded with Hot Rods, Street Machines, and a huge number of Custom and Classic cars. It's happening on the 16th of September and they will conjugate at the Nagambie Lakes Regatta Centre at 10am. If you want to check them out, a gold coin donation will get you in the gate.

Top cars from all over Australia are coming including a group that are travelling across the Nullabor.

The event is family friendly, you can check out the huge car show and then you and the kids can enjoy the trade stands, food stalls, face painting, temporary tattoos and the jumping castle.

Two top Melbourne bands, Wild Turkey and Toe Jam, will be entertaining the crowd during the day. Then at 2 pm the Cranksters will be conducting a charity auction to raise money for Camp Quality. Items already collected for auction include an Austin 7 roadster and a \$3000 voucher for a hot rod body.

For more information, check out our web site, www.cranksterscruise.org.au



FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR COMMUNITY RIDESHARE PROGRAMS

Rideshare programs are similar to car-pooling and aim to increase transport options in small rural communities, particularly for people with transport disadvantage. The basic idea is that spare seats in cars that already taking trips can be offered to others in the community.

This provides increased transport options for community members but also has environmental benefits and helps build community connectedness and reduces social isolation.

There is a lot of flexibility in how the programs might be run, so each community can create a program that suits their own needs.

The Council can provide access to funds of up to \$1000, plus support from Council officers to establish the programs, with ongoing management of the programs the responsibility of the community. Contact Liz Scarfe Email info@strathbogie.vic.gov.au

BITS OF BOTANY AND BIRDS

Callistemon sieberi River bottlebrush

I saw some of these a few weeks ago by Hughes creek but didn't know what they were till I saw more on the Ruffy walking club's latest outing. Thanks Neil for identifying them. This plant loves water. It is found on creek banks, sometimes growing out from under rocks and I've seen some right in the middle of the stream after heavy rain. It can grow to 3 metres but most that I've seen have been small shrubs. The commonest flower colour is creamy yellow, but there are also some in pale pink. By Louise Currie



SEYMOUR BUSHLAND PARK

Seymour Bushland Park was, recently as 30 years ago, a clapped out sheep paddock, and prior to that an intensively used army camp. It has since been regenerating nicely, and now contains 14 species of orchid! Greenhoods are the stars in September. It is also home to an interesting suite of animals and birds, who find shelter in its woodland. Seymour Bushland Park is a valuable resource for Landcare, demonstrating what can happen if bush is allowed to regenerate, and providing a reservoir of life for future reference. Seymour Bushland Park is covenanted under Trust for Nature, the first publicly owned land in Mitchell Shire to have that distinction. The attached poster was done by Steven Evans, a member of the committee, who will be exhibiting his art in Ruffy soon. As many of your readers will know, Peter Mitchell and Barbara Moss are extremely knowledgeable naturalists, and inspire with their love for the bush and its inhabitants.

Book early for this enjoyable and revealing event,

Take a walk on the wild side Seymour Bushland Park Wildlife walk Telegraph Road entrance. Saturday 22nd September 2012, from 5.00PM-8.00PM

Annual discovery walk led by Peter Mitchell and Barbara Moss Bookings essential. Phone 0407 871 603, or 57921848

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