

THE GRANITE NEWS



The Granite News - serving the communities of Caveat, Highlands, Hughes Creek, Ruffy, Tarcombe, Terip Terip & Whiteheads Creek.



10th July 2022 | Volume 16 Issue 22

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

Welcome back to the second half of 2022 and, as promised a couple of months ago, a **NEW** look Granite News! I hope that you like the change. It is, however, very much a work in progress so fonts, sizing and placements may be fluid for a few issues until I get the hang of creating this weekly epistle in Canva rather than Publisher.

Constructive feedback from readers re this new look would be appreciated however please remember that I am an Editor, not a technology buff, thanks.

The premise behind the change is twofold -

1. it can be more easily incorporated into the new HCCC website for easy on-line reading at any time and
2. hopefully a greater content of MBs can be included - fingers crossed

It is seriously amazing what a 2 week hiatus can do for content as the Editor's email has been in overdrive with contributions. It's always very gratifying to realise how much readers appreciate this weekly newsletter and want to publicise their events, sell items or just contribute an article of interest for TGN readers to enjoy.

So with that in mind, read on for another great issue... **Pauline**

And Kenny Koala...was looking forward to last week's stargazing at Terip.

NB: There is no HCCC Meeting in July, the next one is on - Friday 19th August @ 7pm @ TCC in Ruffy

Revisiting History from Highlands & Ruffy

WELCOMES YOU TO THEIR

5th Highlands Bush Meet

on Sunday, 19th March, 1978
HELD ON COLIN FERGUSON'S PADDOCK
(Approximately 2 miles from the Highlands Hall and School).
FIRST EVENT AT 12.00 NOON SHARP.

PROGRAMME:

12.00 noon—EVENT 1: T. W. CHISHOLM MEMORIAL EVENT
(For local grass fed horses), 600 metres.

12.15—1.30 p.m.: LUNCH.

1.30 p.m.—EVENT 2: THE FLYING, 400 metres.

2.00 p.m.—EVENT 3: LADIES' BRACELET, 600 metres.

2.30 p.m.—EVENT 4: VETERANS' CHALLENGE, 600 metres.

2.45 p.m.—EVENT 5: CHARIOT RACE
(For any four-legged animal pulling a chariot [?] with at least Two wheels).
200 metres.

3.00 p.m.—EVENT 6: THE HIGHLANDS CUP, 800 metres.

3.30 p.m.—EVENT 7: PONIES' ENCOURAGE (under 14.2 hands), 400 metres.

4.00 p.m.—EVENT 8: WOOLSHED CREEK HANDICAP, 800 metres.

BARBECUES AVAILABLE WEATHER PERMITTING.
ALSO: LUCKY TICKET.

FASHIONS ON THE FIELD— ● MR. MOUNTAIN MAN.
● MRS. MOUNTAIN WOMAN.

MOUNTAIN GIFT (Handicaps on Weight).

SPECIALY SELECTED WINES AVAILABLE.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- 1.—No Registered Thoroughbreds or Stallions.
- 2.—The Highlands Cup, Flying, Ladies' Bracelet and Woolshed Creek Handicap to be Open events.
- 3.—The Committee has the right to refuse entry to any horse or person to the venue.
- 4.—All approved competitors to be 16 years and over.
- 5.—Safety helmets must be worn in each event. Riders to supply own helmet.
- 6.—All riders and horses participate at their own risk.
- 7.—Full membership covers event entry.
- 8.—The Judges decision is final.

It is truly amazing what is sent to the TGN from all corners of the HCCC area and these two gems are a window on local times gone by.

The flier to the left was sent in by Alistair Lade and features a bush meet from a mere 44 years ago to be held in Colin Ferguson's paddock, "approx 2 miles from the Highlands Hall and School".

Ron Cook (Cookie) from Ruffy has gone even further back into the archives to c.1954 to 'dig up' a Country Roads Board Film detailing the construction of the Ruffy to Longwood Rd - starts ~6 minutes in. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zR_5Fc1LswY&t=403s Enjoy!

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

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

"Let us have no fear of the future but think of it as an opportunity and an adventure."

King George VI (1895-1952)



Rainfall for June

Month	Highlands	Ruffy
June	161.2 mm	92.5 mm
2022 Total	451.4 mm	434.5 mm
Rainy Days	23 days	17 days

	NB: Fully vaccinated attendees are appreciated at all events.	What's On - July 2022
	Monday 11th July @ 11am	HIGHLANDS SPINNING CLUB The Highlands Spinning Club will get together in 2022 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
See p.3 for more	Thursday 14th July @ 7.30 pm	RUFFY COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP (RCAG) AGM All people living in the Ruffy area are encouraged to attend the meeting and potentially join the committee itself. It's a great way to get involved with the local community and help keep Ruffy moving forward. Enquiries? - Ann 0421 364263
	Saturday 16th July 12-2pm	HIGHLANDS BLACK MARKET at 94 Old Highlands Rd Bring along your excess produce, buy local and learn from each other. Enquiries? - Clare 0428 969366
See p.3 for more	Saturday 16th July 7.30 > 8pm	RUFFARTZ RELAUNCH at the Ruffy Public Hall Creedence Clearwater Survival FREE PERFORMANCE! Reservations essential: Email Kelly: ruffartztickets@gmail.com or 0407 017 090
see p.4 for more	Sunday 17th July 10am - 3pm	NATURE ART WORKSHOPS - PRINTMAKING with Dana Coleman Strathbogie Ranges Conservation Management Network is offering a series of Art Workshops. This one is at Polly McQuinns, Cost is \$28, BYO Lunch, Numbers are limited.
	Monday 18th July 12 - 4pm	EUROA ARBORETUM MID-YEAR SALE we have excess supplies of some Eucalyptus and Wattle species - only \$2 each! Species include: Red Gum, Manna Gum, Blakely's Red Gum, Blue Gum, Blackwood and Varnish Wattle.
	Saturday 23rd July @ 11am	BLACKBERRY TASKFORCE - Learn about Effective Control Techniques Yea River Landcare Group is hosting a FREE information day @ Murrindindi Community Hub, 815 Murrindindi Rd to discuss ways of eradicating this noxious weed. A light lunch will be provided. RSVP (for catering) by 15 July: dindihub@gmail.com
See p.3 for more	Wednesday 20th July @ 7.30pm	GET BUSHFIRE RESILIENT - FREE WEBINAR SERIES IN 2022 Bushfire Resilience Inc is offering a series of 5 free webinars in the next few months to get residents of bushfire prone areas thinking. To register your interest br.org.au/webinar
	Saturday 23rd July 7.30-10.30	GREATER GLIDER SPOTLIGHT WALK IS ON AGAIN - in the Tallarook State Forest In just the last week the Greater Glider's chance of survival has been downgraded from vulnerable to endangered! These animals need to have their habitat protected from logging and mapping their range is vital. Go to beam.org.au/events for a great night out
	Sunday 24th July @ 10am	HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS meeting at Highlands Hall Everyone is welcome to come rambling and discover our local district. Enquires: Andrew Shaw 04372 49038 or Robyn Lingard 0409 528235
	Every Second Wednesday 10-30-12.30	MURRINDINDI MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE at Highlands Community Hall The Mobile Library visits the TGN area, based at the Highlands Hall every fortnight. Why not pop in?? YAY! The Mobile Library will be in Highlands on July 13th & 27th.



Recommended viewing for family and friends.

Eminent subject matter experts will provide thought-provoking, relevant and practical information.

Viewer response to ten previous BRI webinars: 91% rated very good or excellent, 100% would recommend to others.

Viewers can ask questions before or during the webinar, and when you register we'll also send you a link to videos.

To learn more about our presenters head to br.org.au/presenters

Supporters and Sponsors:



About Bushfire Resilience Inc.
br.org.au/about



Horses and bushfire – what do we know?

- 7.30 AEST Wednesday 20 July
- Kirrilly Thompson, University of Newcastle
 - Andrew McLean, Equitation Science International
 - Chris Heislars, Veterinarian

Your vegetation – what you need to know

- 7.30pm AEST 10 August
- Kevin Tolhurst AM, University of Melbourne
 - Justin Leonard, CSIRO
 - Peter Ashton, DELWP
 - Nick Guyett, Surf Coast Shire

Your last resort options

- 7.30pm AEST 24 August
- Justin Leonard, CSIRO
 - Jim McLennan, La Trobe University
 - Rob Gordon OAM, Clinical Psychologist

Why get kids involved in the family bushfire plan

- 7.30 AEST Wednesday 7 September
- Michelle Roberts, Australian National University
 - Rob Gordon OAM, Clinical Psychologist
 - Briony Towers, Co-director, LEADRRR
 - Jane Hayward, Principal Strathewen Primary School

Understand your bushfire risk

- 7.30pm AEST 21 September
- Kevin Tolhurst AM, University of Melbourne
 - Justin Leonard, CSIRO
 - Ian Bennetts, Bushfire Building Council of Australia

TO REGISTER VISIT BR.ORG.AU/WEBINAR OR SCAN QR CODE

Proudly sponsored by

Community Bank
Hurstbridge and Eltham

Bendigo Bank

RUFFY XMAS DINNER in JULY - Saturday 30th!

\$45 per person for a 3 course, home cooked, traditional Xmas dinner with all the trimmings. This includes a complimentary pre dinner drink. The evening will include an Art Auction featuring the work of local artists as a fundraiser for the Hall. **BYO drinks**

Bookings are essential.

Telephone Bill 5790 4264

or Henry 5790 4246 or

email j.eddy29@bigpond.com



Ruffartz Relaunch

CREEDANCE CLEARWATER SURVIVAL

Free Performance

Saturday 16th July, Ruffy
Public Hall

Doors open 7.30 pm.

Performance commences 8 pm.

Reservations essential:

Email Kelly:

ruffartztickets@gmail.com

or 0407 017 090

BYO Nibbles and drinks

Coffee and cake available at
intermission \$5.00

PRESENTED BY RUFFARTZ

Complimentary glass of champagne
or orange juice on arrival to
celebrate our relaunch after Covid!



The Annual General Meeting of the Ruffy Community Action Group (RCAG)

will be held on **Thursday 14th of July** at the **Tablelands Community Centre (TCC)** at 7.30pm.

All people living in the Ruffy area are encouraged to attend the meeting and potentially join the committee itself.

It's a great way to get involved with the local community and help keep Ruffy moving forward.

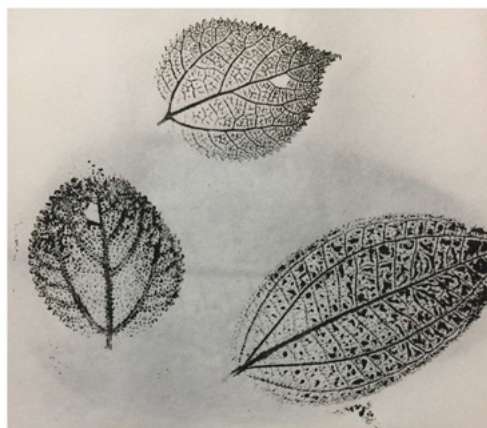
The TTC is at **27 Nolans Road, Ruffy**. Join us after the meeting for a cuppa and a slice of cake.

Any questions or suggestions? **Feel free to contact: Ann Laherty-Hunt, Current Treasurer 0421 364263**

Awe and Wonder in Nature_Art workshops

The Strathbogie Ranges Conservation Management Network offers this workshop by Dana Coleman as part of their series of art workshop that aim to bring new insights into the natural world. The Awe and Wonder project is funded by a Landcare grant.

PRINTMAKING with Dana Coleman



Participants will take a wander around this special site, collecting leaves, stems, flowers, seed heads and monoprinting onto paper or doing rubbing with a water soluble graphite onto paper and then colouring with watercolour.

It will be a good chance to look more closely at the vegetation around Pollys. Weather permitting - optional swimming.

We'll have a fire to sit around while printing and stand by as it gets cool under the trees.

Dana developed her love for these printing methods in Indonesia, where she practiced with adults and children. She says, "it's easy to get beautiful results quickly and it's fun to experiment. I love Pollys and want to share this with locals - especially in winter."

Further information admin@strathbogie_ranges.org

Sunday 17th July

10am-3pm

Polly McQuinn

Numbers limited

Cost \$28

**Materials supplied and includes afternoon tea
BYO LUNCH**

Bookings on Eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/38017637677>



CFA NEWS



The Premier announced on 5 July that the current Victorian Pandemic Orders that were due to expire on 12 July will be extended for a further 3 months until 12 October 2022.

The reason provided for the extension is to enable, and support, Victoria's continued response to the coronavirus pandemic in the face of the challenges that winter presents including protecting the health system.

This extension means that the current vaccination requirements for emergency services workers, which apply to CFA staff and volunteers, remain in place until October. The requirements are that members must be fully vaccinated (including booster) in order to carry out any CFA duties outside their ordinary place of residence (unless they are an excepted person).

The management of exceptions or exemptions needs to be discussed and agreed with your officer in charge and/or line management. CFA is required to comply with Government Health Orders in respect of vaccinations and other measures to keep people safe.

We have adapted our practices, as needed, to meet that requirement as well as balancing our Occupational Health and Safety obligations to keep our members safe and meet our statutory obligations to keep Victorian communities safe from fires and other hazards.

There is a range of information available on **Members Online** on our COVID-safe practices why not update your vaccination status if you haven't done so already by [registering here](#).

Answers to last issue's quiz

Two birds of prey - Eaglehawk
Radials - Tyers
Wide Pastures - Broadmeadows

Can you work out 3 more Victorian Towns or Suburbs?

A place of many colours
Tired insect
Mythical Australian animal

Water, water everywhere

With swathes of NSW recovering, yet again, from a flooding deluge it's a timely reminder of that well-known poem by Dorothea McKellar that features the immortal line of 'droughts and flooding rains'.

Water - we either seem to have too much or too little of it depending on where one lives in our wide brown land. So, a couple of interesting facts to consider re this essential and finite resource -

- 71% of the earth is covered in water
- 97% of all the water in the world is salt water, which is not suitable for drinking
- 3% of the earth's water is fresh water, but only 1% is available for drinking - the other 2% is locked in ice caps and glaciers
- In 2013-14 agricultural water use represented 62% of Australia's total water consumption with cotton growing using the most water at 17% of Australia's total water consumption
- Water consumption in all other industries combined was just over 5,000 gigalitres, which is less than half the amount for the agricultural industry

Water saving programs - **Target 155** (for Melbourne and other urban areas) and **Target Your Water Use** (similar to Target for 155 for regional areas) have been operating for some years now.

Why not check out this useful website Smart Water Advice www.smartwatermark.org for some great ideas.



Creating a Frog Friendly Habitat

Why create a frog habitat?

There are some 36 species of frog recorded in Victoria ranging from the critically endangered and range restricted Baw Baw Frog to the very common Eastern Common Froglet which seems to call from every damp area. Frogs are much easier to find at night with a head torch than during the day.

All around the world frogs are declining, partly due to habitat loss, pollution and chytrid fungus. Frogs help control insect populations and they also provide an essential food source for many predators. They can act as an indicator of waterway health as they are often sensitive to changes in their habitat. By creating a frog-friendly habitat we can help provide vital habitat for these amazing creatures.

As October is peak breeding season for frogs why not get a head start on creating their habitat now?

Design and construction of a frog friendly habitat

- Ponds are best positioned in areas that receive sunlight in the morning and are protected by shade in the afternoon
- Ponds need a deep water zone, a shallow water (bog) zone and a damp zone
- Stones and branches can be placed in the damp zone to assist frog entry and exit from the water
- Include submerged logs and rocks for algal growth
- Ponds should have water all year round
- Plant aquatic plants into pots before submerging them in the pond (put stones on top of the pot soil)
- Use a pond liner to hold the water in (PVC sheeting can work well) and put a layer of sand between the liner and the soil to buffer any sharp objects that could pierce the liner
- The pond edge should taper gradually from shallow to deep to ensure frog safety

Pond Sharing

- It is best not to introduce fish into the pond, they may eat the frog eggs. Exclude cats and dogs from the pond area, they may hunt the frogs
- Birds may also use the pond. Ensure adequate shelter and protection for frogs and tadpoles by placing rocks and logs around
- Macroinvertebrates will colonise the pond, they can be important food sources for frogs. Good diversity of water bugs indicates a healthy pond
- When the habitat is established, frogs will colonise the haven on their own. Never relocate a frog or tadpole as this can spread disease

Pond Water & Plants

- Avoid positioning the frog pond underneath deciduous trees - this can contribute to poor water quality and algal growth in autumn
- Use local indigenous vegetation. Plant a variety of species both in and around the pond. Avoid floating plants and plants with toxic leaves
- Ensure that polluted water cannot enter the habitat.
Don't position the pond downstream from areas that may be using herbicides or pesticides
- Ponds positioned in areas that will collect water after rain are ideal. Rainwater collected from a roof is a great source of fresh, clean water.

With thanks to Melbourne Water

For further information - www.frogs.org.au



<p>HABBIES HOWE BEEF</p> <p>MATURE, WELL HUNG & AVAILABLE</p> <p>IGA SEYMOUR GARY'S MEATS, PRAHRAN MARKET</p> <p>L&L MEATS, BENTLEIGH</p> <p>SCOTCH AND FILLET ST HELENA, MENTONE & MERNDA</p>	 <p>LAWSON</p> <p>General earthworks & hole boring Diesel repairs & servicing Metal fabrication & welding Shed construction & removal</p> <p>Callum - 0437 182 223 5796 9265 lawsonbluetop@gmail.com</p>	<p>Chris Sharman</p> <p>Energy Efficiency & Solar Energy Specialist</p> <p>Acme - Air Conditioning Electrical Solar</p> <p>M: 0418 551 301 T: Office - 9785 7339 E: chris@acmeair.com.au</p>	 <p>CF & HL HANDASYDE BUILDERS</p> <p>Established 1978 NEW HOMES, EXTENSIONS, RENOVATIONS, DOMESTIC, RURAL ALL YOUR BUILDING REQUIREMENTS. Registered Building Practitioner Call Colin for a quote Telephone: 0419 502 782</p>
<p>The Pond Professor</p> <p>Peter Graf</p> <p>DESIGNS, CREATES & MAINTAINS BEAUTIFUL PONDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pond Cleaning• Filtration Systems• Fountains and Waterfalls• Aquatic plants and fish• Algae control• Water testing• Design and construction• Consulting services <p>Phone: 0429 969 243 Email: info@pondprofessor.com http://www.pondprofessor.com.au</p>	 <p>SEYMOUR EQUINE & RURAL</p> <p>Supplying everything you need</p> <p>Products & Expertise in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Animal Production- Pasture/Crop Protection- Fencing & Livestock Handling <p>PH: (03) 5792 1088 HELPING YOU GROW</p>	<p>Brought to you by a Yellow Footed Antechinus, living on a roadside near you.</p>  <p>Image kindly donated by Ros Wathen</p>	<p>BenCo</p> <p>PLUMBING SERVICES</p> <p>Ben Laycock</p> <p>0438 512299 Licence no. 105134</p> <p>ben@bencoplumbingservices.com.au bencoplumbingservices.com</p>
 <p>nomad art</p> <p>Online & by appointment Avenel, M: 0428 308 793 www.nomadart.com.au Limited edition prints from regional and remote Australia</p>	<p>KOPANICA PASTORAL EXCAVATIONS & CARTAGE</p>  <p>DAMS EARTHWORKS STOCK+WATER CARTAGE & MORE</p> <p>0429 804 235 MICHAEL.KOPANICA@GMAIL.COM</p>	<p>RURAL FENCING SERVICES</p> <p>JARRAD</p> <p>0409 082 257</p> 	
 <p>Murrindindi Shire Council</p> <p>Cr John Walsh Koriella Ward Murrindindi Shire Council jwalsh@murrindindi.vic.gov.au 0437 835 586</p>	<p>EDUCATION SPACE For Hire</p> <p>The Tablelands Community Centre at Ruffy</p> <p>Ideal for Meetings, Lectures or Arts & Crafts</p> <p>Very Reasonable Rates Contact Melissa Macdowall 0404 833388</p>	 <p>For All your Aerial Spraying or Spreading Needs. Specialising in Blackberries, Broadleaf, Thistles, Spreading lime/fertilizer & More</p> <p>Call 0484108854 48 Magills Lane Maindample 3723</p> 	<p>Donated by supporters of our local koala population</p> 
<p>Donation from Supporters of the SPOTTED PARDALOTE</p> 	<p>2022 - Greater Glider Vulnerable to Endangered</p>  <p>STOP logging old growth forests</p>	<p>HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY HALL</p> <p>Meeting Room and/or Hall available for hire</p> <p>MEETINGS FUNCTIONS WORKSHOPS PARTIES WEDDINGS</p> <p>Reasonable rates Contact Paula Lade 0419 551 882</p>	<p>Donated by friends of the Long Leafed Box Trees</p> 
<p>Echidnas take care of their habitat</p> 	<p>Advertising space available</p> <p>If interested contact Editor editor@tgn.org.au</p>	<p>Need a website? bluetopbiz.com.au Affordable web design & maintenance. Presentations, marketing copy. Grant applications, project management. Call</p> <p>Sue 0411 010 379 Neil 0417 503 472</p> <p>Email: sue@bluetopbiz.com.au</p>	 <p>Strathbogrie Granite Project neil.phillips@bigpond.com</p>

The Granite News is usually created on the lands of the Taungurung clans - First people of the Rivers and Mountains.



We thank the Taungurung ancestors and elders who, for millennia, have cared for this country on which we now live, work and play.
May the current generations of Taungurung, landowners and residents continue this important custodianship into the future.