

THE GRANITE NEWS



The Granite News - serving the communities of Caveat, Highlands, Hughes Creek, Ruffy, Tarcombe, Terip Terip & Whiteheads Creek.



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Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

Spring has definitely sprung - The Granite News has had its usual 2-week hiatus and suddenly the email inbox is full to bursting with a plethora of activities, ads and announcements that all need to go into **THIS** week's issue, which is the biggest one ever!!

It is really gratifying to see what an important instrument TGN is for keeping the HCCC communities connected (as well as readers beyond). So many thanks to those of you who read it and also contribute.

Speaking of which there is an excellent article by Keith from Avenel in this issue about a recent trip to Arnhem Land and his very informative experiences there. For those of us who have largely lived our lives somewhat ignorant of the actions taken by indigenous communities, for almost 100 years - 1938 being a watershed moment in this story - (see p.10 for details) the Yirrkala Bark Petitions of 1963 may come as a complete surprise. But as these important historical documents are now on display in Parliament House and the National Museum in Canberra go to p.11 to find out more about this significant event in our country's history. Thanks Keith for sharing.



October also celebrates two Landcare essentials - Water Week and Bird Count. See p. 14 and p.7 respectively for more information.

It also sees the Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative (HCCC) welcome local sitting member for Euroa - Annabelle Cleeland, MLA to its next meeting - Thursday 9th October at the TCC Ruffy at 7.30pm. It's not often that Landcare groups get an opportunity to chat with their parliamentary representatives so an interested attendance would be great.

Can't make it in person? Join in via the Zoom link here -

<https://zoom.us/j/98780693308?pwd=xeCftmFPpbBBCa9Zac2WFuIHEKAi4.1>

Please read on for another interesting issue, Pauline And Kenny? Was getting excited about Wilderhoods event - 16/10

Feedback? editor@tgn.org.au
or to subscribe on-line go to
www.hccclandcare.net.au

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

"Unlike the stomach, the brain doesn't alert you when it is empty."

Arabic Proverb



| Month | Highlands | Ruffy |
|------------|-----------|----------|
| Sept. | 32mm | 38 mm |
| 2025 Total | 500 mm | 504.5 mm |
| Rainy Days | 11 days | 10 days |

NB: Rainfall for Highlands was only 1/3 of September's usual amount.

Adventures in Arnhem Land - continued

The Whitlam Government in 1972 set up a judicial inquiry to look at how Aboriginal land rights should be granted and appointed Mr Justice Woodward as Commissioner. This led to the drafting of the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act which was subsequently passed by the Fraser Government in 1976. It recognises Yolngu as the traditional owners of northeast Arnhem Land under Australian law.

Our Awareness of the Bark Petitions?

I only relatively recently heard about the Bark Petitions. Many people I know are unaware of them. Clare Wright from La Trobe University, Australia's pre-eminent scholar on this subject, laments the fact that so few Australians have any knowledge of the Bark Petitions and their significance to our nation's history. I hope this short introduction to the Yolngu and their fight for recognition has provided you with some relevant background. For more authoritative accounts there is quite a lot of information available in both print and on the internet. For those of you who want to delve deeper into the events and personalities involved at Yirrkala, I strongly recommend Clare Wright's book *Naku Dharuk, The Bark Petitions*, about "How the people of Yirrkala changed the course of Australian democracy".

The Land Grew a Tongue

"The land has everything it needs. But it couldn't speak. It couldn't express itself. Tell its identity. And so it grew a tongue. That is the Yolngu. That is me. We are the tongue of the land. Grown by the land so it can sing who it is. We exist so we can paint the land. That's our job. Paint and sing and dance. So it can feel good to express its true identity. Without us it cannot talk. But it is still there. Only silent." — **Djambawa Marawili AM**

Kevin Whithear - Avenel

**** Naku - bark of the Gadayka (stringybark) tree. Dharuk - word, message, greeting.**



FREE EVENT

Goulburn Valley Water presents

Let's Grow

Waterwise Gardens

 Goulburn Valley Water

Wednesday 22nd October
7pm - 9pm
Eastbank Shepparton
(Stream live if you can't make it in person)

Discover how to design gardens that thrive in the Goulburn Valley with gardening experts Louise Costa and Cathy Olive

 Book tickets or get more information by scanning the QR code or visiting the Riverlinks website