



CONVERSATIONS

Stonemason, Blacksmith, Carpenter, Wheelwright, Artist, Weaver, Designer, Restorer, Collector, Restaurateur. Most of us would be happy to have one or perhaps two of these on our CV. 71 year old Ruffy resident, 'Taffy' Jukes can justifiably claim all these titles, but he's far too humble to ever do so.

Growing up in the Welsh town of Rhydlewis in Cardiganshire he was schooled under a local stonemason who taught him all the aspects of stone craft including house-building & dry-walling. After emigrating to WA in 1970, Taffy worked in Margaret River constructing stone buildings for the developing wineries of the region including Evans & Tate. After 5 years in WA he set out for Victoria where he built and operated Taffy's Restaurant at Longwood East. His next move was to a rough 50 acre block at the bottom of the Weibye Track at Ruffy where he still lives. His first abode was a slab & daub hut (that is still standing) and he then set to work to build his substantial stone home. Taffy Jukes was one of a number of Stonemasons working in the Strathbogies and over time he has been responsible for a large number of the fine stone structures in our district and beyond. He also trained many 'young fellas' in the craft such as Mark Noye who is now carving out a reputation of his own as a quality Stonemason. One hour at Taffy's place is like a walk back through time. In the Blacksmith's

shop he handed me a small length of worked metal that he had just finished. Of course I immediately identified it as a foot peg for a penny farthing bicycle! What else? From there we wandered through the carpentry shop where there lay two wooden-spoke steel rimmed wheels that he has recently manufactured for a 'bone-shaker' bicycle. Then on to the storage area that holds the Gypsy caravan style slip-on that he built from scratch to fit his Toyota ute. An identical but horse-drawn Gypsy caravan lives outside under cover, still awaiting its first road trip. Taffy's lifetime as a Stonemason has taken its toll on his back and he can no longer do the heavy work, but everywhere you look there is evidence of his boundless energy; from the walls of neatly split & stacked firewood, to his fully restored vintage Bedford utility, to his raised-bed vegie garden. On entering his beautiful stone home, the treats continue. Taffy has his hand-built penny farthing on display (he once rode it all the way to Melbourne) and the lounge room has examples of his hand woven 'rag' rugs that he has made from remnants of some of his old clothes. After bidding him goodbye and heading back up the 'Weibye' I found myself reflecting on the unbridled talents of Taffy Jukes and, by comparison, my own inadequacy.

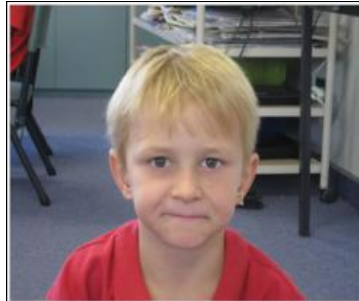
By Don Cook



Houses — Cars — Bicycles — Taffy Jukes builds them all !

NOTES FROM HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Student of the Week *Jayden*



For working hard to learn his numbers and basic addition. Well done!

STOP THINK DO: Megan Jeffs, the Student Support Services Officer with the Region visits our school each Friday. This week she started a social skills training program called STOP THINK DO. The aim of the program is to develop a positive classroom and school ground environment by giving students strategies to assist them to understand the feelings of others, to make good choices, to stand up for themselves in a positive way, to work in groups and to stop and think before they act. We are looking forward to working with Megan on this program.

By Megan Callander—Principal HPS



Hughes Creek
Catchment Collaborative

WELCOME to ISSUE 14 2013

Contact editor@tgn.org.au 5790 4007

READERS' WRITES

"I too appreciated the entertaining writing style of the recent editorial on the 'Doof-Doof' music festival. I am, however, less sanguine at the prospect of this event being more than a one-off 'gift' to those who dreamed this particular dream. Yes, it brought a lot of happiness to the many participants, but what about the evident significant distress caused to at least some in our community? Not everyone is able to 'tune out' or leave home for the duration - nor should they have to.

I went along to the Community Discussion held after the Music Festival (17/4). It left the impression that it may well go ahead next year (and beyond) - with only slight modifications to the curfew hours, and no effective reduction in the volume, including the base 'boom'.

If you also feel the noise impact is just 'too much, too long' for our community, then do please write to the Strathbogie Shire Council and the Ruffy Recreation Reserve Committee. The Committee has also undertaken to hold a second "Community Discussion", after meeting with the Shire Council. Like the first one, it will be advertised in The Granite News and local newspapers. Hope to see you there!" Barb Trainor—Ruffy

FOX ON THE RUN HUNTING COMPETITION



The Hughes Creek Catchment Landcare group are once again running the "fox on the Run" hunt competition over the month of June. Register yourself or your team by the end of May 2013 to participate. Proof of kill is required and details of exactly what is needed will be given in the week prior to the competition start. There is a grand prize of \$500 for the winning team/individual so get involved!!

Conditions do apply so contact Simone at hughes.creek1@gmail.com or call 5790 4146

COMMUNITY “WHAT’S ON” CALENDAR - MAY/JUNE 2013

<p>Thursday 2nd May 10:30am-12:30</p>	<p>RUFFY PLAYGROUP Tablelands Community Centre (Old Ruffy School) Nolans Rd., Ruffy This Month it's Mothers Day Gift Making Cost: \$3:00 per Family. Bring a small plate of food to share. Contact Sally 5790 4335</p>
<p>Thursday 2nd May 1pm-3pm</p>	<p>AGED CARE INFORMATION EXPO Euroa 3rd Age Club, Kirkland Avenue Euroa A range of service providers will be available to provide you with information. There will also be displays of tai chi, strength training and line dancing. Free Entry Free Afternoon Tea Contact Kerrie Reardon 5736 6366 This is provided as part of the Improving Liveability for Older People Project, funded by the Department of Health, Victoria.</p>
<p>Friday 3rd May 7:30pm</p>	<p>‘MANAGING FEED IN DRY TIMES’ Presented by Yea River Catchment Landcare CMA Meeting Room, 5 High St. Yea (opposite Foodworks) This session is open to anyone who may think it useful. BYO Calculator, paper & pen RSVP to Judy Brookes juncball@bigpond.com or 5797 2563</p>
<p>Friday 3rd May 7:30pm</p>	<p>“BINGO” Tablelands Community Centre (Old Ruffy School) Nolans Rd Ruffy Family Fun & Prizes—20 Rounds—\$1 per Playing Card Every Round Wins a Prize—Final Round Prize \$50 Everyone is Welcome Free Supper Provided Contact Sally 5790 4335 or 0407 904335</p>
<p>Saturday 4th May 10:30am</p>	<p>MORNING TEA WITH PEG & DOUG Peg & Doug Lade have recently moved to Yea, so we are planning morning tea on Saturday 4th May at 10.30am at the Highlands Hall to get together with them both. Bring some food to share if you wish, otherwise just come along. Contact Judy Reid on 5796 9358.</p>
<p>Saturday 4th May 9am-2pm</p>	<p>YEA COUNTRY MARKET Yea Railway Park, Station Street, Yea Showcasing local producers, growers and makers offering an array of stalls, the best in fresh local produce, arts and crafts, children's activities, play ground and skate park. Gold coin donation entry</p>
<p>Saturday 4th 8:00pm & Sunday 5th May 4:00pm</p>	<p>EUROA CINEMA “The Silver Linings Playbook” 122 Mins (M) Comedy / Drama **** 4 stars This film received considerable publicity in the lead up to the Oscar presentations – in particular in regard to Jacki Weaver who was in the running for an award and plays a pivotal role in the movie. The movie itself takes a different approach to the sensitive subject of mental illness and how it affects families. Don't let the subject matter put you off. There are some fabulous performances by Jacki and Robert de Niro</p>
<p>Sunday 5th May 10am-12pm</p>	<p>RUFFY WEEKEND WALKERS Monthly ramble to High Points of Interest around the district We're on a Mission to walk to all of the district's Piniger cairns. Meet at Ruffy Community Hall at 9:45am Contact Neil Doran 0457 253875</p>
<p>Friday 10th May 6:30pm</p>	<p>‘DRINKS ON THE DECK’ at Highlands Community Hall 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. Contact Judy Cameron 5796 9247</p>
<p>Friday 10th May 6:30pm</p>	<p>YEA WETLANDS COMMITTEE—Wildlife Photography Showcase Maranatha Hall, Lyons St., Yea 2 Course Meal, Coffee & Chocolates to Follow, Drinks at Bar Prices \$45 per person. Bookings essential. Contact Glenda Woods 5797 2417 or woodsylgm@bigpond.net.au</p>
<p>Friday 17th May 7:00pm</p>	<p>RUFFY HAPPY HOUR (or TWO!) Ruffy Community Hall, Nolans Road <i>“Come along and catch up with friends or meet someone new, everyone welcome!”</i> BBQ provided BYO meat/drinks and a salad or sweet to share Contact Sharron 5790 4329</p>
<p>Saturday 18th May 9am-1:00pm</p>	<p>EUROA VILLAGE FARMERS MARKET Rotary Park, Kirkland Ave., Euroa <i>“Meet, Greet, Eat & Shop”</i> A wonderful range of farm fresh produce from “local” producers. Contact Leah Jones 5795 1886 or hunaleah@mcmmedia.com.au</p>
<p>Monday 20th May 8:00pm</p>	<p>RUFFY HALL COMMITTEE MEETING Ruffy Community Hall, Nolans Road Quarterly committee meeting and all welcome. Contact Sharron Batt 5790 4329</p>
<p>Thursday 30th May 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. BBQ Tea Provided (Gold Coin) BYO Drinks</p>
<p>Saturday 1st June 6:30pm</p>	<p>WOOLSHED DANCE Habbies Howe Dropmore Rd., Highlands Back by Popular Demand, this terrific fundraiser for Highlands Primary School More details in next edition of The Granite News Contact Meagan Callander 5796 9208</p>

Classifieds & Community Notices

LOCAL GOINGS ON

RUFFY WEEKEND WALKERS

During the Easter Break the Ruffy Weekend Walkers encroached on traditional Highlands Ramblers' territory and made use of the delightful weather to visit the iconic Ranting Robin Rocks. There was a good mix of walkers from all over the district and one young visitor from Townsville! It was wonderful country; some of the best that our Tablelands can offer with rolling pasture, mixed forest, expansive views and of course the all encompassing granite rocks & boulders that are such a part of our landscape. We took our sandwiches and lunched in the shadow of the Big Rocks. Doug and Peg Lade were a welcome part of the group, and it was a chance to reminisce over some of our past walks!

We also fulfilled another part of our mission for this year--to visit all the Piniger Cairns in our district; if we can rediscover them.

Many thanks to Louise Currie for leading the walk. By Justus Hagen



Ranting Robin Rocks & Piniger Cairn



Looking Across to Mt Concord

Out of the Wilderness and into the Sunshine. The Riverine Club vs The Wilderness Cricket Combine

The question had to be asked. "Could our very own Baby Wilderness Cricket Combine from the hills (av. age < 43) finally take the Sunshine Cup away from the youngsters (they had a 15 year old) from the flat country north of the border?"

The loss of Hamish McAlpin, John Hammond and a few Fergusons plus the non-availability of Ginnivan, Cook and Sleigh (sounds like a dodgy accountancy firm) had the non-existent press box silently wondering.

The Wilderness started well with an opening stand of 16 runs between Charlie Carter and Brent Kelly before Brent was caught for 8. Brent's Dad Peter (42 no) started a rampage, which was continued by Marcus Hill (50) and Alan Jarrott (35) before some great catching by Wagga's elder statesmen Eldershaw, Cowley and Inglis (could be lawyers!) and a ripper by my little brother steadied the Riverine bowling attack. A confident Rob Inglis informed Charlie Carter "you're out mate" when the ball was only half way to him on the long on boundary; which had us laughing until he actually did catch it.

As a W.A.D.A. helicopter circled overhead to find the only drugs at this game were nurofen and nicotine, the Wilderness was well placed at quarter time on 147.

The Riverine Clubs 'Glimmer Twins' Eldershaw (12) and Inglis (4) were tied down by some inspired bowling from reserve wicketkeeper Tom McCooley (2-15). Batsmen Brett Olson (11), Will Cowley (37no) and Dugald McKay(15no) steadied the Riverine to have them trailing by only 39 at lunch.

Following 12 ml of something called rain the game was shortened by 4 overs each. Chasing quick runs Marcus Hill hit 20 off one over, James Holyman (23) a couple of run outs that were the other blokes fault, Jim McCooley (5) and Fraser Welch's glorious (1) left Andrew Shaw on 3 not out.

As for myself, thanks to the "you can't go out until you have scored a run rule" - I was bowled once, caught twice and run out once before scoring 9 runs off the edge, thus breaking my ex-compatriots' hearts.

The Riverine Club were chasing 10 per over until a very sporting gesture by Alan Jarrott allowed Will Cowley 25 runs off his first over of the 4th innings, bringing the crowd to their six feet. Captain Holyman sensing the game slipping away from him, brought on secret weapon Fraser Welch with his unknowable variation (certainly to Fraser and often to the batsmen), who enticed the wickets of D McKay(31) and Olson (not sure how he got back in but that's what the score book said) while there was some stern resistance from the 15yo Lockie Olson (9 retired) who unfairly kept taking quick singles before the Captain cleaned up the tail leaving Stratton and Patton stranded on three and the Wilderness the winners of the Sunshine Cup by 38 runs.

The Beechworth Brewery was a great place to finish the evening, (except for the Wagga designated drivers) but some of us forgot to finish there and we would all recommend the hospitality of Tanswells Commercial Hotel- except for "Sunday morning Marcus" and Colleen Jarrott who had to put up with Alan's oft used line

"I would like everyone to know that it is my decision to leave" as she pulled him out by the ear!

By Scott McKay



Wilderness captain James Holyman accepts 'The Sunshine Cup' from the Riverine captain

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Kate James founder of

'Total Balance' will be joining us from Melbourne to lead the workshop.

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or claire@yeafitness.com.au

FOX ON THE RUN

BAITING PROGRAMME

The Hughes Creek Catchment Landcare group are seeking landholders who are interested in a subsidised fox baiting program. The subsidy would cover up to 50% of contractor costs subject to the number of landholders who participate as the funding is limited. This is a one off opportunity so get in fast to get your name on the list. Expressions of interest are required by the end of May 2013. Contact Simone on hughes.creek1@gmail.com

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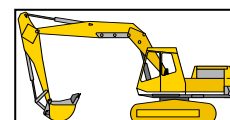
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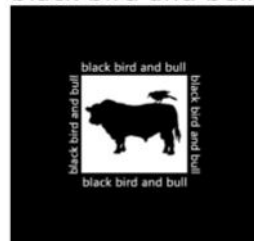
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