



## BOTANY, BIRDS & CREATURES

### THOUGHTS on SWIFTS and NEEDLETAILS

By Professor Mike Tarburton

Some of the "facts" are not quite right in the recent Granite News article.

Their names are: White-throated Needletail and Fork-tailed Swift (or Pacific Swift).

They do often travel together, but only in the eastern coastal strip, *not* over most of Australia.

They normally spend all day on the wing, but I have shown *they roost at night* (though FTS needs more work on its roosting habits).

If grounded *they can take off from the ground*, so long as there is a big enough area with clear space. I have tested this with WTNT that I flip-netted in Qld. All three got airborne. I think some observations may have come from birds with broken wings. Their legs are short, but very strong.

Which ones spend our summer around Bass Strait (these are not Short-tailed Shearwaters)? Some of both species stay in tropical Australia.

They use linear features fairly often but that is because the rising air along the face of the hills does two beneficial things. It provides them with low-energy travel and raises insects up to some height, where they are more accessible to the birds without running into land-based objects. There are no linear features across the ocean they traverse.

Correct, they will use storm fronts, because such events provide both the resources that the hills do in point 6. Many people still think they will only see them on storm fronts, but as Martin O'Brien & I both know, you can find them over the forests when there are no storms.

### VOLUNTEERS DESIRED (Actually, they're desperately needed!)

The Ruffy Artfest needs your help as a volunteer for just a few hours on the weekend of Nov15th/16th.

Would you consider helping?

Please Call Roberta  
5790 3317



## LOCAL GOINGS ON

### Community Information Session

#### Ghin Ghin Bridge replacement



Murrindindi Shire Council will replace the ageing Ghin Ghin Bridge with a new structure in 2015.

Council will host an information 'drop-in' session to talk to the community about the works, including any impacts on residents and businesses.

Council is planning to replace Ghin Ghin Bridge with a new two-lane structure that will see the Bridge's load carrying capacity increased and life cycle extended to beyond 100 years. The full closure of Ghin Ghin Bridge will be required. It is anticipated that this closure will be limited to three weeks and include the June school holidays. Council will conduct a tender process for the Bridge's construction in late 2014.

Council is seeking additional Federal Government funding through its Bridge Renewal Program, to add to existing State Government funding and allocated Council funds.

**The information session will be at the Highlands Community Hall on Friday 7th November 2014 4pm to 7pm.**

Residents and others interested in the bridge works are encouraged to attend this 'drop-in' session to be updated on the scope of the project including the implications for residents and others of the short term closure of Ghin Ghin Bridge.

Information will be provided on alternative routes and time frames for construction. For more information about the bridge project and community drop-in session please contact **Paul Valente on 5772 0706.**

### DON'T JUST WATCH GRASS GROW



Spring is upon us and it's looking like a dry summer with a heavy fuel load, so now is the time to put your pre-season fire safety plans into action.

Clearing around homes and outbuildings by slashing and/or spraying should be underway now.

For further information go to <http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/prepare-your-property/>

Or contact your Local Brigade  
Highlands/Caveat 5796 9265  
Terip Terip 5790 4282  
Ruffy 0427 344956

### FINDING FOXY

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Hughes Creek  
Catchment Collaborative

Contact editor@tgn.org.au 5790 4007  
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[www.highlands.org.au](http://www.highlands.org.au)

## READERS' WRITES

"Hi, thanks for the usual interesting Granite News, good to see you have a few 'naturalists in the field' to provide good copy for you.

I read the Swift article with interest and was struck by a few comments made which didn't match my experiences with these marvellous birds.

Thought I would run the article by Swift and Needletail expert Professor Mike Tarburton who quickly got back to me with his thoughts.

Feel free to use this information in the GN and/or pass it onto your correspondent as you see fit. As many of your readers would know about these fast-flying birds this is an opportunity to correct a few assumptions that have 'got into the folklore'. Cheers,  
**Martin O'Brien Wildlife Biologist & Ornithologist—Melbourne**

"Re Stuart Reid's plea for more waving (or even a gentle raised finger, as I believe is traditional), I can't agree more. We are also weekenders who love the sense of community around these parts, exemplified by the friendly wave. I would like to take small issue with the comment re cyclists, which implies they are somehow not of a friendly disposition or might be wary of motorists. Being a cyclist myself, who likes nothing better than exploring the beautiful country around Caveat and beyond, I consider a friendly wave from a motorist a good sign of respect for a fellow traveller, and would not hesitate to replicate the gesture." Kind regards,  
—Alison Skene



LET'S SAVE  
the WAVE!

## Provincial Precipitation

Month	Highlands	Ruffy
October	24.6 mm	25 mm
YTD	573.3 mm	640.25 mm
Oct Rain Days	8	4

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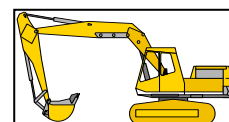
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GENERAL EARTHWORKS

Andrew 0427969297  
Sharyn 0437281072

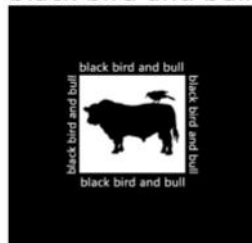


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## Classifieds & Community Notices

### LOCAL GOINGS ON

# AVENEL PRIMARY SCHOOL ANNUAL FETE & CLEARING SALE

SUNDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

10.00<sub>AM</sub> START

40 ANDERSON STREET AVENEL

Providing lots of fun & action for everyone.

Raffle

Giant Slide, Jumping Castles, Show Bags,  
Lucky Dips, Pop Corn, Fairy Floss & Kids Craft table,  
Games to keep the kids entertained.  
Scrumptious food from the BBQ & Café.

Hot and cold drinks.

Plus huge auction of 400 lots which takes place on the oval.

\*Enquiries: Avenel Primary School 57 96 2264

Variety of outside Market stalls—contact Merrill Boyd

0438 678 323 or [merrill@boydconsulting.com.au](mailto:merrill@boydconsulting.com.au) if you would like to  
conduct a stall.

### TRADING PLACES

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Do you know someone  
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about

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Nominations are open in the  
following categories:

- Murrindindi Citizen of the Year
- Murrindindi Young Citizen of the Year
- Murrindindi Community Event of the Year

These awards provide all Murrindindi Shire  
residents with the opportunity to pay tribute to  
our outstanding local achievers.

Download the nomination form from our web-  
site [www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au](http://www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au), pick up an  
application form from any council office or call  
Sarah Light on 5772 0341

**Nominations close at 5pm on Friday 28  
November 2013**

### Local Contractors

#### Wanted—*Strawberry Fields Festival*

The organisers of the *Strawberry  
Fields Festival* are committed to  
using as many local businesses as  
they can.

Festival requirements will include

**Supplies**—Hardware, Plumbing,  
Camping etc

**Equipment Hire**—Grader, Fork lift,  
Cherry pickers,  
Water tanks, Cartage, Rubbish bins &  
Skips.

**Materials**—Crushed rock, Shade  
sails, Flooring, Marquees, Safety sign-  
age.

**Trades-people & Workforce**—  
Mechanic, Plumber, Electrician,  
Traffic Crew, Clean-up Crew.

**Accommodation**—Local accommo-  
dation.

For a complete list see the Highlands  
Website [www.highlands.org.au](http://www.highlands.org.au)  
Contact [jeff@soundeventgroup.com](mailto:jeff@soundeventgroup.com)  
if you wish to supply any  
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# COMMUNITY "WHAT'S ON" CALENDAR NOVEMBER 2014

**TODAY!**



<p><b>Sunday 2nd November</b> 9:00am</p>	 <p><b>RUFFY RURAL FIRE BRIGADE—Pre Season Meeting</b> at the Ruffy Fire Shed Radio check with Euroa group at 9 am then Pre-Season meeting for all members at 10:00am. <b>For any further information Contact John Furlanetto 0427 344956</b></p>
<p><b>Tuesday 4th November</b> From 12 noon</p>	<p><b>Terip Terip Cup Day Chicken and Champagne Luncheon</b> at Terip Terip Rec Reserve Cup Sweeps Best dressed Lady and Gentleman prize. \$25 per person children free. Salad or Sweet would be appreciated. <b>RSVP Helen McKenzie 5790 4211 by 28<sup>th</sup> October</b></p>
<p><b>Friday 7th November</b> 4pm to 7pm</p>	<p><b>COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION—GHIN GHIN BRIDGE REPLACEMENT</b> at the Highlands Hall Residents and others interested in the bridge works are encouraged to attend this 'drop-in' session to be updated on the scope of the project including the implications for residents and others of the short term closure of Ghin Ghin Bridge. <b>For further information contact Paul Valente 5772 0706</b></p>
<p><b>Saturday 8th November &amp; Sunday 9th</b> From 10:00am</p>	<p><b>TABLELANDS COMMUNITY CENTRE — 2nd WORKING BEE</b> at the Old Ruffy School The Community Centre will be one of the venues for the upcoming <b>RUFFY ArtFest</b> and we need to do a heap of work to ensure that the grounds and the internal space are in good shape. <b>For more information Contact Fiona Steel 5790 4369</b></p>
<p><b>Saturday 8th November</b> 8:00pm <b>Sunday 9th</b> 4:00pm</p>	<p><b>EUROA CINEMA "Guardians of the Galaxy"</b> 121mins (PG) 4 stars Action/Sci Fi An action-packed, epic space adventure, Marvel's "Guardians of the Galaxy" expands the Marvel Cinematic Universe into the cosmos, where brash adventurer Peter Quill finds himself the object of an unrelenting bounty hunt after stealing a mysterious orb coveted by Ronan, a powerful villain with ambitions that threaten the entire universe.</p>
<p><b>Sunday 9th November</b> From 10:00am</p>	<p><b>AVENEL PRIMARY SCHOOL FETE &amp; CLEARING SALE</b> 40 Anderson St Avenel <i>Providing Lots of Fun and Action for Everyone. HUGE Auction with 400 Lots—Variety of Market Stalls</i></p>
<p><b>Tuesday 11th November</b> 7:30pm</p>	 <p><b>HIGHLANDS-CAVEAT RURAL FIRE BRIGADE</b> at the Highlands Fire Shed This is the 4th in the 2014 series of Training Sessions. All members are encouraged to attend <b>Contact Jim McCooley 0418 532103</b></p>
<p><b>Friday 14th November</b> 10:00am</p>	<p><b>HIGHLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL PLAYGROUP/MORNING TEA/COMMUNITY GET-TOGETHER</b> at the Highlands Primary School Please feel Welcome to drop in for a cuppa and a chat</p>
<p><b>Friday 14th November</b> 6:30pm</p>	<p><b>'Drinks on the Deck' at Highlands Community Hall</b> 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>Contact Judy Cameron 5796 9247</b></p>
<p><b>Friday 14th November</b> From 7:30pm</p>	<p><b>RUFFY ARTFEST Opening Night: Meet the Artists: Preview &amp; Sales</b> at The Ruffy Community Hall <b>Tickets \$15 (incl. supper and drinks) Bookings Essential Contact Robyn Sheehan 5790 3275</b></p>
<p><b>Saturday 15th</b> <b>Sunday 16th</b> <b>November</b> 10am-4pm</p>	<p><b>RUFFY ARTFEST Art Exhibition &amp; Sale</b> 3 Open Gardens and Quilt Airing in the Orchard <b>Workshops: Paper-making and Kite-making &amp; flying</b> <b>Scarecrow Competition</b> (book by Nov 9th) Bookings for workshops, scarecrows <b>Contact Robyn 5790 3275</b> Further information <a href="http://www.ruffycommunity.com.au">www.ruffycommunity.com.au</a> or Facebook</p>
<p><b>Sunday 16th</b> <b>November</b> 4:00pm</p>	<p><b>CONCERT ONE Peter Hagen (Harpsichord) &amp; Margaret Caley (Violin)</b> at the Broadford Salon C.P.E. Bach violin and harpsichord works. Sonatas fantasias and other pieces for violin and harpsichord written by the famous C.P.E. Bach's whose tricentenary is celebrated this year. <b>Tickets \$38 Adults Bookings Essential <a href="http://www.trybooking.com/FZZD">www.trybooking.com/FZZD</a></b></p>
<p><b>Friday 21st</b> <b>November</b> 7:30pm</p>	<p><b>HCCC Landcare Monthly Meeting</b> at the Highlands Hall This meeting will finalise the arrangements for the 20 year celebration day. All Welcome. <b>Contact Janet Hagen 5790 4268</b></p>
<p><b>Sunday 23rd</b> <b>November</b></p> 	<p><b>20 YEAR CELEBRATION DAY for HCCC LANDCARE</b> at the Old Caveat Church A terrific day of celebration is planned for the 20th Anniversary of the HCCC Landcare Group. There will be interactive displays of Landcare's achievements, a free lunch and a walk to the Mineral Springs on Hughes Creek.. <b>Contact Simone Ulstrup for further details 5790</b></p>
<p><b>Friday 19th</b> <b>December</b></p>	<p><b>RUFFY HAPPY HOUR (or two!)</b> The happy hour will not be held in December as scheduled, and will go into recess until the New Year</p>

**In Recess**