



## Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

Well as term 4 and spring start to make an appearance 'Down Under' this will be the last TGN from the land of the beaver, moose and caribou - & what magnificent animals they all are. Having visited several Canadian National Parks they are most impressive. However it's not only the fauna and spectacular views that stand out, but the conservation & community engagement aspects as well. Here are some points, listed at Fundy NP, that you might like to consider. I have adapted them for our local areas.

### Common is suddenly not so common.....

Can you imagine your garden without magpies? The bush without koalas or Australia without kangaroos? It is important to remember that at one time, many species that are now at risk of disappearing from the planet were just as common. In fact 30,000 species globally are becoming extinct each year. It's up to all of us to make sure that we provide natural areas for all living things to live and thrive for generations to come.

\* One important thing you can do is educate yourself about the ecosystem in your own "backyard". What kind of plants and animals do you see in your community. What trees and other plants are part of the natural ecosystem.

\* Find out what species are at risk in your neighbourhood. There may be simple things you can do to assist with their recovery, like leaving areas wild to provide habitat.

\* You can assist in your community by using your powers of observation. Maybe participate in a yearly population counts of various species? (NB the annual backyard bird count is coming up at the end of October, see p.3 for further details.) There you go, for the last time, **Pauline And Kenny?** - was having fun rogaining.

## Rambling around Highlands

On a beautiful day made for walking, the Ramblers set out from the Switzerland Ranges Conservation Reserve and climbed Mt Broughton to be greeted by

sensational views across the Goulburn Valley. Then it was back to the cars for lunch in the sun and on to Kate's Hill where the magical Pinniger Cairn was finally rediscovered in its bush setting (see photo). This intact stone structure, made from local hornfels, would have to be close to the earliest man made structure still existing in Highlands. It was constructed in the 1860s as part of the Geodetic Survey of Victoria, with the aim of providing a sound framework for local surveys and subsequent land subdivision. Only a few of these cairns survive in the area. A very enjoyable, relaxing day.  
Geoff Lade



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)

**"War is God's way of teaching Americans geography."**

**Ambrose Bierce—US journalist**

**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

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Month	Highlands	Ruffy
September	22.8 mm	13 mm
2018 Total	450.8 mm	392.5 mm
September Rain Days	9 Days	2 Days

# Community Notices & Classifieds

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

<p><b>Monday 8th October</b> <b>@ 11am</b></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. Enquiries? - contact Jan 5790 4361</p>
<p><b>Wednesdays</b> <b>10th/17th/24th &amp; 31st</b> <b>Oct. @ 7.30 SHARP!</b></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. Enquiries? Ray 0467 951559</p>
<p><b>Friday 12th October</b> <b>@ 6.30pm</b></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. 57969247 &amp; Contact Judy</p>
<p><b>Saturday 13th October</b> <b>6 &amp; 8pm</b></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. Enquiries? Christine 0419 561386</p>
<p><b>Friday 19th October</b> <b>6pm—HCCC meeting</b> <b>7.30pm—Fox on the Run presentations</b></p>	<p><b>HCCC Meeting / AGM &amp; FOX on the RUN presentation night</b> at Ruffy Store The HCCC Monthly meeting and the AGM will be held prior to the Fox on the Run presentations. All welcome. Enquiries &amp; RSVPS - contact Justus 5790 4268</p>
<p><b>Sunday 21st October</b> <b>9.30 - 12</b></p> 	<p><b>HIGHLANDS/CAVEAT CFA - Pre-season Meeting</b> at Highlands Fire Shed All brigade members are invited to attend the annual pre-season meeting, refresher training and BBQ lunch. Those members with private slip-ons please bring them along empty for testing. Further details to come. Enquiries? - Judy 57969247</p>
<p><b>Thursday 25th October</b> <b>@ 5.30pm</b></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>Saturday 27th October</b> <b>@ 12- 2 pm</b></p> 	<p><b>HIGHLANDS BLACK MARKET</b> at 94 Old Highlands Rd Bring along your excess produce, buy local and learn from each other. Enquiries? - Candi 57969366</p>
<p><b>Sunday 28th October</b> <b>@ 10.30 am</b></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. Enquiries? Andrew 0427 969297 or ajshaw577@hotmail.com</p>
<p><b>Saturday &amp; Sunday</b> <b>3rd &amp; 4th Nov</b> <b>10 - 4</b></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>Friday 2nd November</b> <b>10-12</b></p>	<p><b>SPRING NATURE WALK</b> commencing at Old Fawcett Rd, Alexandra Come along and join the Upper Goulburn Landcare Group on this discovery walk. RSVPs to Chris 0413 855490</p>
<p><b>Tuesday 6th November</b></p>	<p><b>TERIP TERIP'S Melbourne Cup Day Luncheon</b> Yet another highlight on the Terip social calendar. Details TBA but save the date!</p>
<p><b>Every second</b> <b>Wednesday</b> <b>10.30-12.30</b></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 - Oct 10th &amp; 24th Nov 7th &amp; 21st and Dec 5th &amp; 19th Don't forget the cake and coffee a bargain @ \$4!</p>
<p><b>Every Monday</b> <b>10 am</b></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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## Burning Bridges & Other Hobbies Kitty Flanagan

If you have enjoyed watching Kitty Flanagan do stand-up comedy or her quirky segments on the ABC's The Weekly TV show then you will absolutely love this little literary gem. Kitty takes the reader on a roller-coaster ride of love, life and manners. It's an eclectic mix of stories and will have you either laughing outright or chuckling happily to yourself. Why not reserve/borrow it from the Mobile Library.

KITTY FLANAGAN



## Climate change is core business—from the paddock to the plate to parliament—right?

But what does it really mean for agriculture? What are the risks? And what can farmers do?

If you missed out attending the recent seminar in Yea on this topic, or would like to know more there is another, day-long seminar planned for Beechworth.

To learn more about this vital aspect of agriculture, join other farmers and allied professionals at the

**Managing Climate Risk in Agriculture Conference 2018 in Beechworth on Thursday, 25 October.**

**For further details, speakers, etc see this week's attachment.**

**STOP PRESS...** GBCMA is holding a Regenerative Grazing Management course at a greatly reduced cost over 3 days commencing 24/10. **EOI required by Monday 15/10. See attached flier for further details.**

## Backyard Bird count is on again!

Dust off your binoculars and get your pen ready, the Aussie Backyard Bird Count is on again from October 22 to 28, 2018. For the last four years local residents have been participating in Bird Life Australia's 'Backyard Bird Count' which uses 'citizen science' to track bird numbers and species around Australia. The Backyard Bird Count is a fun way for everyone to become more aware of the birds we share our environment with. All you have to do is go outside for 20 minutes and count how many birds you see and what type they are. It doesn't matter if you're a novice or an expert – you can just 'look up' those you don't know on the free 'Aussie Bird Count' app or at [www.aussiebirdcount.org.au](http://www.aussiebirdcount.org.au). Then you just upload your findings to the website or through the app. You can undertake as many or as few observation sessions as you want over the designated week in late October. Last year, more than 72,000 people around Australia participated in the Bird Count, submitting some 60,000 checklists which tallied almost two million birds. Not surprisingly the most commonly detected bird species in our local area was the Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, closely followed by the Australian Magpie and Crimson Rosella. Results from 2017 also showed a decline in Kookaburra numbers and an unfortunate increase in aggressive species, including the Noisy Miner. However the presence of four near-threatened bird species were also recorded – the Black-eared Cuckoo, Diamond Firetail, Azure Kingfisher and Pied Cormorant. Why not get involved in 2018?



## Hollows as wildlife habitat

Many species of wildlife rely on natural tree hollows for nesting, breeding and shelter. Hollows provide a safe home away from the weather and predators. In eucalypt trees, small hollows may take over 70 years to develop and large hollows many decades longer. The range of hollow sizes and types is matched by the range of wildlife able to use them – small species such as the Feathertail Glider use small hollows, large parrots such as the Sulphur-crested Cockatoo use large, deep hollows. Not all natural hollows are occupied. This can be because the hollow is unsuitable. It can also be because, when not breeding, most species will move frequently between a number of hollows. **NB: Hollows & Nesting Box Habitat articles will be featured when space permits, enjoy. Ed**





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