

THE GRANITE NEWS



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



7th August 22 | Volume 16 Issue 26

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

During the last week I had cause to fly in and out of Melbourne Airport and as the low clouds cleared on the return flight I saw 3 things I hadn't noticed before within a few kilometres of touchdown.

1. That despite more than 30 years of Landcare initiatives and a universal awareness of the importance of tree planting for the dual benefits of both salinity and carbon restoration the paddocks rapidly passing beneath the plane must have missed that memo. All were edged with cyprus trees, planted decades ago, with very few of the farms showing any indication of recent tree planting either in shelterbelts or as hero trees in the paddocks. It made me think about all the free trees that were distributed by HCCC during the lockdowns of 2020 and 2021 and how beneficial they will be to our local local area in the years to come.
2. The rapacity of urban developers, as just a little further north these same paddocks are being rapidly converted to new suburbs of mainly double storied houses, lined up like closely packed rows of sardines, and lots of concrete with very few trees in sight.
3. Literally right under the north-south runway's flight path, with only the Sunbury-Bulla road and a pile of plane spotters between the airport and it - was a most unexpected solar farm. This intrigued me so I researched a little bit and you can read all about it on p.3.

And the happy couple at the 5th Highlands Bush Meet in 1978 were Roger and Jenny Strong of Dropmore.



Read on for another great issue... **Pauline**
And Kenny Koala...was highlighting the next HCCC meeting

What is the Threatened Species Bake Off?

The Threatened Species Bake Off is an invitation to all Australians to bake a dessert in the shape of a threatened species. The Bake Off aims to build awareness in the community about Australia's remarkable, unique and threatened wildlife.

Share a photo of your creation with the Threatened Species Commissioner, via social media, to be in with a chance to be announced as a winner on October 7th.

Key Dates - Entries open 1st September and close at 5pm on 30th September. There are 6 categories to choose from with all ages catered for. Why not send the Editor a photo of your creation too?

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

"Why do you sit there looking like an envelope without any address on it?"

Mark Twain (1835 - 1910)


American author & humorist



And the 3 more Victorian towns or suburbs are....

A Famous Battle - lots to choose from here - Sebastopol, Balaclava, Trafalgar, Hastings and Bannockburn
None - Nhill
Beach Bacon - Shoreham

Month	Highlands	Ruffy
July	43.7 mm	42 mm
2022 Total	495.1 mm	476.5 mm
Rainy Days	17 days	12 days

	NB: Fully vaccinated attendees are appreciated at all events.	What's On - August & September 2022
	Monday 8th Aug @ 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
	Friday 12th August @ 6.30pm	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 Paula 0419 551882
See p.4 for more	Saturday 13th August @ 10am	NATIVE BEES & POLLINATORS at Tablelands Community Centre, Ruffy Please RSVP by text to Val 0419 328731
	Friday 19th August @ 7pm	HUGHES CREEK CATCHMENT COLLABORATIVE MEETING at TCC Ruffy All welcome. Enquiries? - Justus 0427 524473
	Saturday 20th August 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.4 for more	Sunday 21st August @ 2pm	CANOPIES FOR KOALAS at TCC Ruffy Planting trees for the Queen's Jubilee - come along and join in the fun. Enquiries? - tccruffy@gmail.com or 0426 690970
	Monday 22nd August 9 - 2	FENCING EXPO MANSFIELD (Merrijig) hosted by Delatite Landcare BYO chair & water bottle & wear appropriate clothing/footwear. Further details next TGN Enquiries? - Up2Us at projects@up2us.org.au or 5779 1593
	Thursday 25th Aug. @ 5.30pm	SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS at Caveat Church All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards a BBQ, BYO & chat
See p.4 for more	Tuesday 23rd - Thursday 25th August	NATIONAL LANDCARE CONFERENCE - in Sydney If you can't make it to Sydney why not register as a virtual conference delegate? It's FREE!! Require more information - https://nationallandcareconference.org.au
	Sunday 28th August @ 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 August 10th and 24th.

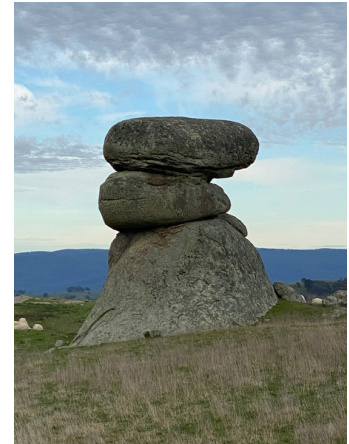
Highlands Ramblers - on top of the world

Last month thirteen intrepid walkers braved the wind and cold to walk from Granite Hills to the Ghin Ghin cutting.

Highlights of the walk included deer sightings, an old mineshaft, Sorraghan's hut site and of course magnificent views across the Goulburn Valley.

A huge thanks to Andrew Shaw for organising yet another great day exploring the wonderful Highlands!

Geoff Lade



Melbourne Airport's Solar Farm

Opened in January 2022 Melbourne Airport's 12.4 MW Solar Farm, located directly opposite the northern end of the north-south runway, is set to generate 17 GW hours of electricity per year which is almost 15% of the airport's annual electricity consumption. This will supply renewable energy to all 4 terminals.

The solar farm is 192,000 sq. metres in size (equivalent to 26 soccer fields or approximately 500m x 400m on the ground) It is a fixed ground mount solar farm instead of a ground tracking system solar facility. This type of system assists with managing and mitigating the effect of any reflected glare on the panels interfering with any planes approaching or taking off from the airport. It is currently the largest solar farm of its kind in Australia.



Not only does it have 30,000 individual panels but battery storage as well and is predicted to result in a reduction of 920,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions over 15 years.

HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY HALL COMMITTEE NEEDS A NEW MEMBER

The Highlands Hall Committee is looking for a new member to undertake the position of secretary. Word processing skills and a desire for community involvement is all that is required. We hold a meeting every 6 weeks - never longer than 2 hours 😊

Our goal is to maintain the Highlands Hall as a centre for the locals and revitalise the Highlands community after the years of Covid isolation. It's a great way to be involved with the local community. We all know that volunteering is good for your sense of wellbeing so come and join us.

For more details, please contact Gayle:

Mobile: 0418 889 017 (If I don't answer please leave a message so I can phone back)

Email: gaylearnold5@gmail.com

PLANTING TREES FOR THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE



CANOPIES FOR KOALAS

COMMEMORATIVE TREE PLANTING

ADVANCED TREE PLANTING

DEMONSTRATION

SEEDLING TREES

AFTERNOON TEA

SAMPLE THE JUBILEE WINNING TRIFLE
Children's Activities – Koala Hunt – Crown Decorating

2pm Sunday 21st August 2022

at the

Tablelands Community Centre

27 Nolans Rd Ruffy

Contact tccruffy@gmail.com or 0427 690 970

This project received funding from the Australian Government's Planting Trees for the Queen's Jubilee

Native Bees Seminar

Presentation on Native Bees and Pollinators sponsored by Longwood East Landcare

Saturday 13th August at 10.00 am

Presenter: Karen Retra.

A well known citizen scientist and inspiring and motivated speaker.

Location: Tablelands Community Centre 27 Nolans Road, Ruffy



2022 Landcare Australia Conference in Sydney

This year's Landcare Australia Conference will touch on such topics as Urban Landcare, Landcare farming, wellbeing and mental health, cultural land management, innovation and technology, young farmers, building community capacity and resilience as well as climate change adaptation and mitigation to name a few.

Can't make the trip to Sydney you can still be a part of it virtually and this option is **FREE!** <https://nationallandcareconference.org.au>

Wanted

Kind dog sitter (at your place) for our active and affectionate 2-year-old Jack Russell (Armin) while we are away. **(6 weeks commencing 28th August).**

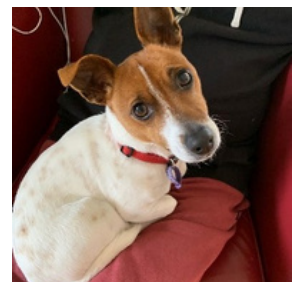
He is accustomed to cuddles and being on the couch, is fully house-trained and vaccinated.

Not very tolerant of cats.

Can get a bit excited at times.

We will provide all food and bedding.

Call Sue on 0411 010 379.



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BBQ

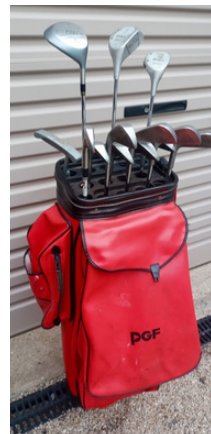
Weber style kettle BBQ

56cm portable unit

Two cooking levels, sliding ash catcher, hinged lid with vent

Porcelain coated bowl and lid

As new \$150 but asking \$85



Contact ssporry@gmail.com

Most TGN readers are probably aware that The Granite News is sponsored by the Hughes Creek Catchment Collective, an amalgamation of 5 separate Landcare groups, but do you know how Landcare commenced? If not then read on....

About the Landcare Movement



Landcare evolved in Victoria through an initiative of Joan Kirner, (as Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands) and Heather Mitchell, (then President of the Victorian Farmers Federation).

With the generous support of community members, farmers and Victorian departmental officers, Heather Mitchell and Joan Kirner were able to launch 'Landcare' in a small town in central Victoria in November 1986. Many Australian communities had already begun practising 'Landcare' decades earlier; accounts from some of our most enduring Landcare groups show grass roots environmental issues being tackled as early as the 1950s. In January 1988, Australia's first official Dunecare groups formed on the New South Wales Mid North Coast at Hat Head, Diamond Beach, Scotts Head and Diggers Beach.

In 1989, the national Landcare movement was officially recognised with Rick Farley of the National Farmers Federation (NFF), and Phillip Toyne of the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF), successfully encouraging the Hawke Government to commit to supporting the emerging movement.

Landcare became a national programme on 20 July, 1989 in Wentworth NSW, when the Australian Government with bipartisan support, announced its "Decade of Landcare Plan" and committed \$320 million to fund the National Landcare Programme. 1989 was also the year that the national not-for-profit organisation Landcare Australia was established.

The national formation of the Landcare movement brought farmers and conservationists together to resolve environmental issues. In his speech to launch Landcare, former Prime Minister Bob Hawke AC spoke about the importance of co-operation to care for the land.

"The degradation of our environment is not simply a local problem, nor a problem for one state or another, nor for the Commonwealth alone. Rather, the damage being done to our environment is a problem for us all – and not just government- but for of us individually and together."

Over the last 30+ years, Landcare has evolved to become one of the largest volunteer movements in Australia. There are thousands of people and countless communities working together towards sustainable land use and undertaking on-ground action to protect, enhance or restore an area on behalf of the community. **The Landcare model has been so successful it has been adopted in over 20 countries.**

Landcare plays a leading role in advocating a balance between Australian sustainable land management practices and environmental conservation.

Landcare activities deliver a diverse range of positive environmental and community outcomes. These include the environmental protection, enhancement and conservation of land, water, waterways and coasts, natural habitat restoration to enhance biodiversity, building resilience in Australia's food and farming systems, and helping create social cohesion and wellbeing in communities.

From the coast to the country, and from urban cities to the outback, Landcare's greatest asset is its people. With over 6,000 groups and 100,000+ volunteers, the Landcare movement is diverse and encompasses farmers and farming systems groups, landowners, Landcare groups and networks, Traditional Owners, Bushcare and 'Friends of' groups, Coastcare, Dunecare and Rivercare groups, Landcare facilitators and coordinators, youth groups and other community groups involved in protecting, enhancing or restoring their local environment. The Junior Landcare program provides a pathway for children to become lifelong landcarers starting with early learning childhood centres through to primary and secondary schools.

What makes Landcare unique to any other community movement is the very large number of active groups, and the effective partnerships created between business, researchers, natural resource management agencies, government and community. These partnerships build local community ownership of issues, unlock volunteer knowledge, capability and capacity to create better outcomes for the environment and those that seek to protect and enhance it.

In the last three decades Landcare has achieved a great deal of good work. Yet there is much more to do. With the impact of a changing climate, and natural disasters like drought, bushfires and flood, Landcare has never been so important.

Landcare Australia will continue to work in partnership with multiple stakeholders to support the Landcare community so they can continue to restore and protect the environment in communities across Australia. Landcare is about working together caring for the land to preserve our natural resources and biodiversity for generations to come. Landcare enables people to actively care for the natural environment in their community. **Extract taken from the Landcare Australia's website** <https://landcareaustralia.org.au/>

National Tree Day - Whiteheads Creek - Seymour

About sixty people, young and old turned up on Saturday 30th July to join in a National Tree Day planting on a small section of Whiteheads Creek opposite to Abdallah Road. Blessed with a sunny day, a great time was had by all in the group, which included people of all ages. Those new to the area were able to make new friends, and everyone was chatting away while planting.

Only two hours later the place looked quite transformed, as seven hundred native shrubs and grasses were planted, guarded and mulched by this amazing group of volunteers. A diversity of native shrubs and ground covers were planted to replace all the weeds that dominate many creeklines. These plants will enhance the quality of the creekline vegetation and bring back the bushland birds, possums and gliders, and the rich diversity of insects and other species that are essential for a healthy environment.

A big pile of mulch was kindly provided by local arborist Sam Vass, and four hundred plants of *Microlaena stipoides*, a native perennial grass, were grown on purpose for this event by Peter Mitchell and Barbara Moss, valuable volunteers of the Seymour Urban Landcare group. To encourage the growth of more native grasses, a bag full of Wallaby grass seeds (*Austrodanthonia* spp., a native perennial) was dispersed on site when the planting was over.

Prior to the planting day, the above mentioned group had invested about fifty hours of work in getting the site ready, mainly whipper snipping a vast area, removing huge amounts of weeds and pre-digging holes for the shrubs.

One of the most interesting weeds we've found is the so called Madeira Vine (*Arendera cordifolia*), a vigorous climber originally from South America that proliferates disrupting native vegetation and it can reproduce either by the offshoots of its roots or by the great quantity of aerial tubers that grow along its stems. No wonder that the sale and dispersal of this plant has been prohibited by the 2015 Biosecurity Act. The removal of these tubers from the planting site will require some additional effort.

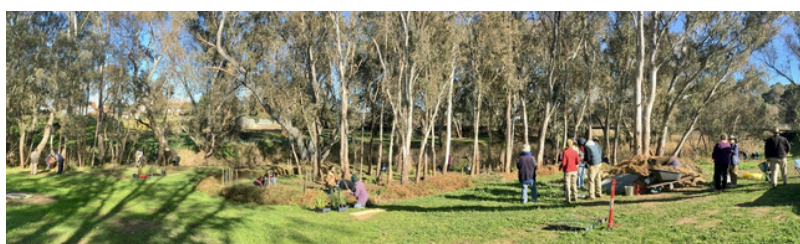
This day was organised as part of a bigger project, that aims to encourage local people to become acquainted with the Whiteheads creek. After the planting, a few people commented how happy they were to have discovered such a new lovely place in Seymour, and after spending time and effort planting on site they already felt a sense of stewardship. For most of us it was as close as we've come to the creek up till now, and we were able to appreciate its wild beauty. Along this stretch of water some local residents have previously spotted some exciting wildlife, like a reed warbler, a few koalas, a platypus (about 200m downstream) and a turtle that was wondering on the nearby road.

As part of this project other activities are anticipated, for instance water quality monitoring over time and talks on turtles, water bugs and in-stream vegetation, with speakers from Turtles Australia and the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority.

The organisers would like to offer heartfelt thanks to all who came, to those who prepared the site, and the members of the Seymour volunteer group of Cancer Council Victoria, who provided the delicious lunch and will donate all the proceedings to cancer research.

A really great day, demonstrating how people have an innate love of the natural world, that just needs a spark to light up.

Vanessa Malandrin, Coordinator - Seymour Urban Landcare Group



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Strathbogie Granite Project

neil.phillips@bigpond.com

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.