



THE GRANITE NEWS

29TH APRIL 2018

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

Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

If I was asked what my favourite native animal was I would have no hesitation in declaring the magnificent and unique echidna as my fave, closely followed by its cousin, the platypus. Obviously I have a thing for monotremes! A couple of years ago I was absolutely delighted to get up close and personal with little Yami (thank you Peter for the BEST birthday present) at the Healesville Sanctuary. It was a truly awesome experience to actually be in the water and have this beautiful little creature nuzzling around my hand trying to eat the fly larvae that were her special treat. The encounter was all on her terms and the photos don't adequately convey the magic. So lithe and soft with a beak that was like velvet to touch but with the persistency of a jack-hammer trying to get at her snack. I was over the moon. Yami lives at Healesville because when she was only a couple of years old she was washed down a flooded East Gippsland river and was badly injured. As a result she could not be returned back to her home which means her captivity at the Sanctuary may have actually saved her life, twice. Last week I read an article published in the Victorian National Parks Association newsletter and was totally appalled that such a gentle creature as the platypus could be the collateral damage of yabby fishing. Part of this article is printed on p.3 so all TGN readers are aware of this tragic situation. Until next week, **Pauline**

And Kenny? — was catching up with HCCC's new facilitator Neil

A HUGE thank you from Natania & friends

The community may be interested in knowing that the **Spit Roast and Auction** fundraiser raised just under a total of **\$9000!!** And yes that's not a typo but Nine Thousand very useful dollars!! 130 odd people thoroughly enjoyed the delicious meal and the lively auction that followed, a truly amazing turn out...for an outstanding result! Adie Leigh, Lyn Manson and Kerrie Jamieson would like to thank everyone who came and bid on items and supported this incredibly worthwhile fundraiser. If you missed out on this great night out you may be able to contribute later in the year with another rather unique fundraising idea.....stay tuned for details!



Upper Goulburn Landcare Network presents... UGLN has a couple of excellent activities planned in the next few weeks that if you have an interest in either horses or organic farming and permaculture you might like to slot into your diaries.

First up is a bus trip to Green Gate Farm at Thurgoona on **Friday 18th May**. Rob Fenton is Head Teacher at the National Environment Centre and also the developer and manager of Green Gate Organic Farm. 100ha of the 200ha farm produces foods such as—organic lamb, pasture pork, pasture eggs, olive oil, honey to name but a few. This is a big, and extremely interesting day out and the bus will be departing from the Yea Recreation Reserve at 8am and returning by 5.30pm. **An RSVP to Judy Watts is essential by Monday 14th May—5974405** or uglandcare@ugln.net Just 2 days later on **Sunday 20th May** an Equine Care Workshop will be held at "Mayfield" 470 Middle Creek Rd Yarck. All issues relating to equine care including pasture management, health care issues, legal requirements of equine ownership, infrastructure, etc will be discussed by Andrew & Nicky Bowe along with Tamara Fox. Once again Judy Watts requires an **RSVP** if you are considering attending, see contact information above but by please reply by **Wednesday 16th May** instead.

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
or to subscribe on-line go to
www.highlands.org.au

"I wonder what the people who write U and UR do with their spare time?" - Anon

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

High-
Postponed until Spring!
Highlands Community Hall
- Clearance Sale
We wish to advise that the
planned Clearance Sale
for 20th May has been
postponed until Spring.
New date to be advised.
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inconvenience.

lands Community Hall
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WEBSITE of the WEEK

www.vpna.org.au
**Victorian National Parks
Association**

Community Notices & Classifieds

COMMUNITY "WHAT'S ON" CALENDAR — May 2018

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 4 pm	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.	
Friday 11th May 6.30 pm	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
Saturday 19th May 9am - 2pm	RIPARIAN WALK #5 - BOATHOLES RUFFY The 5th walk in a series to become better acquainted with local waterways. A beautiful walk with mainly gentle slopes that meander along Hughes Creek. 5-6kms long, moderate to hard, RSVPs are essential.	departing Hughes Creek bridge on Boathole Rd
Saturday 19th May 7.30 for 8pm	RUFFARTZ - CAFÉ CULTURE SERIES 2018 Red Dress & the Sugar Man a knockout cabaret show intelligently constructed, written and wonderfully performed by Marisa Quigley. BYO drinks & nibbles. Tickets \$25. Please book early to ensure your seat. An excellent evening's entertainment ***** Bookings: Chrissy 0419 561386 or ruffartztickets@gmail.com	at Ruffy Community Hall
Thursday 24th May 7pm	HUGHES CREEK CATCHMENT COLLABORATIVE MEETING The next meeting will be held at the Caveat Church, commencing @ 7.00pm. All welcome.	Enquiries? - contact Justus 57904268
Friday 25th May 7.30 pm	TERIP TERIP RFB Bi-Annual GENERAL MEETING	at Terip Terip Rec Reserve
Saturday 26th 9-5 & Sunday 27th 10-4 May	UFO WEEKEND @ HIGHLANDS HALL Now in its 14th year this fun craft weekend (UFO = UnFinished Objects) is on again. Further details see p3.	Contact Pauline 0427 529551
 Sunday 27th May 10.30 am	HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS A 10.30 departure from the Highlands Hall will commence the day's walk.	Enquiries? - Andrew 0427 969297
Thursday 31st May 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
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??

How can we allow platypuses to drown in Victoria?

by Doug Gimesy & Josh Griffiths (VNPA)

The thought of any animal trapped underwater, slowly drowning while it frantically searches for an escape, is horrific. Knowing that we allow this to happen to one of our most iconic and unique species, the platypus, for the sake of a few yabbies, is simply disgraceful.

Yet this is what happens every year with people using enclosed yabby traps (such as opera house nets and drum net) and other type of enclosed nets in our waterways. These nets trap indiscriminately and frequently drown platypuses (as well as other air breathing animals such as rakali and turtles) and the current regulations clearly don't prevent this. This was graphically and horribly illustrated last May by the death of five platypuses in just two opera house nets in West Gippsland.

In Victoria enclosed yabby traps are illegal to use in public waterways, but allowed on private property (presumably to allow landowners to fish their off-stream dams). But what constitutes public waterways? If a creek runs through my property is it a private stream? Do platypuses inhabit farm dams?

Confusion around the current regulations as well as a lack of awareness or appreciation of the risks posed by these nets appears to be a major problem, so let's clarify a few common misunderstandings:

1. ***"There aren't any platypus in this stream, I've been coming here for years and haven't seen any."***

As platypuses can be quite elusive and mainly active at night, not observing one in your local waterway certainly does not mean they are not present. Platypuses inhabit many large and small waterways throughout Victoria, and this can come as a surprise to landowners.

2. ***"Platypus don't live in farm dams."***

Platypuses are regularly found in farm dams. In fact, some on-stream dams can provide excellent foraging habitat for them. They can also travel across land to reach off-stream dams or travel along drainage channels after rainfall.

3. ***"I use these nets safely as I check them regularly."***

Platypuses are mammals like us. They only have a few minutes of air when diving, and if they are frantically searching for a way out of a trap, they will use this up even quicker. Checking nets regularly will not prevent their drowning.

4. ***"But they are sold in my local camping store so surely I can use them?"***

Yes, and that's part of the problem. While most responsible stores will inform customers of the regulations and risks, many don't. The problem is compounded by the fact that many nets sold have little or no labelling.

5. ***"I wasn't aware their use in public waterways in Victoria was illegal."***

The great news is, now you do, and you can share this information so others know.

6. ***"I'm unsure of the difference between an enclosed yabby trap, such as an opera house net, and a hoop or a drop net."***

Victorian Fisheries Authority has good information available on their website www.vfa.vic.gov.au

So how do we prevent this travesty from occurring? Stay tuned next week for part 2 of this article.

UFO Weekend @ Highlands - come along and decrease the number of local UFOs!

Extra-terrestrials spotted at Highlands? Martians poised to land? H G Wells 'War of the Worlds' about to happen atop Mt Broughton? I don't think so. However for several years now UFOs have definitely been sighted at the Highlands Hall on the last weekend in May, but they're quite harmless really and only in need of one thing - to be finished!! UFOs in this case stand for **Un-Finished Objects** and over the last 14 years there has been an enthusiastic gathering of crafty people enjoying a weekend amongst friends aiming to finish as many of these wee beasties as possible in between socialising and enjoying delicious food. Once again, in 2018, the UFOs will descend on Saturday 26th (9-5) and Sunday 27th (10-4) May. They will range from quilting to spinning to patchwork to embroidery to knitting to painting to.... well you get the idea. If anyone is interested in joining this excellent activity, at a nominal cost, please contact Pauline 0427 529551 **ASAP but by Friday 4th May** at the latest.



MURRINDINDI SHIRE - Fire Restrictions, Green Waste & Scrap Shacks

If you live in the Shire of Murrindindi you may find the following items of interest -

1. Fire restrictions end on May 1st and this means that rural landholders can burn off without a council permit however
2. If you would prefer not to burn off then green waste is being accepted at all Council's RRCs (Resource Recovery Centres) **free of charge from Sat. 5th May to Mon. 21st May**. This applies to grass clippings, leaves, garden prunings and branches and tree trunks up to 30cm in diameter and 1.5m in length. Anything larger will incur a fee and
3. Council has just launched a new initiative called "Scrap Shacks", located at both the Alex & Yea RRCs, these reuse shops will be trialled for 12-18 months and are a wonderful opportunity to not only find treasures, but also start thinking about using consumables more sustainably.

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