



## Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

Oh dear another mea culpa is starting off this week's blurb. Many thanks to Stuart Reid for reminding me that our hard-working local State Government member is Cindy McLeish, NOT Cindy McIntosh. I know that! However it appears that the information got lost in transmission from brain cells to keyboard. I can't even claim it as a typo as there are too many letters involved. Apologies to Ms McLeish and hopefully we will see you in the area again soon, despite the Mc confusion.

Many thanks again, not only for your feedback, but for your active involvement in the items for inclusion in TGN. For Barb Dalziel's recent contribution of 2 very informative websites, one is to be found at the bottom of this page—many thanks. And last week Sandy McKenzie emailed me a quote that could very well compliment Ita's—see what you think, it's just to the right in the yellow box. I'm just loving these community contributions to your local, our local, newsletter. Please keep them coming. Until next week, **Pauline**

And Kenny, I hear you cry, was having a drink on the deck with Cindy **McLeish**.

## HCCC News

Have you seen **THESE** signs? Apparently there are quite a few of them scattered around the local area however they have nothing to do with HCCC or Landcare. They have just popped up like mushrooms from an unknown source.

On the other hand these signs (see below) have been especially produced by the HCCC and will be erected in 8 locations around our local area.



If you are interested in tendering for the installation of these signs please contact Scott Mackay for further details.



Don't forget that the HCCC committee is seeking Expressions of Interest from any community members who would like to take on the position of **"Pest Plant and Animal Facilitator"**. The job is part-time (up to 2 days or .4) per week and a job description can be obtained from Scott Mackay 57969259.

HCCC also has a website where one can check out all the current Landcare projects and funding opportunities.

<https://hughescreekcatchmentcollaborative.com/> Another good local information site is : <https://strathbogierangesnaturereview.wordpress.com/>

or you can follow Janet Hagen on Instagram at [nature\\_at\\_work\\_](#). The committee would also like to remind all its readers that **The Granite News** is funded by HCCC Landcare and supported by our permanent advertisers. If you would like to make a donation to further support **The Granite News** you can contact the editor for HCCC Landcare's bank details. This year we will need to update software to enable TGN to be edited and published more efficiently. Many thanks to all those readers who've chosen to make a donation previously.....your support is very much appreciated.



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

[www.facebook.com/HCCCLandcare](https://www.facebook.com/HCCCLandcare)

**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](http://www.highlands.org.au)

**"Treat the Earth well - it was not given to you by your parents - it was loaned to you by your children."**  
**Gikuyu (Kenyan) Proverb**  
**Written on a sign outside the Upton Landcare Learning Centre (Avenel Maze)**

**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.frogid.net.au](http://www.frogid.net.au)

Download the App to not only discover more about frogs but help scientists map and track where they live.

# Community Notices & Classifieds

## COMMUNITY "WHAT'S ON" CALENDAR — March 2018

<b>Saturday 3rd March</b> <b>9am - 1pm</b>	<b>LEARNING WITH LANDCARE</b> Free forum for new and part-time landowners - a practical introduction to managing your property. Topics include - weed ID, fire season preparation, basic animal husbandry & legislative requirements, developing & implementing a property plan. MT & lunch provided. <b>Yea Butter Factory, Rattray St Yea</b> <b>RSVP by 28/2 to Judy Watts 57974405</b>
<b>Saturday 3rd March</b> <b>10.30 for 11 am start</b>	<b>ANNUAL HIGHLANDS .v. RUFFY CRICKET MATCH</b> @ the MCG—Molesworth Cricket Ground Forget the Ashes this is the cricketing highlight of the year! Anyone interested in playing please contact Scott Mackay 0427 969259 ASAP. The Molesworth Hotel will be the venue for lunch at 1.30pm.
<b>Saturday 3rd March</b> <b>7pm</b>	<b>TERIP TERIP TRIVIA NIGHT</b> <b>NOTE—Change of Date!!</b> Come along and have a GREAT night out testing your local knowledge! Tickets are \$10, please bring a plate for supper. <b>Terip Rec. Reserve</b> <b>Contact Robyn 0407 358191 or Hayley 0408 577393</b>
<b>Saturday 3rd March</b> <b>2—9pm</b>	<b>LONGWOOD BEER, WINE &amp; CIDER FESTIVAL</b> This exciting new outdoor event will showcase a selection of craft breweries, local wineries & cider makers. Games for the young & music for all. Pre-sale tickets \$25, at the Gate \$35 & kids free. See website for more.. <b>Longwood Recreation Reserve. Down St</b>
<b>Friday 9th March</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	<b>DRINKS ON THE DECK</b> 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>at Highlands Community Hall</b> <b>Contact Judy 5796 9247</b>
<b>Monday 12th March</b> <b>11 am</b>	<b>HIGHLANDS SPINNING CLUB</b> 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. <b>Enquiries? - contact Jan 5790 4361</b>
<b>Thursday 22nd March</b> <b>5.30pm</b>	<b>SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS</b> All people in the district are welcome, gold coin donation towards a BBQ, BYO and chat <b>at Caveat Church</b>
<b>Friday 23rd March</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	<b>HUGHES CREEK CATCHMENT COLLABORATIVE MEETING</b> The next meeting will be held at the Ruffy Store, commencing @ 6.30pm with dinner. All welcome. <b>Enquiries? - contact Justus 57904268</b>
<b>Sunday 25th March</b> <b>9.30am</b>	<b>HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS</b> A big thank you to Andrew Shaw & Louise Currie for leading our Ramblers Walks in 2017. Our first one for 2018 takes us to the Tallarook State Forest. This will mean an earlier start than usual—see article on page 3. <b>Enquiries? - contact Judy 57969358</b>
<b>Every Monday</b> <b>10 am</b>	<b>YOGA AT RUFFY</b> 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> <b>at Tablelands Community Centre Ruffy</b>
<b>Last Friday of the month</b>	<b>MASSAGE THERAPIST - Kristy Adams</b> Kristy Adams has commenced 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. <b>at Tablelands Community Centre Ruffy</b>



**CFA ROSTERS**

**CFA radios still available @ \$180 each—ring 0427 529551**

**Highlands/Caveat Radio Sched & Drive - Les Lawson & Joerg Taubitz—Sun 4/3 @ 8.15am**

## I love to go a Rambling.....

The first Ramblers Walk for 2018 will be on Sunday 25th March. For a change, Andrew Shaw will take us a little further away this time to explore the Tallarook State Forest and a walk that is all down hill from Freeman's Road with a stop for lunch at the Tallarook Weir. Because it is further away we will meet earlier at the Highlands Community Hall at 9.30am. For those coming from elsewhere another place to meet is at the Strath Creek turn off on the Goulburn Valley Highway at 10am. Bring a bottle of water and a carry lunch, as well as a sun hat and strong walking shoes



For more information phone Judy - 57969358.

## Riparian Walks... and even more rambling.....

Come along and join the Strathbogie Ranges CMN on a series of walks along the stunning waterways of the Seven Creeks and Hughes Creek. These walks have been created to help locals become better acquainted with our local waterways and record some of the standout features on the way. At the completion of the 6th and final walk, a report of our findings and observations will be compiled and made available to the public and those who attended the walks.

### Walk #1 = Polly McQuinns to Gooram Falls

9am start from Polly McQuinns Weir on Sat. 3rd March

Finishing at Gooram Falls Day Visitor area (3-5hours /7kms)

Please bring lunch, water, camera/phone, notebook & pen

This is a moderately challenging walk with several creek crossings and some fairly steep sections. No hiking experience is necessary but a decent fitness level is required. A lift back to Polly McQuinns will be arranged beforehand.

Registrations are essential so please email

[strathbogierangescmn@gmail.com](mailto:strathbogierangescmn@gmail.com)

## Questions!!!!

If you have ever watched the ABCTV program called Q & A (Questions and Answers), you will realise that the title is rather pretentious. There are always plenty of questions but next to no answers.

This is not such a bad thing, for life has more questions than there are answers. The real danger comes when we get too convinced of the answers we think we have. The good scientist for instance, doesn't believe in definitive answers. Of course, we are bound to act on the answers we think we have, that's the risks life lays out for us. We do have to live with tentative answers.

The German poet, Rainer Maria Rilke in his *Letters to a Young Poet*, tells his protégé: 'Have patience with everything unresolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves as if they were locked rooms or books written in a foreign language'.

He is urging us to always be open to explore new questions, new horizons, and new insights.

Such explorations can apply to every aspect of our lives, how we relate to each other, how we do our work, how we view the social, moral and political issues of our day. The problem arises when we get too stuck in the old answers we have lived with and stop asking questions.

Consider our voting habits, consider the way we view people who are different to ourselves, consider the way we use technology, consider even the way we view ourselves. Perhaps at times, we need to question why we are so hard on ourselves and on others. Maybe it's a question of why we act as if we are always so right!

Even God is a question to be pondered.

What do you think?

Stuart Reid

Highlands

## Let's hear it for the Lace Monitor

Those of you who read the back page of TGN may have noticed that the Friends of the Powerful Owl have now transferred their allegiance to a new animal for 2018—Lace Monitor or Tree Goanna—and we thank them for that.

As space permits I will enlighten you with some seriously interesting facts about this large reptile. So let's start....The **lace monitor** or **tree goanna** (*Varanus varius* – meaning many coloured lizard) is a member of the **monitor** lizard family, Australian members of which are commonly known as **goannas**. **Lace monitors** are the second-largest **monitor** in Australia after the perentie.

In Australia, monitors are more commonly called goannas, a name given by early settlers in the mistaken belief that they were related to iguanas.

Another well-known member of this family is the enormous Komodo Dragon, *Varanus komodoensis*, which lives only on 4 small Indonesian islands northwest of Australia. This monster can grow up to 3 m long (10 ft)!



All monitor lizards are powerfully built, with strong limbs and long, sharp curved claws. The head is pointed and wedge-shaped. The body is slender in young animals, but older goannas accumulate layers of fat and become quite rotund!

Stay tuned for more.....



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