



Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

Well I'm discovering just how much happens in our local area as the Editor's email box has been quite active over the last week. My thanks also to those readers who have sent me their good wishes for the first issue in 2018—your feedback is most appreciated. Whilst The Granite News will endeavour to retain its familiarity to all readers, from time to time new items may pop up. For instance the little yellow box to the right will feature a new quote each week—I like quotes and like to share them with others, hope you like them too. This week also introduces another, probably semi-regular (it all depends on space) feature - the Website of the Week. Whilst most will have an environmental theme all will offer good quality information for readers to peruse and to discover more. However as there is a HEAP of local articles needing space this week, it's ciao for now. Pauline

DRINKS ON THE DECK

We will have a special guest at our next Drinks on the Deck in February. Our State Member for Eildon, Cindy McLeish, will be joining us to meet members of our community and share in a meal. Weather permitting, we may even get to have a 'drink on the deck'.

We are hoping that many members in our community will join us on the 9th February to welcome Cindy into the Highlands area. It will be a great opportunity to talk to Cindy, to get to know her and make her aware of what a friendly and hospitable group of people we are.

Highlands Hall will open at 6.30pm on Friday 9th Feb. Everyone is welcome. BYO drink & a meal to share. More information? Judy Cameron 5796 9247

RRRRR!

I think I was a green, before there were 'Greenies.' I know that's not a good confession to make in a rural community, so be it, but hear me out just the same. I do love the slogan "Reduce, Reuse & Recycle". It partly sums up the philosophy of those who want to care for the environment. To an onlooker at the supermarket checkout, the percentage of shoppers using reusable bags is not encouraging. Despite the fact that many of us are conscious recyclers, it is very discouraging to discover how much of our recycling still ends up in landfill. Even though many of us eschew plastic packaging it is still hard to avoid its excesses knowing full well how much ends up in the world's oceans. Our propensity to opt for convenience in our buying habits is a comment on our indifference to what we do to the environment and take from our grandchildren. None of this is an excuse to give up our recycling and reusing patterns, but maybe the key is to be more radical, to not only reduce our consumption but to actually refuse to buy things we don't really need. The hard thing will be to help our children and grandchildren to come on board, given the pressures that are placed on them by advertising and the media. I do have difficulty getting my grandchildren to conserve power, they think it's unlimited. Somewhere the message has got out that our resources are unlimited, which I think is a piece of irresponsible rubbish. We need to not only **refuse** this philosophy, but to also **rethink** our buying habits and resource use. I have a new slogan—**Reduce, Recycle, Reuse, Refuse and Rethink!** What do you think?

Stuart Reid—Highlands



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

**Life is what happens to you when you're
busy making other plans.**

John Lennon (Beatle)

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

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WEBSITE of the WEEK

[www.abc.net.au/ourfocus/
waronwaste](http://www.abc.net.au/ourfocus/waronwaste)

HCCC Landcare is now on Facebook—keep up with all of our activities



www.facebook.com/HCCCLandcare

Community Notices & Classifieds

COMMUNITY "WHAT'S ON" CALENDAR — February 2018



HIGHLANDS/CAVEAT RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

Highlands-Caveat RFB have a limited quantity of brand new **Uniden Digital Scanners (fire radios) UBCD436-PT** that are surplus to their requirements.

Excellent value at **just \$180 each**. Ring 0427 529551 to reserve yours. And they are going, going ... almost gone.

**Sunday 4th
February
9 am**

Ruffy Adult Riding Club—Annual Horse Show

5 ring s of fun and prizes—2 open rings, 1 HRCav ring, 1 Fun ring for littlest or less experienced riders and there's even a show-jumping ring too! **Enquiries? - contact Kerry Hewlett 58904392 / 0409438678**

**Sunday 4th
February
11 am**

CFA Workshop for all Tablelands Fire Brigades @ Ruffy Community Centre

all Tablelands CFA brigades and local residents are invited to attend this workshop. A guest speaker will present **"Preparing your bushfire plan and other fire safety matters"**

Sunday Feb 4th, 11am - 12.30pm Enquiries? - Felicity Sloman 0413 483 450 **All Welcome**

**Wednesday 7th
February
7.45 pm**

RUFFY COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP (RCAG) MEETING

Tablelands Community Centre Ruffy—all welcome , come along and contribute to your community. Enquiries? - Felicity Sloman 0413 483 450

**Friday 9th
February
6.30 pm**

DRINKS ON THE DECK

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. **Contact Judy 5796 9247**

**Monday 12th
February
11 am**

Highlands Spinning Club

After a holiday break the Highlands Spinning Club will resume for their first 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 57904361**

**Saturday 17th
February
2-4 pm**

Come along and have a Tealy Good Time !

February is Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month and to assist OC research a fundraising afternoon tea(I) will be held at the Y Water Discovery Centre in Yea from 2-4pm. Great food, live music and the chance to purchase some excellent auction items ensure a fun afternoon for a good cause.

RSVP for catering by Feb. 12th to Pauline 0427 529551

**Last Friday of the
month**

MASSAGE THERAPIST - Kristy Adams

will be visiting the Ruffy Community Centre once a month for remedial massage sessions commencing on **Friday 23rd February**. Treatments commence at 10am. For further details and to book a session contact Kristy on 0409 999957.

**Saturday 24th
February
7.30 for 8pm start**
RuffArtZ

RuffArtZ—2018 Cafe Culture Series 2018

Ruffy Community Hall, Nolans Rd

The Pacific Belles. Fabulous singing trio inspired the glamour of the 1940's. BYO drinks and nibbles. Tickets \$25. Season Tickets 4 shows for \$75. Please book early to ensure your seat.

Bookings: Chrissy 0419 561 386 email: ruffartztickets@gmail.com www.ruffartz.com.au



DON'T FORGET the Jayco Herald Sun Cycling Tour is coming to a place near you—THIS coming Saturday!
Rolling road closures will be in effect from 1pm for approx. 30mins along the Seymour-Highlands Rd, Caveat-Dropmore Rd, Springs Rd, Top Rd and the Yarck Rd. Great viewing assured of world class cyclists.



CFA ROSTERS

Highlands/Caveat Radio Sched & Drive—Brian Leahy & Ross Trehane—Sun 4/2 @ 8.15am

City Heat V Country Scorchers Saturday 20th January 2018 at the Ruffy Cauldron

Rule 10 in deference to The Richie's said "you're not allowed to complain about how hot it is" and on a day when the whole ground was a hotspot and your snicko would have melted, we were fortunate enough to have the Comedy duo Jim and Tom McCooley putting on a show for the ages. Tom the complete right-handed batsmen, bowler and wicket keeper happily admits that his ability was not inherited from his father. Jim also a right-handed batsmen, who swings lustily on the off-side, differs markedly from his son because he doesn't do what Tom does - connect. Jim is one of those rare cricketers, who bats right-handed and bowls left-handed and on the evidence to date he should have a go the other way around. If sledging was part of the man of the match equation Jim would surely feature - it isn't, so he wasn't, that went to Tom (56 runs, 1 wicket and 3 superbly missed stumpings) just in front of the recently returned Captain of the Mongolian Eleven Daniel Walford (37 and a run-out).

The City side's wicket keeper extraordinaire Glen Barry (24 and actually took a leg side catch!), Hamish McAlpin (26 runs and 2 kids who help the old blokes with the fielding-legends), Debutant Alex Carter (26 runs taking his brother Charlie's spot in the side?), Doug Phillips (24 runs with the packer whacker hovering close by) and Ed Walford (14 runs and 2 wickets) all made useful contributions to the City side while Alan Jarrott, Captain Harry Sleigh, Warwick Carter (although he did bring Alex) and Scott McKay took completely useless to a whole new level.

The Country side's Greg Pritchard (26 runs and a huge amount of sweat) Don Cook (11 runs, 1 wicket), Rob Haub (18 and something never seen before in this format- a direct hit run-out) Rich Eddy (26) and Ben Ives (6 not out) supported their Captain in their valiant attempt to haul in the City's 177. Naomi (1) making her debut, learnt a valuable lesson about coaching from Alan Jarrott- ignore everything he tells you, while her brother (2) and Jim (1) contributed a face saving 3 between them. When John McMaster was left to make 29 off one ball it became evident that they probably weren't going to make it and they fell short by 29 runs.

Man of the Match probably should have gone to the Umpire David Sleigh, who stood out in the boiling sun for all 60 overs. Looking fetching in his daughter's floppy hat (purchased from an East Brunswick opportunity shop) his economy of movement left the scorers in no doubt that they would have to make it up as they went along.

At the BBQ held afterwards at the R.A. Megget Pavilion with spectators outnumbering players (who got better with each beer), I read the plaque on the wall which says "LORDS AND THE OVAL TRULY MEAN THE ZENITH OF HARD WON FAME BUT IT WAS JUST A VILLAGE GREEN THAT MOTHERED AND MADE THIS GAME". I thought how apt that was as we listened to our other halves, who at the end of the night were laughing and behaving like an on-fire Kerry O'Keefe on Triple M (except he makes more sense).



Next game is the annual Highlands V Ruffy match at Molesworth on Saturday 24 February.

DELWP Hume Region is currently undertaking a regional gap analysis in relation to Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), as part of a broader state-wide initiative. Part of the gap analysis project includes identifying the values the Hume Region community and stakeholders hold in relation to CCA. To assist us to better understand local climate change adaptation values, we have developed a brief survey and would greatly appreciate it if you could take the time to complete the survey yourself, as well as ask those in your networks – your work colleagues, community networks, friends, family – to contribute their input by completing the survey.

The survey is available at the following link until midnight, **Friday 2 February 2018**
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DT5VGTK>

Murrindindi Council to consider Business and Tourism Innovation Grants Policy

Murrindindi Shire Council is considering a policy which proposes a program of Business and Tourism Innovation Grants. This represents a fresh, strategic approach to attracting investment in the Shire from new and existing businesses. The proposed grants are also intended to support tourism events that aim to attract visitors to Murrindindi Shire. The idea is that this grant funding will help grow existing businesses, start businesses & support sustainable events that grow tourism. If adopted by Council, the grants will be open to applications by mid-February for a four week period. The total funding pool for this financial year is up to \$280,000. Any unallocated funds will be returned to Council's Infrastructure Renewal Reserve to fund the long term renewal of our community assets.

Murrindindi Shire—Rates 2018

Murrindindi Shire rates are due soon and there is now a new and easier "set and forget" way to pay your rates.

Residents can now pay their rates by direct debit.

Murrindindi Council is making some changes to ensure it is as easy as possible to pay your rates. This will make it easier for people to budget for rates payments on a regular basis.

Residents can now opt to have their rates direct debited from a bank account fortnightly. The fortnightly date is the same as the majority of pension paydays.

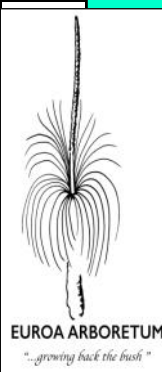
They can also choose to pay monthly (on the 28th of each month) by direct debit, or by quarterly instalments which are deducted automatically on the four due dates. There's also an extended payment due date of 31 May each year for people who've registered to pay their rates with fortnightly or monthly direct debits. For queries about rates notices or direct debit options, contact Council's Rates Department on 5772 0333 or email rates@murrindindi.vic.gov.au.

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