



## Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

Since taking on the position of Editor of TGN I have tried to ensure a selection of articles from all areas of the catchment. Not surprisingly Highlands and Ruffy items have predominated, with their 'huge' population bases (it's all relative), although I must say that there's obviously a very active social life in Terip. This week though I'm delighted to include the first contribution from a Whitehead's Creek resident, thank you Lesley, and I hope that you enjoy reading about the delightful inhabitants of the tree hollows and fallen branches of our local area. As we're now on the downhill run to spring all sorts of activities are starting to appear in TGN (see p.3) - from Rogaining to the Ruffy Artfest to Refugees, so read on....

Until next week, **Pauline**  
**And Kenny?** - was exploring the Black Market mushroom options.

## Wildlife in Whitehead's Creek

In some parts of the district, we are lucky enough to still have significant native vegetation that provides habitat for some of our remaining wildlife, from **Koalas**, and **Goannas**, to **Echidnas**, **Sugar Gliders** and **Antechinus**.

This is amazing, in 2018, when you think about it. There are huge old gum trees, some hundreds of years old but still standing strong, often with hollows that provide home for the creatures we share our world with. Even if they are hollow, these old trees still have many years ahead of them as their walls are strong, and designed to last. On the ground there are fallen branches and sticks. In the paddocks these fallen branches and sticks might still provide shelter for the **Bush Stone Curlew**. The Curlew is well camouflaged, and with short grass (grazing sheep can help with this) the Curlew is able to see if a predator approaching. Control of Foxes helps these birds. I have been lucky enough to hear their eerie cry three times in Whitehead's Creek, and I believe they are still to be found here.

People like to collect firewood along the roads, and as long as they collect a fallen branch that is not hollow, I have not seen this as a serious problem though admittedly I've only been observing it for 45 years. A hollow log provides habitat for our native friends. And stumps provide habitat for Antechinus. I have had an Antechinus on my veranda, and just for an instant, you might mistake it for a mouse. They also live on the roadside at our gate, and in our neighbour's cattle yards. There are stumps for them to live in. They are carnivorous, and the little birds know them and sound the alarm.



Yellow footed Antechinus. Photo by Leigh Pieterse

This time of year people love to clean up fallen wood on their farms and roadsides, for fire preparedness and also to collect wood to warm the house. It is really good to leave a bit of wood for our animals, especially hollow branches and stumps. The joy of seeing these unusual species right on one's doorstep is reward enough. - **Lesley Dalziel**



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

**"The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention."**

Oscar Wilde (1854 - 1900)

**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

**Fox on The Run, on again this year!**

This year we are collecting tails @ \$3 each to a maximum of 100 tails.

You can register as a team/family or an individual.

The competition runs from the 4th June until 31st July with all tails to be handed in by the 3rd August.

Presentation to be held in July with trophies for the most tails collected.

\* Contact Neil to register

0417503472 5796911

[hughes.creek.fac@gmail.com](mailto:hughes.creek.fac@gmail.com)

**EXCITING NEWS**  
**Fox on the Run competition has been extended until July 31st - be in it!!**

## WEBSITE of the WEEK






<http://www.abc.net.au/ourfocus/waronwaste/>

**A brand new website with ideas for minimising our waste**

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

# Community Notices & Classifieds

## COMMUNITY "WHAT'S ON" CALENDAR — August & September 2018

<p><b>Tuesday 31st July</b></p> 	<p><b><i>LAST CHANCE to earn some \$\$\$\$ - only 2 more days!!</i></b></p> <p><b><i>CLOSING DATE for FOX on the RUN competition - BE IN IT TO WIN IT !</i></b></p> <p>Don't forget to get your fox tails in - \$3 per tail, up to 100 - to Neil van Buuren 57969111 and help free the extended neighbourhood of this unwanted pest.</p>
<p><b>Tuesday 7th August @ 6.30pm</b></p>	<p><b><i>MURRINDINDI GREEN WASTE MEETING</i></b> <span style="float: right;"><b>at Yea Council Chambers</b></span></p> <p>Council is looking to partner with local community groups interested in helping others by providing a community green waste collection service. The idea is to help those people in our community who need assistance to get their green waste to one of Council's Resource Recovery Centres. All ideas welcomed.</p>
<p><b>Wednesday 8th August @ 7.45pm</b></p>	<p><b><i>RUFFY COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP</i></b> <span style="float: right;"><b>at Ruffy Community Centre</b></span></p> <p>Guest speaker Ruth Fluhr highlights the "Open Door" Program for refugees <b>Enquiries? - Felicity 0413 483450</b></p>
<p><b>Thursday 9th August @ 7pm</b></p>	<p><b><i>HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY HALL PUBLIC MEETING</i></b> <span style="float: right;"><b>at Highlands Community Hall</b></span></p> <p>Calls for a Committee of Management for the Highlands Community Hall for a term of three years - (see p.3)</p>
<p><b>Friday 10th August @ 6.30 pm</b></p> 	<p><b><i>DRINKS ON THE DECK</i></b> <span style="float: right;"><b>at Highlands Community Hall</b></span></p> <p>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. <b>57969247 &amp; Contact Judy</b></p>
<p><b>Monday 12th August @ 11 am</b></p> 	<p><b><i>HIGHLANDS SPINNING CLUB</i></b></p> <p>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 &amp; coffee will be provided.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Enquiries? - contact Jan 5790 4361</b></p>
<p><b>Wednesday 15th August @ 7 pm</b></p> 	<p><b><i>MURRINDINDI SOLAR BULK BUY MEETING</i></b> <span style="float: right;"><b>at Yea Shire Hall</b></span></p> <p>The Dindi Bulk Buy brings Murrindindi Shire home, business and farm owners free impartial energy advice on their solar options. For further information check out <a href="http://www.dindibulkbuy.com.au">www.dindibulkbuy.com.au</a></p>
<p><b>Friday 17th August 6.45 for 7pm</b></p>	<p><b><i>MURRINDINDI FILM SOCIETY</i></b> <span style="float: right;"><b>at Yea Council Chambers</b></span></p> <p>Further details to come—stay tuned</p>
<p><b>Thursday 23rd August @ 7 pm</b></p>	<p><b><i>HUGHES CREEK CATCHMENT COLLABORATIVE MEETING</i></b> <span style="float: right;"><b>at Ruffy Community Centre</b></span></p> <p>The next meeting will be held in Ruffy commencing at 7pm. All welcome. <b>Enquiries? - contact Justus 5790 4268</b></p>
<p><b>Saturday 25th August 12 to 2pm</b></p> 	<p><b><i>HIGHLANDS BLACK MARKET</i></b> <span style="float: right;"><b>at 94 Old Highlands Rd</b></span></p> <p>Bring along your excess produce, buy local and learn from each other. <b>Enquiries? - Candi 57969366</b></p>
<p><b>Sunday 26th August 10.00 am - 12.30pm</b></p>	<p><b><i>TREE STORY - DIE BACK or GROW BACK? &amp; Tree Planting</i></b> <span style="float: right;"><b>along the GV Rail Trail</b></span></p> <p>Come along, plant some more beautiful trees and find out about the Strathbogie Ranges Tree Health Project. Meet at the Merton Cemetery car park - Tree planting is on the rail trail &amp; morning Tea will be at Merton Cemetery where Janet Hagen will present the 'Tree Storey' Project, and will talk about how we can assess the health of trees in our landscape</p>
<p><b>Sunday 26th August</b></p>	<p><b><i>RUFFY CFA AWARDS PRESENTATION</i></b> <span style="float: right;"><b>at Ruffy CFA Shed</b></span></p> <p>Further details to come—stay tuned</p>
<p><b>Thursday 30th August 7 pm</b></p>	<p><b><i>SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS</i></b> <span style="float: right;"><b>at Caveat Church</b></span></p> <p>All people in the district are welcome, gold coin donation towards a BBQ, BYO and chat.</p>
<p><b>Saturday 1st &amp; Sunday 2nd Sept 10 - 4 on both days</b></p>	<p><b><i>DARREN GILBERT'S OPEN STUDIO</i></b> <span style="float: right;"><b>2742 Highlands Rd, Highlands</b></span></p> <p>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.</p>
<p><b>Every second Wednesday 10.30-12.30</b></p>	<p><b><i>MURRINDINDI MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE</i></b> <span style="float: right;"><b>at Highlands Hall</b></span></p> <p>The Murrindindi Mobile Library service will be visiting the TGN area, based at the Highlands Hall every fortnight on the following dates - put them in you diary now - and come for Morning Tea. <b>August 1st, 15th &amp; 29th Sept 12th &amp; 26th Oct 10th &amp; 24th Nov 7th &amp; 21st and Dec 5th &amp; 19th</b></p>
<p><b>Every Monday 10 am</b></p>	<p><b><i>YOGA AT RUFFY</i></b> <span style="float: right;"><b>at Tablelands Community Centre Ruffy</b></span></p> <p>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 <a href="mailto:kyliepenny@gmail.com">kyliepenny@gmail.com</a></p>



All community members are invited to our next meeting on **Wednesday August 8, 7.45pm** start at the Tablelands Community Centre, Ruffy

We will have a guest speaker, Ruth Fluhr from the Euroa branch of “Rural Australians for Refugees”

She will be sharing information about the new “Open Door” program where you can provide a cultural experience/homestay for refugees. This will be followed by our meeting. Enquiries-



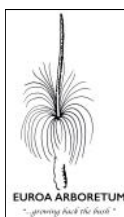
Enquiries- Felicity Sloman 0413483450

## Join Friends of the Sevens for some planting & weeding days along the Seven Creeks

**Saturday 11th August** 10am – 1 pm Creek side  
of the Minature Railway area

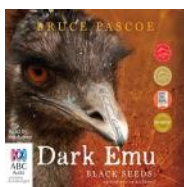
**Saturday 25th August** 10am – 1pm Creek side of Memorial Oval

**For more information, please call Shirley Saywell 0427 246 900 or Cathy Olive 0447 452**



## Dark Emu - Bruce Pascoe

Warrong elder Bruce Pascoe's book "Dark Emu - Black Seeds: agriculture or accident?" was nominated for and won a slew of literary awards, when it was first published in 2014. It has been reprinted 14 times due to the fact it is an amazingly good and enlightening read. It introduces the reader to Australian History as we were never taught at school, when any history lessons started about 1770 with James Cook sailing up the east coast of Australia. This book fills in quite a few gaps in our knowledge of the indigenous way of life, over millennia, including the fact that aboriginal settlements were stable, agricultural communities that farmed the land, stored grain, created incredible fish traps and cooked bread. Pascoe has used primary sources from both European explorers and settlers to great effect.



## Rogaining anyone?

The 43rd Victorian Rogaining Championships are to be held on **22-23 September 2018** near Strathbogrie and will feature a 24-hour event with a mix of elite, regular and social participants. There is also a 6-hour rogaine on the Saturday afternoon with a combination of easy and harder places to visit. Each team can choose their own route and decide where they go. Members of the broader Strathbogrie Ranges community are most welcome to enter and to try out rogaining; the sport started here in central Victoria and is now active in 30 countries and all Australian States. Details will be added to the Victorian Rogaining Association website as they become available. A promise from the course setters - you will see plenty of granite! Neil Phillips and Ian Herbert (event co-ordinators). Go to [www.vra.rogaine.asn.au/](http://www.vra.rogaine.asn.au/)



## HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY HALL

Notice is given of a

## PUBLIC MEETING

to be held at the Highlands Hall on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> August** commencing at 7.00pm to nominate persons as the Committee of Management for the Highlands Community Hall for a term of three years. The current committee's term will expire on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2018. All positions will be declared open and nominations will be accepted prior to or on the night. Further information, nomination forms and nominee declaration forms may be obtained by contacting the Secretary, Judy Cameron on 5796 9247.

## Ruffy Artfest

Held bi-annually the Ruffy Artfest is a celebration of quality art and stunning open gardens and this November it's all going to be happening again. The dates for your diaries are **Friday 9th Nov - Sunday 11th Nov**. Thanks to a generous private donation the prize money for Art entries has been increased this year to a \$750 first prize, a \$500 second prize, a \$250 third prize as well as a \$100 People's Choice prize. Art workshops, featuring artists Christine Wrest-Smith & Leone Gabriel, will be held at the Tablelands Community Centre and Amelia Rise Donkey farm will be welcoming visitors over the weekend also. Add in 3 beautiful local gardens and everything is set for a fantastic weekend. If you would like to exhibit your art in this excellent community exhibition head to the website [www.ruffycommunity.com.au/site/ruffy-artfest](http://www.ruffycommunity.com.au/site/ruffy-artfest) and download the entry forms or enter on-line. **NB this online method will not be open until Wed. 1st August.** As all types of medium will be accepted why not be in it? Entry forms must be returned by **Friday 28th September**, more details on website. Any queries? Ring Robyn 57903275

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