



## PEOPLE AND PLACES

### TAKE A STEEP HILL LANDFORM AND MAKE IT PRODUCTIVE

Big steep hills are often less productive, hard to manage and maintain and can be a liability for farmers.

Let's face it - the Murrindindi and adjacent shires have plenty of them that are often neglected. Those with few trees are particularly prone to erosion and access can be a significant problem for fire fighting agencies.

Sadly such land forms are sometimes regarded as of limited economic value.

How one family farm is addressing the problems of steep hills, increasing their productivity for cattle in particular, as well as revegetating them so that they become an asset to the region and their owners, was addressed by a recent farm walk conducted by the Yea River Catchment Landcare Group.

Judy Brookes and Duncan Hall are the owners of the 450 ha, or 1,100 acre property 'Coolongolook' at Limestone, south-east of Yea.

Their land form is largely a series of steep hills with altitudes varying from the flatter more productive slopes at a little over 320 metres above sea level to a series of very steep hill tops rising to almost 550 metres in elevation.

While in large measure it is still a work in progress, their success so far has given excellent guidance about how to enhance and improve the farming value of our steep hill country.

Their plan was to fertilise the property based on soil tests (a third of the property is tested each year); land-classify the hills (according to aspect and 'flats' from hills) and decrease the size of paddocks for better grazing management; fence off and plant out deep erosion gullies and landslips (which then become wildlife corridors and shelter belts); and improve water resources to drought-proof the property.

By fencing according to land classification, the less productive, north-facing slopes, for example, can be better managed (and in some cases planted out to exclude stock altogether).

They are also focussing on decreasing paddock sizes. Large mobs of cattle are now rotated through these paddocks, grazing them more productively.

We quickly learned our fencing skills" Judy says "and chose a steel fencing system as a possible bushfire response".

Another recognition was that the water resources in almost a quarter of their property failed during dry times and thus limited stocking capacity. So a multi-paddock watering system was designed and installed.

Water is now pumped against a 130 metre head from a reliable dam to a 23,000 litre header tank situated at over 500 metres elevation from where it gravity feeds to multiple stock troughs in adjoining paddocks.

Revegetating the property and enhancing the biodiversity has become a passion and the owners have now planted between 15,000 and 17,000 trees on the property.

They have targeted unproductive hill slopes, landslips, gaping gullies and swampy areas for both environmental and practical reasons, planting these fenced-off areas with trees and shrubs indigenous to the area.

Another nearby gully is being fenced and planted over the next two to three years.

It is adjoined by a new laneway system which facilitates stock movement from the hills to the flats and down to the cattle yards.

And is one of three stock laneways that give access to the west, north and east of the property.

But their success can be measured both by the attractive appearance of the property and its obviously increased productivity.

Coolongolook is currently running its (predominantly Red Angus) 200 breeding cows plus their yearlings from the previous drop.

Judy and Duncan's achievements in revitalising their steep hill slopes warrant repetition and recognition locally.

By John Kennedy

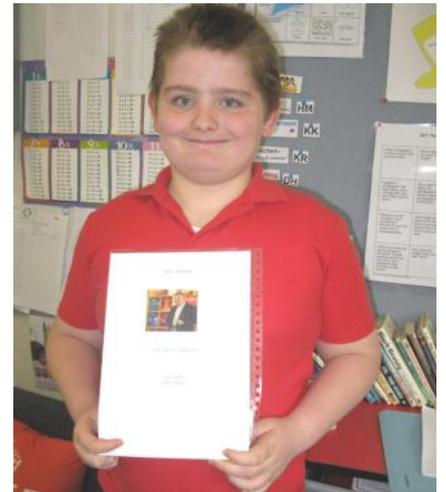


## WELCOME TO ISSUE 30

I am still trying to locate a copy of the first Granite news, does anyone have a hard or electronic copy I could use please? Thanks, Miranda

## NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY

### STUDENT OF THE WEEK



**James:** For great work on with his Author Study. Well done!

### Hughes Creek Day By John Bennett

On the 16th of October, the grades 4, 5 and 6 went down Hughes Creek road to do activities and assessments. Avenel Primary School was there too.

First of all, we walked up to the creek's edge and watched to people go electro - fishing. Electro - fishing is where one person has a battery pack and sends electric currents through the water. The fish get attracted to it, and then they get temporarily stunned. When they are stunned, another person catches the fish. Then we'd have a look at the fish. They caught a blackfish, some yabbies, a mountain galaxius, and a humongous carp.

We also did a bug survey, where we had tubs of the creek water and bugs, and we collected the bugs and worked out what kinds of bugs they were. We found things like: side-swimmers, whirligig beetles, fly larvae, may fly larvae, and stonefly nymph.

The next activity was where we were split up into 5 groups in different places and collected all the different types of plants we could find. Then we worked out what kinds of plants were growing where. After all that, we were very tired, but we definitely had fun.

## COMMUNITY WHAT'S ON CALENDAR - OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2012

Week 28th October	<b>TERIP TERIP RECREATION RESERVE Mowing Roster</b> Tim & Cindy Hayes Marcus Hill
Week 28th October	<b>WHITEHEADS CREEK -TARCOMBE RURAL FIRE BRIGADE TRUCK ROSTER</b> Russell Chapman John Dalziel
Thursday 25th October	<b>SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS</b> is back after a winter break. Please come to a community gathering at the Caveat Church on Thursday 25th October at 5-30pm for a BBQ and chat. Everyone is welcome [men, women, and children] to catch up with what's happening in the district. BBQ will be provided BYO drinks
Saturday 27th October	<b>THE KNIFE MAN</b> The Knife Man (Sharpening and Sales) is coming to the Yea Community House! Sharpen knives, scissors, garden tools, axes and electric trimmers (\$6 - \$40) Time: 10am - 12pm. Where: Yea Community House Lounge. Phone Julian for enquiries 0409
Sunday 28th October	<b>HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS</b> 10.30 at Highlands hall. For more info contact Andrew 0427 96 9297.
Sunday 28th October	<b>SCARECROW MAKING</b> —with Wendy Hall Make a wonderful scarecrow for your veggie garden or just for fun with Wendy. Just in time for your Spring and Summer vegetable garden! Join in and have some fun! Bring along old clothes for your scarecrow-make it unique to your family or group! Items include hat, scarf, pants, shirt, tie, jacket...it's up to you! Light lunch provided! Time: 11am Cost: FREE— BOOKING REQUIRED
Tuesday 29th October	<b>RUFFY FIRE BRIGADE</b> -Pre-Season Meeting. Tablelands Community Centre-(Old Ruffy School) 8pm. All welcome. (J. Hagen Sec)
Saturday 3rd November	<b>ALEXANDRA LIBRARY</b> an essential part of your community! 5772 0349 History Café share local history over morning tea, great photos & stories 10-12
Saturday 3rd November	<b>YEA COUNTRY MARKET DAY</b> 9am to 2pm Yea Railway Park, Station Street, Yea
Saturday 3rd & 4th November	<b>EUROA COMMUNITY CINEMA</b> "Moonrise Kingdom" - 94 mins (PG) Comedy / Drama / Romance 3.5 stars Set on an island off the coast of New England in the summer of 1965, this is the story of two twelve-year-olds who fall in love, make a secret pact, and run away together into the wilderness. As various authorities try to hunt them down, a violent storm is brewing off-shore -- and the peaceful island community is turned upside down in more ways than anyone can handle. An endearing movie in which the runaway takes with her – a kitten, books, a wind-up record player and binoculars...all quite bizarre – but worth coming to see.
Tuesday 6th November	<b>TERIP TERIP CUP DAY</b> Chicken and Champagne Lunch, ,Terip Terip Recreation Reserve Commencing at 12.30pm. Cost \$20.00 per head children \$5.00 Chicken and welcome Champagne provided, please bring a sweet or salad to share. BYO any other drinks. Cup Sweeps, 'Fashion on the Field' awards for the best dressed, Running of the Annual Terip Terip Cup. Bookings Essential please ring Kate Wright 5790 4148
Wednesday 7th November	<b>ALEXANDRA LIBRARY</b> an essential part of your community! 5772 0349 Soapbox – Lively discussion on edgy topics this month - Cults 7-8pm
Thursday 8th November	<b>ANNUAL OAKS DAY LUNCHEON</b> Lions Club of Seymour Goulburn Inc and Cancer Council Victoria - Seymour Unit invites you to our at the Seymour Race Club on Thursday 8th November 2012 . Doors open at 11.30a.m. and Lunch is at 12.45 p.m. Admission is \$25.00 per person (tables of 10) Drinks available at the Bar (NO BYO) Door Prizes... Raffles... Best Dressed... Best Hat... Best Shoes. Tickets available from Leading Edge Jewellery Shop 1 The Mall Seymour. Phone 57990773
Friday 9th November	<b>'DRINKS ON THE DECK'</b> 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 power.
Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th November	<b>EUROA COMMUNITY CINEMA</b> "The Cabin in the Woods" - 95 mins 4 stars Fans of modern horror will make a bee line for this movie. There is a remote cabin in the woods, a collection of model teens, and bad things happen! And if you think you know the story – you don't! There is a lot to be said for this movie but no one who has seen it will spoil the fun of those yet to see it. One critic wrote "that if only all horror films could be like "Cabin the Woods". Witty, scary and wickedly entertaining (for those who like this kind of thing!)
Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th November	<b>INAUGURAL RIDE YEA TO MANSFIELD YEAighty k's</b> has been created to allow all levels of rider to enjoy the Goulburn River High Country Rail Trail. It is our vision this will be a yearly event for singles, couples and families within a non compete environment. We hope to provide a higher awareness not only of the rail trail, but the beautiful scenery, shops and facilities along the way. The rides will vary but the mileage each day will stay around 80kms which now explain the name! For more information about cost and conditions contact <a href="mailto:markspencer07@bigpond.com">markspencer07@bigpond.com</a>
Sunday 25th November	<b>'RIDE WITH YOUR HEROES'</b> . 1000 push bike riders will arrive very hungry at the Highlands Hall for lunch. Yes! 1000 riders! This will be a great fundraiser for the Highlands community. If you would like to help us prepare 1000 salad rolls & barbecued sausages on that day please contact Judy Cameron (5796 9247) or Judy Reid (5796 9358).

# Classifieds & Community Notices

## ROADSIDE WEED SPRAYING

Are there any weeds popping up along your roadside?? The HCCC is looking at co-ordinating with local councils to eradicate weeds along the roadsides within our catchment.

To report any emerging trouble spots please email or call Simone on [hughes.creek1@gmail.com](mailto:hughes.creek1@gmail.com) or 03 5790 4146.

## BOOK REVIEW

### Black Taxi – James Moloney

James Moloney's previous books for Young Adults have tended to be peopled with damaged teenagers trying to discover meaning and love in their lives. By comparison this story is an absolute romp with Moloney offering the reader an hilarious comedy. Rosie Sinclair has been left in charge of her grandfather's precious black Mercedes, along with his mobile phone, while he spends six months in jail for stealing. She soon discovers that along with the car come some responsibilities such as ferrying a few elderly residents, some with scandalous secrets, around the neighbourhood. Threatening phone calls on the mobile also make her life interesting, and to complicate her life even further there are two gorgeous boys on her tail. Are they interested in her or her car? Rosie sets out for the ride of her life. A good fun read.

By Pauline Roberts

## TERIP TERIP CLEANAWAY BIN

The Terip Terip Cleanaway Bin is a community run service for residents of Terip and surrounds who chose to collectively pay for a skip for household garbage. We are currently renewing subscriptions, and have room for a couple more households who might like to join. The cost is \$250 per household, or \$125 for part-time residents. By way of comparison, Murrindindi Shire charges \$286 per year to those in the Shire with garbage collection. The bin is conveniently located, and emptied regularly. If you would like to subscribe, please contact Andrew Holloway as soon as possible on 57904080 or [andrewholloway1@gmail.com](mailto:andrewholloway1@gmail.com).

## SEYMOUR & DISTRICT U3A MELTING POT

Information about U3A can be found on the website: [www.vicnet.net.au-seymu3a](http://www.vicnet.net.au-seymu3a) email: [seymu3a@vicnet.net.au](mailto:seymu3a@vicnet.net.au) or phone the Secretary: 0409 945 807.

## COMMONGROUND FESTIVAL

Nov 30 - Dec 02 2012

Be inspired, be energised, celebrate!

After the success of our first festy in 2011, Commonground Festival is back for 2012! This is a music festival for social change movers and shakers, and those who want to be part of something different.

Two days and nights of rockin' live music, inspiring workshops and frolicking fun, set on beautiful regenerated bushland near Seymour, one hour north of Melbourne.

The event is fully organised and run by volunteers, and all funds raised support Commonground's work to create a just, sustainable and non-violent world. More about Commonground and the Groupwork Institute of Australia.

For the latest announcements, 'like' us at [www.facebook.com/commongroundfestival](http://www.facebook.com/commongroundfestival)

## STRATHBOGIE PUTS FIRE PLAN INTO ACTION

The Strathbogieshire Shire has developed a 20 step fire action plan to improve the overall capability, safety and resilience of its residents in the event of a fire.

This fire action plan examines recommendations and actions outlined in the Victorian Bushfire Royal Commission Implementation Monitor Report (July 2012) and looks at strategies and projects to implement those recommendations.

Council's action plan includes further mobilisation of the Municipal Emergency Control Centre (MECC Central) in Euroa, including staff training exercises, and investigation of further uses for MECC Central such as the vulnerable person's recommendations from the Royal Commission. To find out more information regarding Council's Fire Action Plan, a copy can be downloaded from [www.strathbogieshire.vic.gov.au](http://www.strathbogieshire.vic.gov.au)

## PAINT NEEDED

The Highlands Primary School's mini stage is being painted. If anyone has leftover undercoat and wishes to donate it please call Leone 5696 7290. Anyone wishing to help paint most welcome. Undercoating is so much fun.

## FOR SALE

Large round family hardly used TRAMPOLINE with net and blue padding on springs \$200 ph. Leone 57969290 [leone\\_gabrielle@yahoo.com.au](mailto:leone_gabrielle@yahoo.com.au)

## BUSY WEEKEND of GARDENS and HISTORY in ALEXANDRA

The last weekend of October in and around Alexandra will be filled with open gardens, a Flower Festival and historical activities. 14 enthusiastic gardeners will throw open their gates on Saturday 27th & Sunday 28th October. Expect to see the results of welcome rain in the lush spring growth in the lovely town and farm gardens set amidst river valleys and rolling hills of the Alexandra district.

First time open gardens include three Alexandra township gardens; Taylor / McLennan, Sloan and Jones' gardens

Gardens south of Alexandra: Fallons in Acheron; Thomsons, Woolford / Bewley and Van der Vlies /Williams all in Taggerty and Hardham garden in Buxton. All of these gardens are a pleasant short drive apart and within a 20 minute drive from Alexandra.

Town Gardens & Flower Walk: Shiel's and Taylor / McLennan open gardens; "Carol's Garden" at Alexandra Primary School; "Festival of Flowers" at St John's Anglican Church; Public gardens - Jack Shiel's Gardens opposite Murrindindi Shire offices, & Leckie Park with significant trees marked and Historical Dove Cottage and renovated garden also in Leckie Park.

Larger gardens: Valsinger, Barkla, Sinclair & Fraser gardens all in or close to Alexandra.

Established garden: Steward garden in Alexandra

Additional features in open gardens include patchwork quilt displays, car museum, "Hot Pans" steel band performances, Dixie Group performances from Alexandra Brass Band and a garden sculpture display. Tickets, Guide Books and details of all open gardens and features can be found on the website: [www.alexandraopengardens.com.au](http://www.alexandraopengardens.com.au)

The Alexandra Historical Society's website details all activities during History Week including guided walks in Alexandra on the weekend.



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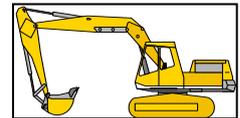
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