



THE GRANITE NEWS

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WHITEHEADS CREEK • TERIP TERIP • CAVEAT • RUFFY • HIGHLANDS • HUGHES CREEK

Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

Some of you may be aware, others not, that I do have another job that keeps me busy for a fair chunk of each week. Officially I'm the Customer Service Officer at the Y Water Discovery Centre (aka the Yea Visitor Information Centre). This catch-all title covers a lot of things but one job in particular is that of managing/organising 40+ amazing people who volunteer their time, to not only ensure the centre is open 7 days a week from 9-5, 363 days a year, but also take tours of the wonderful Yea Wetlands for both adults and school students alike.

A couple of times a year I organise what are called Famils - or familiarisation tours. Last Friday was one of those and we climbed aboard the "Above the Fog" Express to discover the 'Highlights of the Hills'. It was a great day out! We started with Dennis Spiteri's annual exhibition at his gallery in Highlands, before moving onto Darren Gilbert's studio that is now open on the first weekend each month. Morning tea was spent at Antcliff's Chase in Caveat where both wines and B&B accommodation were inspected, before heading off to the Odd Jug in Ruffy. There, we not only discovered an impressive collection of jugs and ephemera 45 years in the making, but a beautiful and peaceful garden. A delicious lunch was enjoyed at the Ruffy Store, before checking out the contents of the Shelter Shed with its Bric-a-Brac. And finally, before heading off the plateau, we called into Amelia Rise Donkeys at Hee Haw Farm. Not only does this establishment have some rather spiffy B&B accommodation for couples, but it also has the most seriously cute little donkeys on the planet, that just hate attention and pats...not!

All the volunteers had an excellent and informative day out but the reason I'm telling you about this is to alert you to the fact that we have some fantastic local attractions, right in our own "backyard", that are definitely worth discovering - mainly on the weekends or by appointment.

My thanks to Dennis Spiteri, Darren Gilbert, Chris & Susan Bennett, Edward & Pam Sprunt, Helen MacDougall, Fiona and Deb & John Hanton for being so accommodating and welcoming. And if you haven't managed to visit any or all of these marvellous venues, I urge you to make an effort to discover them for yourselves, as you won't be disappointed. Until next week, **Pauline**

And Kenny? — well Popeye was "smoking" a koala.

HCCC News

As mentioned in last week's TGN Neil van Buuren has taken on the role of HCCC's Pest Plant & Animal Facilitator, so let's find out more....

Neil, along with his wife Sue, moved from Melbourne to their 200 acre property along the Blue Top ridge line 6 years ago and have been renovating and improving the house and land ever since. The beautiful granite tors, of our local area, were a key factor in their decision to settle here. Neil has been a food scientist and has spent the major part of his professional life working in and with the Dairy Industry - initially with Murray Goulburn where he was tasked with setting up their environmental department and then with Dairy Australia organising their sustainability research program. Both jobs involved a lot of traveling in Australia and overseas. Now semi-retired he is really looking forward to meeting people in his new role and tackling the perennial problem of weeds!!



Please note: Thursday evening is the deadline for inclusion in the following week's TGN although this will depend on space and time constraints—thanks



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

"I love deadlines, I love that whooshing sound as they go past!"

Douglas Adams (1952 -2001) - Author

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

CLEARANCE SALE

Highlands Community Hall
Fund Raiser to be held on the
Highlands Primary School Site
Sunday 20th May 2018 commencing
10.00am

Items for sale may include - Farm
Equipment; Household items;
Furniture; Recreational items and
general bric-a-brac.

Food & soft drink will be available.
Contact Judy Cameron with list of
items to be sold on 5796 9247 or
jcameron029@gmail.com
More details to follow.

FOR SALE:

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WEBSITE of the WEEK

<https://rootsandshoots.org.au>

is Dr Jane Goodall's website for
younger naturalists

Community Notices & Classifieds

COMMUNITY "WHAT'S ON" CALENDAR — April & May 2018

Daily until 29 April 10-4	DENNIS SPITERI's NOCTURNE EXHIBITION Dennis's unique and impressive art is again on display at his stunning gallery. Come along and be inspired.	33 Old Highlands Rd, Highlands
Wed 25th April ANZAC Day	TERIP TERIP - ANZAC Day Service A special planting of a Lone Pine Tree will be one of the service's highlights.	RSVPs to Hayley 0408 577393
Thursday 26th April 5-30pm	SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS All people in the district are welcome, gold coin donation towards a BBQ, BYO and chat.	at Caveat Church
Saturday 28th April 9 am - 2pm	RIPARIAN WALK # 4 - HUGHES CREEK GORGE The 4th walk in series to become better acquainted with local waterways. It will start and finish in the same location and will be about 6-8kms long. For further details - www.strathbogieranges.org.au	departing cnr Hughes Creek Rd
Saturday 28th April 9.30 - 1.30	HEALTHY HECTARES Euroa Arboretum & SW Goulburn Landcare present an informative session on how to improve your land. Bookings are essential for this free event. For further information - Sonia 0409 515630 or see attachment	at Broadford Council Chambers
Saturday 28th April 2 - 4pm	COMMUNITY ENERGY WORKSHOP Murrindindi Climate Network invites all interested community members to this workshop that will discuss the emerging movement for renewable community energy projects around Australia. 3 keynote speakers will present various aspects of this concept and a panel discussion Q&A session will follow. Afternoon tea is available so RSVP by 24th April for catering - rita.seethaler@tuti.com.au See also attachment.	at RSL Hall Alexandra
Sunday 29th April	HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS A 10.30 departure from the Highlands Hall, see page 3 for further details . Enquiries? - Andrew 0427 969297	
Sat 5th & Sun 6th May 10-4 ~ both days	DARREN GILBERT's OPEN STUDIO 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.	2742 Highlands Rd, Highlands
Sunday 6th May 4pm	SALON CONCERTS @ BROADFORD 2018 French baroque chamber music of pleasure , elegance & reverie with Peter Hagen & Lucinda Moon. For further information & bookings - https://www.trybooking.com/TNKF	
Monday 7th May	TERIP TERIP - Community Meeting To discuss future works around the Rec Reserve. Attendance by community would be greatly appreciated. Agenda to be confirmed	d
Friday 11th May 6.30pm	DRINKS ON THE DECK 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.	at Highlands Community Hall 57969247 & Contact Judy
Monday 14th May 11am	HIGHLANDS SPINNING CLUB 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 & coffee will be provided.	Enquiries? - contact Jan 5790 4361
Every Monday 10 am	YOGA AT 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 kyliepenny@gmail.com	at Tablelands Community Centre Ruffy
Last Friday of the month	MASSAGE THERAPIST - Kristy Adams Kristy Adams is visiting the Ruffy Community Centre once a month for remedial massage sessions. Treatments commence at 10am. For further details, or to book a session, contact Kristy on 0409 999957.	at Tablelands Community Centre Ruffy

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

A Little bit of history not too far away

Sandy MacKenzie bought this fairly rare 16ft (4.9m) "Sunshine" gate, the largest ever made by HV McKay, but never erected it as it was "too bloody big and heavy".

Since Scotty McKay is a local of TGN (and great grandson of HV McKay) Sandy MacKenzie thought readers might like to know that it's on display at the Avenel Maze complete with its rather large strainer post.

HV McKay, based in Sunshine, Melbourne and Furphys, located in Shepparton are two iconic names in our pastoral history. Furphys, started in 1864, is still operating and is perhaps the oldest family company based company in Australia.

Furphy Water carts are collectors items and carry the phrase "Good better best, never let it rest, until you good is better and your better best".

They gave rise to the expression "Is it Fact or a Furphy?" which originated during the First World War when troops yarned around the water cart in Egypt speculating on where they were going to be sent.

In fact it was to Gallipoli.



You might be a farmer if.....

Your hands look like they are made from the same material as your boots.

You've never thrown away a 5 gallon bucket.

You have driven off the road while examining your neighbour's crops/livestock.

You have used a tractor for scaffolding for roof/shed repairs.

You fall asleep within 3 minutes of sitting in front of the TV.

You refer to farms by who owned them 50 or more years ago.

Your family instantly becomes silent when the weather comes on the news.

Your 4 wheel drive actually goes off road!

Your sheep dog cost more than all your house and kitchen appliances.

You think the 3 primary colours are John Deere Green, Ford Blue and Massey Red.

You buy your Christmas presents at the hardware/feed store.

You have a special pair of "Market" shoes or boots.

You decide to walk somewhere and 5 people pull over and offer you a lift.

You've had to wash off with a garden hose before your wife would let you in the house.

Your ideal holiday is to visit other people's farms and stop at every machinery dealer on the way.



With thanks to Jan Hayes for this little gem.

HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS

The next Highlands' Ramblers walk will be happening this coming Sunday 29th April and will be back in the local area. Commencing at 10.30 from the Highlands Hall it will then head down the Ghin Ghin cutting to Switzerland Rd with a lovely walk along the Switzerland valley finishing up at Fullarton's Rd, in Molesworth.

Bring a bottle of water and a carry lunch as well as a sunhat and strong walking shoes. For more information phone

Andrew - 0427 969297



ANZAC Day 1918

ANZAC Day 2018 marks the centenary of the battle for Villers Bretonneux where Australian soldiers fought with uncompromising tenacity in the face of overwhelming odds. Over 1200 ANZACs were killed on this one night as they defended the small town of VB & its strategic heights. The villagers have never forgotten this sacrifice - Lest We Forget.



For the next generation of farmers....

Expressions of Interest are now open to join the Young Farmers Advisory Council from young farmers and those involved in the food and fibre supply chain.

Council membership: the Council consists of eight members with a balance of representation by gender, industry and region. Collectively, Council members will have a broad range of skills and experience, including farm management, agribusiness, finance, education, international markets and regional development.

Council's role: council members provide advice to the Victorian Government about practical actions and opportunities to attract and retain young people in agriculture. The council also assists government to better understand the needs of young people in agriculture and helps to develop solutions and shape support for young people on the land. In 2018, the Council will focus on implementation of its Recommendations Report.

Council members also act as young ambassadors to attract new entrants to the state's agriculture sector and help to shape future support for young people on the land.

EOIs close: Expressions of Interest to join the Council close on **11 May 2018**.

More information: visit <http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/food-and-fibre-industries/young-farmers/advisory-council>

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