



## Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

Well Canada is certainly big as we have almost completed crossing it from one coast to the other. We have also discovered how environmentally aware Canadians are as we progress across its expanses. From paddocks of solar panels, to a church - in the suburbs - with a very steep A frame design that had a large cross depicted in solar panels on its sloping roof, to a Landfill Gas Power Generation Facility there is an obvious commitment by the Canadian people to do something positive about environmental issues. What impressed me the most is that these alternative power sources have been in the south of the country, in areas that can have snow on the ground for 6-7 months each year! (Mt Buller would be lucky to get half that amount of snow each year) And I can't help wondering why a country that gets more snow than sun can be so environmentally aware? Then I discovered a book written by an Inuit woman entitled "We have the right to be cold." and began to understand why. This book is about the destruction of not only the polar bear's habitat but the Inuit's way of life. Although they have certainly adapted that way of life during the 20th C. there are still many customs and traditions that are preserved and the rapidly melting ice, in their homelands, is making some of those activities either untenable or fatal. As this is happening on Canadian territory, as opposed to "somewhere else", awareness of global warming is obviously something that the whole country has become involved with. Their combined efforts, no matter how big or small, will no doubt assist with the bigger picture, but hopefully the preservation of some of their fellow Canadians way of life. Until the next TGN in 2 weeks, as they say here - there you go, **Pauline And Kenny?** - was just chilling Down Under with Bill.

## Fire Restrictions to commence in Murrindindi - 1 October 2018

Council's 'Fire Restriction Period' will commence on 1 October 2018. During the 'Fire Restriction Period', no burning off in residential areas (except for campfires/ BBQs) is allowed unless you have obtained a permit from Council. If you are in a Farming Zone you may have a small fire without a permit. A 'small fire' is classified as no more than one metre in width and height with vegetation no thicker than 75mm. Large fires in Farming Zones will require a Council permit. A burning permit requires all applicants to:

- Register their burn with the CFA burn off line on 1800 668 511 prior to lighting the fire
- Have the means to extinguish the fire
- Have an adult person present at all times
- Ensure that smoke does not cause a nuisance

Spread all coals, ashes and unburnt material at the completion of the fire. Alternatively, Murrindindi Shire residents can deposit their green waste free of charge year round at any of Council's Resource Recovery Centres. Applications to burn off can be made at [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/customerrequest](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/customerrequest) or by contacting Council's Community Safety Unit on 5772 0333. The Country Fire Authority (CFA) will shortly declare its 'Fire Danger Period'. Once this 'Fire Danger Period' begins, no fires for burning vegetation will be issued.



Feedback? - contact [editor@tgn.org.au](mailto:editor@tgn.org.au)  
or to subscribe on-line go to  
[www.highlands.org.au](http://www.highlands.org.au)

"Travel makes one modest, you see what a tiny place you occupy in the world." Gustave Flaubert

**The Granite News** is an open but moderated community forum. Readers are encouraged to contribute articles and we also encourage you to air your views on things that interest or concern you within our community. We certainly welcome feedback from you, positive or otherwise on anything that is published in **The Granite News**

## SELL IT—BUY IT

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Some MORE ads!

Buy, sell, rent, acquire, free to good homes, jobs, anything of this nature to fill this space. Send to—[editor@tgn.org.au](mailto:editor@tgn.org.au)

### WANTED

Looking to buy, at a reasonable price, 4x4 vehicle must be manual to be able to use in the paddock Ring Tim 5796 9306



## WEBSITE of the WEEK

[www.farmsafe.org.au/Staying-Safe-On-Australian-Farms](http://www.farmsafe.org.au/Staying-Safe-On-Australian-Farms)

Lots of great ideas & resources for staying safe on farms.

# Community Notices & Classifieds

## COMMUNITY "WHAT'S ON" CALENDAR — September & October 2018

<p><b>Friday 21st September</b> 6.45 for 7 pm</p>	<p><b>MURRINDINDI FILM SOCIETY - Gorillas in the Mist</b> at Murrindindi Council Chambers in Yea The final night of quality entertainment for 2018. Like further details? <b>Contact Maree - <a href="mailto:maree@spphav.org.au">maree@spphav.org.au</a></b></p>
<p><b>Saturday 22nd Sept.</b> @ 12 - 2</p>	<p><b>HIGHLANDS BLACK MARKET</b> at 94 Old Highlands Rd Bring along your excess produce, buy local and learn from each other. <b>Enquiries? - Candi 57969366</b></p>
<p><b>Saturday 22nd &amp; Sunday 23rd Sept.</b></p>	<p><b>43rd VICTORIAN ROGAINING CHAMPIONSHIPS</b> in the Strathbogie Ranges Covering some excellent terrain in the Bogies. Why not be in it?? Rob, Jan, David &amp; Aileen have been!!</p>
<p><b>Sunday 23rd September</b> @ 2pm <b>RuffArtz</b></p>	<p><b>RUFFARTZ "Sensational Sundays Matinee"</b> at Ruffy Community Hall <b>Ship: The Journey of Ticonderoga</b> 1852 Portsea, Victoria: a true story of tragedy, heroism and hope – a one-man show, written and performed by Michael Veitch. Tickets \$25, includes afternoon tea. Please book early to ensure your seat. <b>Bookings: Christine 0419 561 386 email: <a href="mailto:ruffartztickets@gmail.com">ruffartztickets@gmail.com</a></b></p>
<p><b>Wednesday 26th Sept.</b> @ 7.30 SHARP!</p>	<p><b>SWING DANCE CLASSES with Ray Thomas</b> at Ruffy Community Hall If you like the Big Band music of Glenn Miller, Count Basie, etc then these classes will be for YOU! For 6 Wednesdays commencing 26/9 from 7.30 sharp to 9.00pm, just \$50 for 6 classes. <b>Enquiries? Ray 0467 951559</b></p>
<p><b>Thursday 27th Sept.</b> @ 5.30 pm</p>	<p><b>SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS</b> at Caveat Church All people in the district are welcome, gold coin donation towards a BBQ, BYO and chat.</p>
<p><b>Sunday 30th Sept.</b> @ 10.30</p>	<p><b>HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS</b> at Highlands Community Hall Our next walk will commence at 10.30 from the Highlands Hall - more details to come...stay tuned. <b>Enquiries? Andrew 0427 969297 or <a href="mailto:ajshaw577@hotmail.com">ajshaw577@hotmail.com</a></b></p>
<p><b>Saturday &amp; Sunday</b> <b>6th &amp; 7th October</b> 10 - 4</p>	<p><b>DARREN GILBERT'S OPEN STUDIO</b> 2742 Highlands Rd, Highlands Darren's studio, with his stunning, creative works is now open to the public on the first weekend each month. Quality art in the local community and not too far to travel to enjoy it.</p>
<p><b>Monday 8th October</b> @ 11am</p>	<p><b>HIGHLANDS SPINNING CLUB</b> The Highlands Spinning Club will get together in 2018 at the same place—450 Caveat-Dropmore Rd, the same time 11am and with the same good company! BYO lunch and great tea &amp; coffee will be provided. <b>Enquiries? - contact Jan 5790 4361</b></p>
<p><b>Friday 12th October</b> @ 6.30pm</p>	<p><b>DRINKS ON THE DECK</b> at Highlands Community Hall Starts at 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. <b>57969247 &amp; Contact Judy</b></p>
<p><b>Saturday 13th October</b> 6 &amp; 8pm</p>	<p><b>Dr HERNANDEZ</b> Ruffy Store An eclectic collection of musical styles - TexMex, Afrobeat, Film music, Ska, Funky &amp; Cuban - is the hallmark of Dr Hernandez. Come along and enjoy the music or the music and munchies as well. Small plates served at 6pm, show starts at 8pm. Drinks at bar prices. Tickets are \$30 &amp; \$25 (Conc.) Bookings essential. <b>Enquiries? Christine 0419 561386</b></p>
<p><b>Friday 19th October</b> 6pm—HCCC meeting 7.30pm—Fox on the Run presentations</p>	<p><b>HCCC Meeting / AGM &amp; FOX on the RUN presentation night</b> Ruffy Store The HCCC Monthly meeting and the AGM will be held prior to the Fox on the Run presentations. All welcome. <b>Enquiries &amp; RSVPS - contact Justus 5790 4268</b></p>
<p><b>Every second Wednesday</b> 10.30-12.30</p>	<p><b>MURRINDINDI MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE</b> at Highlands Community Hall The Mobile Library visits the TGN area, based at the Highlands Hall every fortnight - <b>Sept 26th Oct 10th &amp; 24th Nov 7th &amp; 21st and Dec 5th &amp; 19th</b> <b>Don't forget the cake and coffee a bargain @ \$4!</b></p>
<p><b>Every Monday</b> 10 am</p>	<p><b>YOGA AT RUFFY</b> at Tablelands Community Centre Ruffy Yoga with Kylie Penny is in full swing. All welcome! Equipment provided, \$15 per class. (BYO water bottle) Any enquiries please call/SMS Kylie 0418899966 or email <a href="mailto:kyliepenny@gmail.com">kyliepenny@gmail.com</a></p>



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WOW!! What a feast of culture, sport & entertainment ~ why would we want to live anywhere else??

## Farmers for Climate Action

In an ever-more challenging climate, farmers need to be smart about how they farm. Understanding how our climate is changing, its impact and how to understand its risks and opportunities is paramount.

**YEA RIVER CATCHMENT LANDCARE GROUP and FARMERS FOR CLIMATE ACTION** (supported by the Upper Goulburn Landcare Network and the Goulburn Broken CMA) invite you to hear three eminent speakers on Climate-smart farming:

**Dr Luke Shelley** (Bureau of Meteorology)  
**Professor Richard Eckhard** (Director, Primary Industries Climate Challenges Centre, University of Melbourne – specialising in methane in cattle)



**Ms Lucinda Corrigan** (beef producer, agribusiness leader and Chair, Farmers for Climate Action)

Two-course meal with some wine (or BYO): \$20/head

No entry without **RSVP by 4 October** (Judy Brookes 0448 972 563 or [juncball@bigpond.com](mailto:juncball@bigpond.com))

## Black Saturday - 10th Anniversary 2019

With the 10th anniversary of **Black Saturday** fast approaching on **February 7th 2019** the following items may be of interest...

### Marysville Multi-cultural Golf Tournament

has been run every year since 2010 and supports the people of Marysville. From a free golf clinic to dinner at the Terracotta Restaurant to some great prizes on offer, golfers can attend for the weekend or a day.

**Friday 26th - Sunday 28th October**

Want to know more? Contact Stephen Manallack 0419 532418 or [stephen@manallack.com.au](mailto:stephen@manallack.com.au) or check out the attached flier and

In the lead up to the 10th Anniversary the **CFA** is also organising a number of **Well-being Sessions** for the communities, either directly affected or who sent CFA members, to the impacted areas. Therese Morris at Region 12 (0417 087286) is the contact person for further details or check out the flier, also attached.

CFA WELLBEING SUPPORT LINE



**1800 959 232**



Providing CFA members and their immediate family one number to access 24 hour support 7 days a week

## Removal of dead wood and dead trees for firewood & other purposes

In 2011 the NSW Scientific Committee, established by the Threatened Species Act, determined that removal of dead wood and dead trees is a key threatening process for the survival of certain species and habitat. The Scientific Committee found that - the accelerated and ongoing removal of standing dead trees and woody debris has been recognised as a factor contributing to the loss of biological diversity. Examples of this include illegal or poorly regulated firewood collection for forests and woodlands and unsustainable loss of fallen woody debris, which may be stacked, burnt, mulched or otherwise removed from the site. The removal of deadwood, either standing or fallen, can cause the broadscale change of woodlands into paddocks with isolated standing trees, with little natural understorey and no wood debris on the ground. This may be done to remove obstacles for machinery increase grazing access and productivity, reduce rabbit harbour & for aesthetic reasons. Local councils also “tidy up” by removing dead wood and dead trees from their reserves and along the roadsides. Firewood collection generally involves removal of relatively undecayed fallen logs, but the repeated loss of this material from woodland sites will over the long term, reduce or eliminate the availability of old fallen logs as habitat. Removal of standing dead wood reduces the availability of hollows over time and the input of material to the litter layer. In Australia about 290 vertebrate species use tree hollows as habitat. Dead standing trees in paddocks, resulting from clearing efforts or dieback, form a critical resource for threatened and non-threatened fauna. The useful habitat of these trees is limited by natural factors - decay, windthrow - purposeful destruction by further clearing and use for firewood. Fallen dead wood provides important habitat for a suite of invertebrate species dependent on decaying wood for their survival. These species play an important role in recycling nutrients in forest and woodland ecosystems. Microbial organisms and fungi are also important in the breakdown of timber and recycling of nutrients back into the soil. Loss of fallen dead wood from open forests and woodlands will also increase the impact of wind on soil microclimate and loss of surface moisture, due to removal of dead wood, will affect soil organisms. Removal of dead wood and trees may seriously affect the long term availability and viability of habitat.

The above points were sent in by an anonymous contributor and raise the valuable question of balance. Balance between firewood collection/bushfire prevention and the potentially negative impact this could have on our surrounding habitat & its inhabitants. Ed.

## Spring is sprung, the grass is riz, I wonder where the birdie is?

Maybe try Seymour in Spring and their informative website - [www.seymouris.com.au](http://www.seymouris.com.au) for up-to-date tips & information.

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