



BITS OF BOTANY AND BIRDS

MISTLETOE - Friend or Foe?

Here's some of what the DSE's *Revegetation Guide for the Goulburn-Broken Catchment* has to say.

Mistletoe as Habitat

Mistletoe is particularly valuable habitat. Mistletoe is a rich nectar source, often at times when other nectar is scarce, during summer. Mistletoe nectar is valuable food for many native birds such as honeyeaters, and insects, possums and gliders. Mistletoe fruit is a vital part of the diet of the Mistletoebird and various honeyeaters. Its foliage is good cover for native birds for perching and nesting. Possums and many butterfly species feed on the foliage.

Effects of Mistletoe on Hosts

Mistletoe should only be considered problematic if in excessive numbers, such as over half the canopy of its host plant. Otherwise, consider it a valuable part of the local natural environment.

If in excessive numbers, mistletoe may harm hosts by using water freely (contributing to drought stress); by using host mineral nutrients, and by reducing the hosts foliage, hence slowing its growth rate.

Mistletoe Management

If present in excessive numbers, it indicates an imbalanced environment in need of remedial action. Short term actions such as removing mistletoe are not productive unless combined with long term measures to improve the local environment.



Mistletoe Effect on Eucalypt
Ruffy Tableland 2012

DUNG BEETLE ACTIVITY

You are probably seeing some dung beetle activity (even if you haven't released them on your property, they travel in search of dung).

If you see a shredded pat, it is the sign of a mass emergence of young beetles. In Bertram Lobart's words: "When pads are shredded (ref: photo) it indicates there are lots of young beetles around (after a mass emergence) that are building up condition in prep for breeding. In this phase they don't bury dung, as they're not laying eggs yet, but rapidly shred the pad by taking thousands of tiny mouthfuls of dung, squeezing & swallowing the nutrient-rich moisture and then discarding the fibrous remains, which is what you see. This can happen rapidly, in the space of a couple of hours, if there are lots of beetles around."

By Judy Brookes



BROWN GOSHAWK *Accipiter fasciatus*

Whilst spraying blackberry a few days ago in one of our gullies I was aware of the high pitched chatter of what sounded like a small bird.

In fact it was a Brown Goshawk flying back and forward at tree-top level, agitated by my presence. I spotted her stick nest in the topmost branches.

Our "What Bird is That" book by Neville Cayley lists the Brown Goshawk as:

"..dreaded by all the smaller birds, it procures its prey in sudden surprise attacks from cover. Food: mainly small birds. The call is a shrill chatter"

They are widely distributed throughout the mainland and Tasmania but this is the first example that we've noticed nesting on our place.

By Don

PS: I went back a few days later to get a photo but I reckon she's suffered heat stress and deserted the nest



Hughes Creek
Catchment Collaborative

WELCOME TO ISSUE 1

for 2013

The Granite News is entering its 7th year of publication in 2013.

TGN has become a valuable local communication medium with a weekly circulation of around 400 across the Tableland district and beyond.

TGN relies on Landcare, our advertising sponsors and YOU to keep it relevant & vibrant.

TGN would not be what it is without the dedication & passion devoted to it by our departing editor Miranda Yorston.

THANKS MIRANDA, you have created an important and much valued local resource.

NEW DISTRIBUTION FOR THE GRANITE NEWS

A reminder that there will be no mail delivery of TGN in 2013.

Phil Brown has constructed drop boxes for copies of TGN for folks who are not on email.

Locations are:

- Highlands Hall
- Whiteheads Creek Hall
- Caveat Church
- Terip Terip Rec Reserve
- TCC (Old Ruffy School)

RABBIT RIPPING SUBSIDY AVAILABLE NOW FROM THE HCCC LANDCARE GROUP

Rabbits, Rabbits...Everywhere !
A 50% subsidy may be available to you for warren ripping.
But be quick as funding is limited.

Contact Simone 5790 4146 or Email. hughes.creek1@gmail.com



**GOULBURN
BROKEN**
CATCHMENT
MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITY

COMMUNITY WHAT'S ON CALENDAR - JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2013

CFA ROSTERS

W/C January 13th



- Whiteheads Creek/Tarcombe..... Driver: Ashley Waite Assistant: Rob Wales
- Ruffy 4th Lieutenant Matt Ulstrup's Team
- Terip Terip..... 1st Lieutenant Ed Greenwood's Team

<p>Saturday 19th January 8:00pm & Sunday 20th January 4:00pm</p>	<p>EUROA COMMUNITY CINEMA "Beasts of the Southern Wild" 120 mins(M) Drama / Fantasy 4 stars Awarded Camera d'Or in Cannes for best first film as well as the International Critics Prize.</p>
<p>Wednesday 23rd January 6:00pm</p>	<p>MURRINDINDI SHIRE COUNCIL Monthly Council Meeting Eildon Primary School (Multi Purpose Room)</p>
<p>Thursday 24th January 8:00pm</p>	<p>HCCC LANDCARE NETWORK Executive meeting at Whiteheads Creek Hall Anyone interested in Landcare is welcome to attend. Planning our 2013 activities and events will be the main agenda item.</p>
<p>Saturday 26th January 7:00pm for 7:30pm</p>	<p>RUFFY PRODUCE STORE Australia Day Shared Table Dinner Canapes, Main Course & Dessert—\$45per person + drinks Bookings Essential Ph: 5790 4387 or Email store@ruffy.com.au</p>
<p>Wednesday 30th January 9:00am</p>	<p>HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL Term One Commences for 2013</p>
<p>Friday 1st February</p>	<p>RUFFY PRODUCE STORE-Closed Helen and Doug are taking a break . The Store will be closed from Friday Feb 1st and will re-open for Lunch & Dinner on Friday Feb 15th</p>
<p>Monday 11th February 8:00pm</p>	<p>TABLELANDS COMMUNITY CENTRE @ RUFFY Old Ruffy School, Nolans Road Ruffy Monthly Committee Meeting Everyone Welcome</p>
<p>Saturday 16th February 2pm—5pm</p>	<p>HILLCREST GALLERY 33 Old Highlands Rd, Highlands A special preview of 'Angels' an exhibition of paintings by Denis Spiteri. RSVP by 11th February. Phone 57969373 or Email denisspiteri@activ8.net.au</p>
<p>Friday 31st January 5:30pm</p>	<p>SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS Old Caveat Church, Caveat-Dropmore Rd, Caveat Come along and have a casual chat with other local blokes. BYO Refreshments.</p>
<p>Friday 1st March To Sunday 3rd March</p>	<p>HI ARTS EXHIBITION Highlands Hall, Highlands 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. Artists wishing to exhibit can download applications from the web www.hiarts.org. or contact Stuart 5796 9358</p>
<p>Saturday 2nd March Showtime 8:00pm</p>	<p>RUFFARTZ Ruffy Hall, Nolans Road Ruffy. The first in a series of Four Shows for 2013. The evening presents a double bill First up, Ventriloquist Sarah Jones performs her own work "Sarah Doesn't Play Well with Others" After interval, Denis Coard will follow up his 2010 work "Fall of the Roman Umpire" with his sequel "The Umpire Strikes Back.....May the Farce Be With You" BYO Drinks. Coffee & Cake available at interval. Book Early for this show or a Season Ticket . Contact Glen George on 5790 4318</p>

Classifieds & Community Notices

WHAT'S HAPPENING on the TABLELANDS THIS SUMMER ?

The 2013 ANNUAL TERIP TERIP TENNIS TOURNAMENT

was held on Saturday 5th January at the Terip Terip Rec Reserve.

The 38 degree heat didn't deter 25 players from enjoying a great day's tennis. Lunch & afternoon tea breaks were lengthy this year, due to the heat, giving players a well earned rest under the shade of the beautiful trees. A big Thank You to all who attended the day, which supports the Terip Terip Tennis Club and to all the club members who gave their time and their support to the day.

The Winners were:

Section 1 Men's Winner

Tim Hayes (Caveat/Terip)

Runner-up Warren Shaw (Gobur)

Section 1 Ladies Winner

Kirsten (Broadford)

Runner-up Cindy Hayes (Caveat/Terip)

Section 2 Ladies Winner

Sally Kubeil (Ruffy)

Runners-up Raelene Stratton (Benalla)

Marlene (Broadford)

Junior Boy's Winner

Robert Lawrence (Terip)

Runner-up Matthew Lawrence (Terip)

Junior Girl's Winner

Kendall Richards (Terip)

Report by Cindy Hayes

NEWS FROM THE RUFFY STORE

CHANGES—If you've not wandered up the hill or across the tableland for a while, we have a new presence in the kitchen and a really beautiful new menu.

Freya Stokell, former patissiere at the Tea Rooms of Yarck, has joined us at the Ruffy Store and taken charge of our kitchen.

No more pizzas for the time being – instead, a bistro menu for dinner every Friday night and, all day breakfast at weekends.

Welcome Freya

AUSTRALIA DAY DINNER—It's also time for another shared table dinner and Australia Day seems like a good idea .

Check out the details in the TGN "What's On" column

COOKING CLASSES— execution of the plan for cooking classes has moved at glacial pace but they are getting closer - just a few more bits to hook up and a sensational kitchen bench to complete.

We will start in March so **express your interest**.

Probably groups of eight with classes every month and most with an optional lunch or dinner included when partners can join in.

**worth the drive
a delicious surprise
in the middle of nowhere**

TRADING PLACES

Good stuff for private sale by friendly locals

If you're a member of the TGN community with interesting items or other 'good stuff' to sell, swap or buy; The Granite News will run your advert in "Trading Places" for two editions.

For adverts in this column contact Don editor@tgn.org.au or 57904007

FOR SALE

- * 4W motor bike - Yamaha "Big Bear" electric start - new battery \$2500 ONO
- * Single bed / ensemble with bed head good condition \$200 ONO
- * 2 swivel base lounge chairs - grey fabric with foot stools to match \$50 each ONO

Please call Helen 57904211

COMMUNITY CLEARING SALE

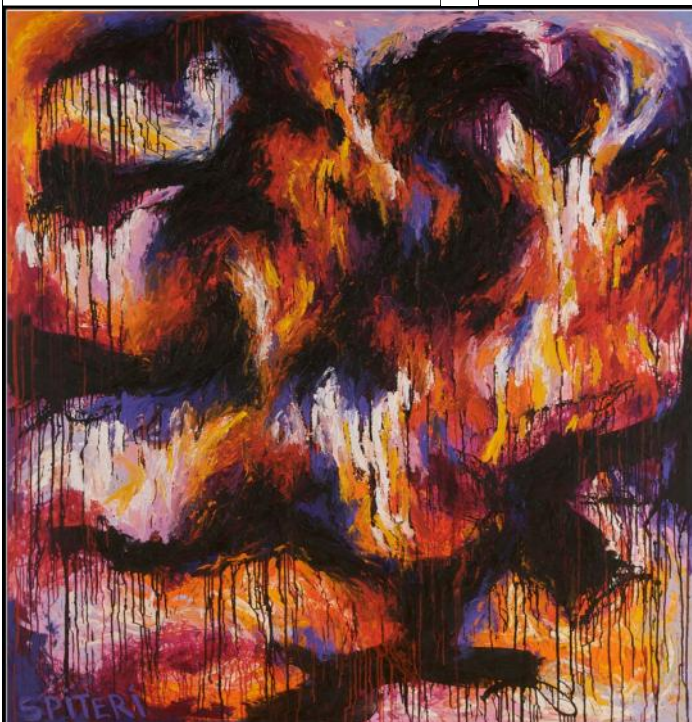
Do you have things that you don't use anymore, or maybe just need to clear some space?

Then why not take a stall at the

Highlands Community Clearing Sale at 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. Stalls of new items also welcome.

For more details or to register interest, call Leanne Pleash on 5796 9200.



Angels

You are invited to a special preview of 'Angels', an exhibition of paintings by Dennis Spiteri.

Saturday 16 February 2013

2-5pm at the Hillcrest Gallery

At 3pm the artist will formally open the exhibition and show a filmed performance of 'Black Angels', a work for string quartet by American composer George Crumb. This was the inspiration for the series of paintings.

'Angels' will re-open for the HiArts weekend 2-3 March and continue every day until 31 March.

Gallery hours: 10am - 5pm

If you are coming to the preview please RSVP by 11 February.

Phone: 57969373

Email: dennispiteri@activ8.net.au

www.dennis-spiteri.com

*Hillcrest Gallery: 33 Old Highlands Rd.
Highlands Victoria*

**KOPANICA PASTORAL
EXCAVATIONS**



PH. 0357 904 235
MOB. 0429 804 235

RABBIT RIPPING, DAMS, DRIVEWAYS
GENERAL EARTHWORKS &
MACHINERY HIRE

DONATION FROM A
WEDGE TAIL EAGLE
LOVER



**HABBIES HOWE
BEEF**

Mature, well hung &
available. Prahran,
Yarck, Ruffy or Habbies

5796 9260

www.habbieshowe.com.au

DONATION FROM A
WEDGE TAIL EAGLE
LOVER



**Cavanagh Hayes & Assoc.
Management Consultants**

**"Helping you focus on
what is important!"**

Customer Value Discovery -
understanding what is
important to your clients and
community

cavhayes@westnet.com.au
0419557571

**AG Fencing & Contracting
Services**

All fence constructions,
Equipment maintenance &
Pump repairs,
Blasting Service,

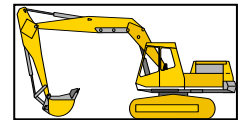
"Not sure if we do it?"

Give us a call 0407 028 122
0407 028 122

ruffy
produce store
www.ruffy.com.au

open lunch fridays
wood fired pizzas
every friday night
weekends & holidays
breakfast from 8.30am
lunch from 12 noon
bookings a good idea
phone 5790 4387

**A.J. & S.L. SHAW
EXCAVATIONS**



GENERAL EARTHWORKS

Andrew 0427969297
Sharyn 0437281072

**FRANZ KLOFT
MECHANICAL REPAIRS**
Repairs & service of
vehicles

Tyres, Windscreens, Batter-
ies, Brakes, Exhausts, Wheel
alignment, Automatic
transmission

Phone 57952910
38 Railway Street, Euroa
FREE QUOTES

**Rocky
Passes**



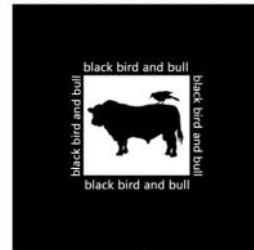
Tastings &
"blackboard
menu" lunch
Sundays
11am - 5pm

Tapas bar
last Friday of
the month
from 6pm

Bookings 57969366
1590 Highlands Rd

www.rockypasses.com.au

black bird and bull



picture framing
and studio gallery in Terip Terip
57904167 or 0419131650

**BAILEY'S FUNERAL
SERVICES P/L**

27 Highlands Rd, Seymour
Offering a caring and
professional service
Prices starting from \$3500
Cremation, \$4500 Burial plus
cemetery fees.

Contact Garnet on
57992007 24 Hours.

LAWSON

- General earthworks
- Hole boring
- Diesel repairs & servicing
- Metal fabrication & welding
- Shed construction & removal

m. 0437 182 223 h. 5796 9265
lawsonbluetop@gmail.com



Phone Ian on

0408 990487

5790 4328

Registered Electrical Contractor:

License No. 16959

Digit Downs Deco

Painting, Maintenance,
Design, Decoration

Neil Doran

Ruffy

0457 253875

DigitDowns@gmail.com

Come see Rodwells Alexandra
for all your Farm Supply
requirements, from Fencing &
Animal Health needs to
Agronomic Advice.

Please phone (03) 57 722 444
Free Delivery Available



WALES RURAL

**Let the
land
produce**

38 Emily Street Seymour
Ph. 5792 1088



TRADESMEN

Specialising in

renovations, alterations, and
repairs. Shed
erections, concrete floors,
paths, paving etc.

Contact Ken on 5797 6255 or
Michael on 5795 1109



OPEN 10 - 5 every day of school & public
holidays then Thursday to Monday
CLOSED - Tue|Wed|Christmas Day|August
Wheels friendly, groups welcome!
471 Upton Rd Avenel | T 03 5796 2667
Family fun with Ned & the Kelly Gang!

www.avenelmaze.com.au

metier aromatherapy

therapeutic massage
relaxation massage
french clay facials
hand & foot massage |
gift vouchers available

phone megan 5799 0284

www.metier-a.com.au

**The Shed Cafe/
Restaurant**

Thursday Dinner to Sunday
Lunch

Weekend Breakfast from 9.00 am.

Groups by arrangement
2 Fully Self Contained Cottages
Lindy 0402 001 522
Cafe 5799 1595

www.trawoolshgd.com.au

8447 Goulburn Valley Highway

This Space Available for
New Sponsor

This Space Available for
New Sponsor

This Space Available for
New Sponsor