



PEOPLE AND PLACES

GreenEDGE CYCLING RIDE

On Sunday 25th November, 270 cyclists (including the Orica GreenEDGE professional cycling team), police escorts and support staff tackled Ghin Ghin Rd as part of the first leg of the GreenEDGE Cycling Ride.

The 150km event started at Mitchelton Winery and travelled along the Goulburn Valley Hwy, before turning up Ghin Ghin Rd to Highlands for the lunch break.

Many found the exposed climb in strong sunshine a serious challenge and upon arrival at the Highlands Hall, the riders were welcomed by a light breeze and gentle spray from the Highlands/Caveat CFA tanker manned by the CFA captain.

Under Netta Lawson's skilled instruction, a small crew of volunteers efficiently staffed three food points making ham and salad rolls for the riders, who appreciated the chance to rest a while and refill their water bottles before proceeding down Highlands Rd to Seymour, Avenel and back to Mitchelton.

A big thank you must go to the community members who not only helped on the day, but at the two previous working bees to make the grounds look exceptionally good. A thank you also goes to the various community members who volunteered to help when the numbers expected were much larger – originally 1,500 then finally 270.

All concerned were appreciative of the locals' efforts to provide pleasant respite, and a quick turnaround. Mitchelton provided the lunch and paid for the locals to serve, which raised funds for the Highlands Hall.
By Leanne Pleash & Judy Cameron



NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY

STUDENT OF THE WEEK



Walter: For persevering with his work and catching up after being ill. Well done!

School Concert: The concert will be on Wednesday 12th December at the hall, starting at 6pm. Students need to be there by 5.45pm. We are very thankful to Susan, who has made many of the costumes, decreasing items families need to supply.

Final Swimming: This week was our final swimming session and students enjoyed an hour on the Pool Monster. It has been great to see the improvement in water confidence and swimming skills. I know many students are continuing with swimming lessons over the summer to build on these skills.



HiARTS EXHIBITION

1st to 3rd March 2013. In addition to art for viewing and display there will be three artists in residence; a painter, a potter and a multimedia artist.

There will also be two workshops on using digital cameras. Check times nearer the event. Of course there will be the usual good food and drinks with the gentle harp as an accompaniment. Artists wishing to exhibit can download applications from the web >www.hiarts.org. or contact Stuart 5796 9358

WELCOME TO ISSUE 36

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS FOR THE GRANITE NEWS EDITOR

editor@tgn.org.au

A huge congratulations to Mavis and Don Cook who have kindly agreed to be the next editors of The Granite News.

It is very exciting news to know that the newsletter will continue in the hands of people who really care about its continuity, who can be relied upon to get it out on time and who have a deep understanding of the correct uses of an apostrophe.

It will also be terrific to have editors who also have a deep affection for Highlands Primary School as Mavis has a long standing position with the school, listening to students reading and spoiling them constantly.

IF YOU WANT TO ADVERTISE ON THE BACK OF THE GRANITE NEWS IN 2013, SEND IN YOUR REQUEST TO THE EMAIL ADDRESS ABOVE NOW. THERE ARE 24 SPOTS AND FIRST IN GETS THE SPOTS.

FIRE RESTRICTIONS ARE IN

The declared Fire Danger Period is now in force.

CFA have advised Strathbogie Shire Council that restrictions on the lighting of fires will be imposed throughout the Shire from 1.00am Monday 3rd December 2012 and shall remain in force until 1.00am 1st May 2013.

This means you cannot light a fire in the open air unless you have a permit or comply with certain requirements.

"Fines have been significantly increased by the State Government this year in an attempt to reduce the chance of a fire getting away. The CFA have adopted a zero tolerance policy on offenders which ultimately has the benefit of protecting the whole community".

Requirements are also in place for having camp fires or barbecues which are detailed in the CFA brochure Can I or Can't I. www.cfa.vic.gov.au.

For more information on obtaining a permit to burn contact Council on 1800 065 993. For all other information on fire safety matters, visit the CFA website. **Stay fire safe this summer.**

COMMUNITY WHAT'S ON CALENDAR - DECEMBER/ JANUARY 2012

Week 9th December	TERIP TERIP RECREATION RESERVE Mowing Roster Sue Martin Andrew Holloway & Tim Andrews
Week 9th December	WHITEHEADS CREEK -TARCOMBE RURAL FIRE BRIGADE TRUCK ROSTER Michel Becks Jarrod Coysh
Wednesday 5th December	AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT MOBILE OFFICE The Semi Circle, Yea (near the library) 9am—4:30pm Visit the mobile government office to find out more about Australian government payments and services for rural people. For more information call 132316.
Friday 7th December	HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS BREAKUP Highlands Hall BBQ at 6pm BYO meat and salad to share Christmas Carols Santa at 7.30pm Please come along! Bring a present for your child to school before the night (\$5 maximum)
Friday 7th December	SILENT MORNIG TEA In recognition of International Day for People with a Disability, the Access and Inclusion Advisory Group is inviting members of the community to a silent morning/ afternoon tea at the Alexandra Council offices. The morning tea will provide hands on experience to raise awareness of the communication needs of people living with disabilities in our community and the challenges they face. The gathering will be running in half hour sessions: 11am - 11.30am; 11.30am – 12 noon; 12 noon - 12.30pm; 12.30pm - 1pm As numbers are limited those wanting to attend one of the free sessions are asked to contact Carren Hedger on 5772 0365 or chedger@murrindindi.vic.gov.au to register your interest. Sessions are limited to 10 people per session.
Saturday 8th December	CFA TRAINING for Highlands - half day group training & BBQ lunch starting 9am from the fire shed. Training on new radios, burn over drill with new crew protection screens, map reading, drafting and slip on protection. Remember members must attend one training session per year to be deemed component. NB: any community members with private slip on units are welcome to attend. Sharyn 0437281072 or Les 57969265.
December 8 and 9	EUROA COMMUNITY CINEMA "Monsieur Lazhar" 92 mins (M) 3.5 stars Winner of several audience awards and film festivals and nominated for a Best Foreign Film Oscar! Yes it is a French language film – but don't let subtitles put you off. This is a highly regarded Canadian movie about a group of school children recovering from the tragic death of their teacher. Lazhar, a new staff member and Algerian refugee, has bluffed his way into this teaching job but has the unique ability to connect with the students which helps the healing process.
Sunday 9th December	SEYMOUR'S 42ND ANNUAL CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT 6.00pm at Goulburn Park, Sound Shell, Guild St Seymour This free event provides entertainment for the whole family. Bring along your picnic rugs or seats and sit under the stars and sing along to the carols. Safe Flames candles and programs will be available on the night. BBQ from 6.00pm – Santa at 7.30pm – Concert commencing at 8.00pm If the weather is inclement, we'll be holding this event at The Community College Arts Centre at the cnr Loco and Angelsey St
Monday 10th December	The Strathbogie Alternative Fertiliser Trial site field/open day has been changed to Monday 10th December (previously Friday 23rd Nov). 9.30-12.30, David Hamilton's property, Bullagreen Murray Greys, 1948 Euroa-Strathbogie Road, Strathbogie (opposite corner of Delahey Rd) Results to be presented: soil tests, dry matter yield (DMY)/ha, cost/kg DMY of each treatment, preferential grazing by stocks. Further info contact: David Jamieson 5790 5236 or 0423 328 321
Wednesday 12th December	HPS CONCERT Students have started work on the 2012 School Concert. This year's concert is 'The Adventures of Cuthbert and Nigel' and follows the expedition of these two office clerks. Susan has again written this terrific play and comes to school a couple of times a week to take rehearsals. The concert will be held at the Highlands Hall
December 14, 15 and 16	EUROA COMMUNITY CINEMA just in time for Christmas – "Madagascar 3" 93 mins (PG) 3.5 stars Our last Friday family fun night for the year! As usual, doors open at 6pm on Friday night for those wishing to bring along dinner (...and rugs, cushions whatever makes it comfortable for you).
Saturday 15th December	FREE MULCH LOADING SERVICE While mulch is free from the Murrindindi Shire's transfer stations across the year, you normally have to fill up your trailer yourself, but on December 15, Council staff will have the loader ready to have you back on the road in minutes. The scheduled times are: Yea Transfer Station – 1:30pm to 3:30pm Council staff will assist in loading mulch into car boots, trailers, utes, trucks (no limits), however please note that the service will be provided on a first come basis.
Friday 21st December	ROCKY PASSES TAPAS Last Tapas Night for the year at Rocky Passes from 6:30 pm. Why not have a night out before the Xmas busy-ness starts. To book, please call 57969366 or email contact@rockypasses.com.au
Monday 24th December	CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE A Christmas Eve Service will be held in the Caveat Church at 5pm Sing some carols and share the Christmas Narrative and the "story of the Recalcitrant Shepherd". All welcome. 5796 9358
Saturday 5th January 2013	ANNUAL TERIP TERIP SOCIAL TENNIS TOURNAMENT 10.00am start Enquiries Frances Lawrence 0427 904 262 – Cindy Hayes 5790 4226

Classifieds & Community Notices

A FERAL FEAST- MOROCCAN RABBIT

(Recipe taken from Moroccan Cooking by Rebekah Hassan 2007)

This recipe uses subtle spices that seem to be the perfect flavours to accentuate the rabbit.

Serves 4
675g prepared Rabbit pieces
Pinch of saffron
1 garlic clove, crushed
Pinch of ground turmeric
1 tsp paprika
Good pinch of ground cumin
1 onion, grated
2 tbs butter
1 tbs coriander chopped finely
50g raisins
1 tsp garam masala
Salt and pepper
2 tbs flaked toasted almonds

Preheat the oven to 180deg, place rabbit pieces in a casserole dish.

Blend together the saffron and 2 tbs of boiling water, stir to dissolve. Add the garlic, turmeric, paprika, cumin, salt and pepper and rub the mixture into the rabbit.

Add the onion, half the butter the coriander and 600ml boiling water. Cover and cook in the oven for 50 minutes, then transfer the rabbit pieces to a shallow heatproof dish and rub with the remaining butter.

Increase the oven temperature to 190deg, and cook the rabbit pieces for a further 8-10 minutes until browned, place on a serving plate.

Meanwhile pour the remaining sauce into a saucepan, add the raisins and garam masala and simmer until reduced by half.

Pour the sauce over the rabbit and garnish with the flaked almonds. This is delicious served with a raisin and herb pilau. From Simone Ulstrup

HUME REGION SIGNIFICANT TRACKS AND TRAILS STRATEGY

by December 7th , 2012

The twelve Shires in the Hume Region want to develop a strategy to expand its network of tracks and trails for bike touring, mountain biking, horse riding and walking, and wants to know what improvements you'd like to see.

If you have recently used a trail and would like to share your experience or if you have ideas on what should be included as a Significant Trail, please take a few minutes to complete the online survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/XBPDQJ9>.

BOOK REVIEW

Mutt Dog – Stephen Michael King

Mutt Dog is representative of all lost dogs who need to find a home. He wanders from place to place searching for both food and shelter until one night he lucks upon a refuge for the homeless and is taken in.

The next morning it looks as though he will be back on the streets, but luckily one of the refuge workers decides to take him home. Here he is given a bath, a name and discovers that the talents he has honed on the street come in handy at his new home.

A feel good book with wonderfully whimsical illustrations by the author, although on closer inspection the plight of homeless people is also addressed.

By Pauline Roberts

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PH Jono 57969344

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Are rabbits slowly taking over your property??
Contact Simone now for information on a 50% subsidy that may be available to you. Get in quick as the DPI are currently doing inspections in your area. First in best dressed!!

ROADSIDE WEED SPRAYING

Are there any weeds popping up along your roadside?? The HCCC is looking at co-coordinating with local councils to eradicate weeds along the roadsides within our catchment. To report any emerging trouble spots please email Simone hughes.creek1@gmail.com

WORKERS NEEDED

Summer Workers Wanted Ideal for school leavers or uni holidays
Driving harvester or hay mower, rake, baler
Contact Richard Stecher 0439 717 404

COMMUNITIES FOR NATURE GRANTS 2012

The Communities for Nature 2012 Small Grants are now open, for applications up to \$10,000. Applications close 19th December 2012.

The Communities for Nature grants program seeks to support practical community action to deliver measurable environmental outcomes; support community groups and volunteers undertaking works of primarily an environmental nature; and support communities with relevant and timely information to assess priorities at the local level to determine the best returns in undertaking on-ground works.

Communities for Nature grants are targeted towards local community groups and organisations, including schools. Projects that will be completed by 31 May 2014 are eligible for funding.

PH: 1300 366 356.

<http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/conservation-and-environment/biodiversity/communities-for-nature-grant-program>

COMMUNITY CLEARING SALE

Do you have things that you don't use anymore, or maybe just need to clear some space?
Then why not take a stall at the Highlands Community Clearing Sale in the grounds of the Highlands Primary School over the Hi Arts weekend 2013. Stall fees are \$10 per 3 sq m site, which goes back to HPS as a fundraiser. For more details or to register interest, call Leanne Pleash on 5796 9200. Stalls of new items also welcome. Sellers assume all responsibility for staffing their stalls, and securing items if left overnight.

FOX ON THE RUN- BAITING PROGRAM

The HCCC has currently obtained funding to continue the successful "fox on the run" hunting competition in the new year. An opportunity exists to implement a subsidised baiting program to compliment this and we are seeking any landholders who may be interested.

The HCCC is also looking at subsidising an ACUP course to be held in our area and expressions of interest are encouraged as a minimum number of participants would be required.

To register your interest in either or both of these programs contact Simone on: hughes.creek1@gmail.com or phone 03 5790 4146

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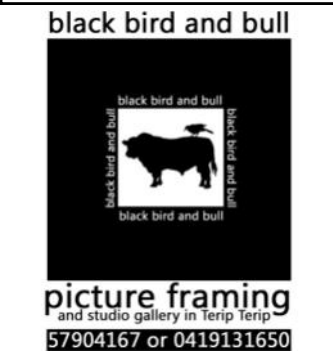
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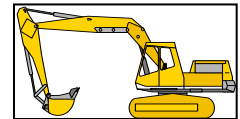
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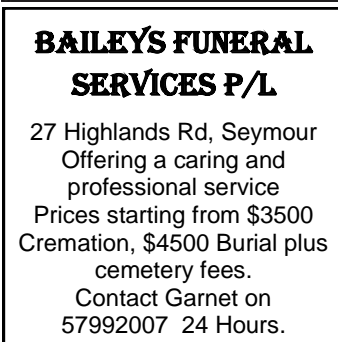
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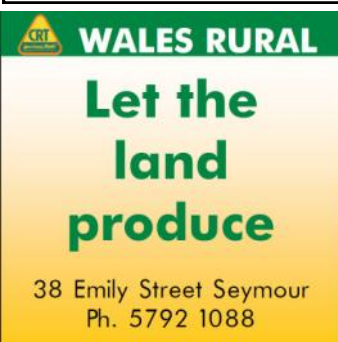
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