



Welcome, Wumindjika and G'day

Another week and another month gone...vamoosh, that's 1/6 of the year that has disappeared already and before we know it Easter will be here. I'm writing this because I had cause to think the other day that it is now a little over 6 years since Peter and I voyaged forth on the trip of a lifetime and headed for Antarctica - and I wonder just where that time has gone? Not only that I'm wondering what, if anything, is being done on a global scale to stop icebergs, like B9B, calving off from the ice-shelf? Whilst not the most inspiring name—B9B - Antarctic scientists are obviously not known for their creative labelling, this huge, no massive, iceberg broke off the end of the Mertz Glacier in the spring of 2011. As a result the winds and waves were blocked from breaking up the fast ice and the pack ice that summer, which meant our particular trip couldn't get as far as Mawson's Hut, although we did make it into Commonwealth Bay about 20kms away. However what still amazes me is the sheer size of this ice cube - it was as big as the ACT, not just Canberra, but the entire territory! And that's the geographical dimensions, not the mass, because it's size of course is 1/10 above the water line and 9/10 below! That's an awful lot of our planet's fresh water supply now cruising the Southern Ocean and melting irretrievably into salt water. It's also concerning because such a large chunk of ice alters not only the Antarctic environment eg: Emperor penguins will have much further to walk before they forage for their food in the ocean, but it will also impact on a much wider scale—think ocean currents and food chains as a start. And so I come back to wondering what the world has actively done during the last 6 years to alter this irreversible change and, sadly, nothing of significance leaps to mind.

Until next week, **Pauline**

And Kenny.... I hear you cry, was checking out the unsolicited blackberry sign.

High Tea for Highlanders - nonagenarians all

Murrindindi Shire Council recently hosted a High Tea for all the nonagenarians (in their 90th year or more) residing in the Shire. It was a very pleasant afternoon for all and both the mayor Cr Charlie Bisset and the newly appointed CEO Craig Lloyd (both pictured) thanked the 140 guests for their invaluable contribution to their local areas over their long and eventful lives. Each guest, aged over 90, received a small token in "appreciation of their custodianship of our community over the years." A wonderful short film, featuring several of the guests, "90 up: Living Links to the Past" can be viewed at www.moremurals.com.au and the occasion was also used to launch Sandy Wallace's book

"Ten Chapters from a Ten-pound Migrant." Can you spot 2 long-time residents of Highlands—Peg Lade & Libby Webb and Libby's daughter Judy, & grand-daughter Tammy too? What an excellent party!



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

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

**"If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping in an enclosed room with a mosquito."
African proverb**

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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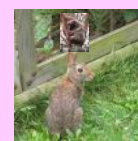
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Month	Highlands	Ruffy
February	0 mm	8 mm
2018 Total	68.8 mm	70 mm
February Rain Days	2 Days	3 Days

Community Notices & Classifieds

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

Friday 9th March 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 Contact Judy 5796 9247
Monday 12th March 11 am	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
Thursday 22nd March 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
Friday 23rd March 6.30pm	HUGHES CREEK CATCHMENT COLLABORATIVE MEETING The next meeting will be held at the Ruffy Store, commencing @ 6.30pm with dinner. All welcome.	Enquiries? - contact Justus 57904268
Friday 23rd - Sunday 25th March 8am start	SEYMOUR WORKING DOG SHEEP TRIALS Catering available 	at Kings Park, Tallarook Street, Seymour Enquiries? Diann Schrapel Tel: 0357 921 089 or email schrapel1@activ8.net.au
Sunday 25th March 9.30am	HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS 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. 	
Easter 2018 Fri 30th March ~ Mon 2nd April	WOW - a space in the Calendar - how unusual! Aside from the annual Molesworth Easter Bazaar and Yea's tennis tournament if there is anything else happening in the local area over Easter, please let the Editor know and this space can be filled.....	
Sat 7th & Sun 8th April 10-4 ~ both days	DARREN GILBERT's OPEN STUDIO Darren's studio, with his stunning, creative works will be open to the public on the first weekend each month, commencing in April. Quality art in the local community and not too far to travel to enjoy it.	2742 Highlands Rd, Highlands
ANZAC Day April 25th	TERIP TERIP April 25th Anzac Day service and special planting of lone pine tree in memory of men and women from the district who have served in all wars. Further details TBC.	Enquiries? - contact Hayley 0408 577393
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 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.	at Tablelands Community Centre Ruffy



CFA ROSTERS One Last CFA radio @ \$180 each—ring 0427 529551 Be quick!

CFA Sunday morning Radio Schedules will now be just the first Sunday of the month.

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.

NOTICE OF VACANCY

Sustainable Development Reference Group

The Sustainable Development Reference Group is an Advisory Committee of Strathbogie Shire Council, advising Council on matters affecting the long-term stability of the economy and environment of Strathbogie Shire. Strathbogie Shire Council would like to invite applications to fill a vacancy that has arisen on our Reference Group. You are invited to make application to become a Reference group member if you:

- Are a resident of Strathbogie Shire;
- Have experience in the economic, environmental and social concerns of our Shire and the integration of this into the decision-making process, projects and policy;
- Are able to attend monthly meetings, volunteer for project sub-committees, and bring new research and information to the table;
- Enjoy the thought of contributing to the strong and resilient future of your local area.

Interested applicants are invited to submit a one page Expression of Interest by way of addressing a sustainable development approach to distributing and protecting Strathbogie Shire's water supply for residents, environment, and agriculture in a time of climate change. Applicants should also enclose a brief resume, complete with full contact details.

Applications and enquiries can be made to Carole Hammond, Team Leader Environment and Economic Development at info@strathbogie.vic.gov.au or 1800 065 993.

Applications close on 16th March 2018.

University survival guide for new students

Starting university can be especially challenging for regional students. The Country Education Foundation of Australia has put out its [2018 survival guide for students](#) to make it easier. The Guide covers things study tips, student discounts, budgeting and finance, as well as recipes and living out of home advice.

<http://cef.org.au/university-survival-guide-2018/> - Do you know anyone who is just starting their tertiary studies? Pass this along.

Don't forget that the HCCC is seeking EOIs from any community members who would not only like to take on the position of "Pest Plant and Animal Facilitator" but also tender for erecting 8 signs around the area. Contact Scott 57969259 for details.

Darren Gilbert - local artist - Open Studio

Well the Ruffy end of the plateau is not the only location on the tablelands to be offering culture to our local communities - local artists at the Highlands's end of the world are intending to open up the doors to several of their studios during 2018, starting with Darren Gilbert - 2D & 3D artist extraordinaire.

Darren not only creates the most amazing metal sculptures for display both inside and outside the home, but draws brilliant life portraits of our distinctive and loveable native wildlife - with very fine black pen strokes and incredible detail. His studio will be open...

Saturday 7th April and Sunday 8th April 2018.

10.00 am to 4.00 pm each day.

2742 Highlands Road, Highlands.

A living private studio gallery in the beautiful central Victorian countryside. Discover the story behind the artworks

and sculptures and see the ever changing creative space. Browse and buy direct from the maker.

Open on the first weekend of every month.

Keep up to date with Open Studio days and times on the Website and Facebook.

Monkey Tail Designs - <https://www.monkeytaildesign.com>

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/darren.gilbert.503>

Why not drop in for a visit and discover some of our great local talent?



Let's hear it for the Lace Monitor ~ #2

Lace Monitors' scales do not overlap as they do on some other lizard families, & snakes, but lie up against one another, giving a pebbly appearance to the skin.

Monitors are the only lizards that have a deeply forked tongue like that of a snake. There is a Jacobson's organ on the roof of the mouth, also like that of snakes. The tongue constantly flicks in and out, transferring information to the Jacobson's organ. This sensitive chemoreceptor can detect minute traces of odours in the air, whether from a prey item, a predator, or a potential mate. Because the tongue is forked, the lizard can receive information from both sides of its head, and figure out what direction the odours are coming from.

What's in a Name?

The common name Monitor is from the Latin verb 'monere' meaning 'to warn'. This was given to these lizards because of their habit of standing up on their hind legs, as though they are monitoring their surroundings.

The genus name Varanus is a Latinized form the Arabic word 'waral' 'or 'waran' meaning 'lizard'. The species name varius is the Latin word for 'various', in reference to the colour of the scales. So the scientific name simply means 'many-coloured lizard'.

But wait, there's even more.... so stay tuned.



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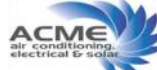
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