

# THE GRANITE NEWS



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



19th March 2023 | Volume 17 Issue 10

## Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

I love it when an item in TGN leads to a sharing of positive ideas and experiences and, in this case, recipes! Last week John's Letter to the Editor introduced us to the elderberry and had a request for any jam recipes that might turn out to be, almost as good as his mum's. Well it turns out a couple of readers might just have one or two recipes and would like to share them not only with John but anyone else who is interested. Bon appetit!

**DON'T FORGET the HCCC IS HOSTING the  
FANTASTIC APRIL FOOL'S PICNIC IN LESS THAN 2  
WEEK'S TIME.**

**RSVPs are ESSENTIAL for CATERING by NEXT  
MONDAY 27th MARCH - see flier on p.3!**

Read on for another excellent issue, Pauline  
And Kenny? Was trying out the comfort levels of the couch for sale.

## Know Your Weeds

This week features another Regionally Controlled noxious weed, coloured very similarly to last week's featured weed - bright yellow - and it can be found throughout the Goulburn Broken Catchment.

### English Broom - *Cytisus scoparius*

Broom is an erect deciduous woody shrub to 3m tall. It flowers from October to December with bright yellow pea like flowers, sometimes with red markings, and about 2-2.5cm long.

Leaves occur singly or in clusters with each leaf consisting of 3 soft, hairy leaflets.

Fruit is a brown to black pod up to 5cm long that contains 6-20 seeds.

Broom invades bushland, especially after disturbance and is unlikely to be confused with any native species.

As a perennial weed the best time to eradicate broom is between November and February and this can be done by spot spraying or by both hand and mechanical removal.

Broom can be spread by either water or birds/animals or by the movement of equipment, vehicles and machinery.



For further information re eradication email -  
[info@hccclandcare.net.au](mailto:info@hccclandcare.net.au)

Feedback? [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 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

"One simple suggestion - instead of giving roads names of leaders and celebrities, if we give them the names of the contractor who built it with his contact details, maybe the quality of the roads would improve immediately."

Anon









## Did you know?

When food is dumped into landfill it decays without air to create methane. Methane is 20 times more potent a greenhouse gas than CO2. Does your home have a compost bin?

(Source: Australian Ethical)



	NB: Fully vaccinated attendees are appreciated at all events.	What's On - March - April 2023	
	<b>Monday 20th March 3-4.30</b>	<b>VEGGIE PATCH CLUB</b> Sharing garden knowledge and produce	@ 190 Red Gate Lane, Ruffy Enquiries? Janet 0458 904268
Details? See p.7	<b>Saturday 25th March @ 4pm</b>	<b>PHIL PARA - LIVE in CONCERT!!</b> BYO picnic, \$20 or \$10 concession - <a href="mailto:ruffartztickets@gmail.com">ruffartztickets@gmail.com</a> OR 0407 017090	@ Ruffy Recreation Reserve
	<b>Sunday 26th March @ 10am</b>	<b>HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS</b> Everyone is welcome to come rambling and discover our local district. Enquiries? Andrew 0437 249038 or Robyn 0409 528235	@ Highlands Hall
	<b>Thursday 30th March 5.30pm</b>	<b>SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS</b> All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards BBQ, BYO & chat	@ Caveat Church
	<b>Saturday 1st April @ noon</b>	<b>HCCC APRIL FOOL'S PICNIC</b> Everyone is invited to a day of fun, food and frivolity. <b>RSVP by 27th March for catering</b>	@ Ruffy Recreation Reserve
Details? See p.7	<b>Friday 7th April @ 12.30</b>	<b>RUFFY CFA - ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL GOOD FRIDAY APPEAL</b> Seafood luncheon and community fundraising event is on again! All welcome.	
	<b>Fri 7th - Mon. 10th April 10-4</b>	<b>DARREN GILBERT'S OPEN STUDIO @ YEA BUTTER FACTORY</b> Open in April especially for Easter - 13 Rattray St, Yea - discover some stunning artwork!	
	<b>Monday 10th April @ 11am</b>	<b>HIGHLANDS SPINNING CLUB</b> The Highlands spinning Club will get together in 2023 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? Jan 5790 4361	
	<b>Friday 14th April @ 6.30</b>	<b>DRINKS on the DECK</b> Starts @ 6.30pm, bring food to share and catch up with friends old and new. All welcome, especially new faces. Gold coin donation to cover power.	@ Highlands Community Hall Contact Paula 0419 551882
	<b>Every Second Wednesday 10-30-12.30</b>	<b>MURRINDINDI MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE</b> The Mobile Library visits the TGN area, based at the Highlands Hall every fortnight. Why not pop in? <b>Forthcoming dates are March 22nd and April 5th &amp; 19th.</b>	at Highlands Community Hall
	<b>Every Monday @ 10am</b>	<b>RUFFY QI GONG</b> has recommenced - EVERY Monday - at 10.00am.	
	<b>Every Tuesday 8.45 - 9.45 am</b>	<b>CUSTOM YOGA is BACK with Ingrid</b> \$20 per hour long class BYO mat and blanket	at the Tablelands Community Centre Enquiries? Ingrid <a href="mailto:ingstar.7@gmail.com">ingstar.7@gmail.com</a>





Hughes Creek  
Catchment  
Collaborative  
Landcare



# April fool's picnic

**Come along and enjoy a day of  
fun, food and frivolity**

**@Ruffy Recreation reserve**

**Saturday April 1st at noon.**

**All welcome**

**including well behaved pets.**

**HCCC will provide a lamb spit roast, bread and salads,  
with vegetarian, vegan & gluten free options available.**

**Limited drinks will be supplied, welcome to BYO.**

**Please bring a cake, fruit or dessert to share and  
chairs or picnic rug.**

**We are planning the following free activities for all :**

- Drone spraying demo & talk with Drone Spraying Australia
- Uncommon marsupial conservation
- Uncommon weeds identification
- Species Recovery - Banksia & acacia
- Bush art activity (all ages)
- Beekeeping

**IT'S FREE!  
RSVP  
NOW**

**0417 503 472  
0408 969 236**



RSVP by 27th March for catering purposes -  
phone:

Jenny Webb 0408 969 236

Janet Hagen 0458 904 268

Sue van Buuren 0411 010 379

or email [neil@hccclandcare.net.au](mailto:neil@hccclandcare.net.au)



## The Journey of Soil Organic Carbon as part of the Carbon Cycle

This journey begins with plants making photosynthesis: with sunlight's energy, plus water and nutrients, plants can convert atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> (inorganic carbon) into plant biomass (organic carbon), which can be consumed by animals at various levels of the food chain. Organic carbon is then converted back to the inorganic state through various mechanisms (e.g., the respiration process). This is the Carbon Cycle, i.e. carbon's endless journey from one storage reservoir to another (soil and rocks, atmosphere, oceans and living organisms). Without the Carbon Cycle, we wouldn't be here reading The Granite News. No grass, and no cows either. That's how important it is!

Interestingly, SOC input rates are foremost determined by growth and death of plant roots, while litter from leaves and shoots makes a smaller contribution; an even smaller amount is provided by root exudates - fluids released in the rhizosphere to inhibit harmful microbes and to promote the growth of self and kin. Only a portion of this organic carbon will be retained in the soil though, with respiration and leaching being the two main processes responsible for soil carbon loss.

Soil respiration is the net emission of CO<sub>2</sub> caused by all living beings in the soil, such as plant roots and soil micro- and macro-organisms, when they respire (the is the same breathing, but is specific for how the living cells of an organism obtain their energy).

If there is a net accumulation through all this process, carbon from the atmosphere is then sequestered into the soil, but how much and for how long will vary, depending on various factors, such as soil texture (clay and fine silt fraction), climate (temperature, annual rainfall, amount and distribution over the year), soil moisture and farm management practices. In fact, soil respiration itself is strongly influenced by temperature, moisture, nutrient content, and the levels of oxygen in the soil. This is why SOC losses can be limited by reducing tillage and erosion, minimising stubble burning and periods of fallow, and avoiding overgrazing. If you cannot wait until next week to learn more about it, go ahead and follow [this link](#)

### Funding Partners

This project is Funded by the Goulburn Broken CMA,  
From the Ground up program through funding  
from Australian Landcare and the Australian Government.

### Science partners

AgriSci Pty Ltd  
Dr. Cassandra Scheffe, Soil Scientist  
David Hawkey, Agronomist



### Farm Partners

Callum & Les Lawson, Lawson's Farm – Highlands.  
Cameron Stewart and Stephanie Reeves, Looking Glass – Highlands.  
Rob and Tim Hayes, Tarcombe Herefords – Tarcombe.

## HCCC Project Coordinator, Vanessa Malandrin

## After a 3 year hiatus - Cricket is Back!!

### Wilderness v Riverine Club & a match at Donald Bradman Oval

If you think that your cricketing skills are better than the current display of talent by the Australian team in India why not consider contacting **Scott McKay on 0427 969259** to be a part of the following matches. Even if you don't think you can outdo Nathan Lyon with his latest wicket haul, this is a once in a lifetime opportunity to play at the iconic Bradman Oval in Bowral and to visit the Museum.

### Saturday 25th March

Wilderness v Riverine Club  
At Stanley Oval 11.00  
Afterwards - Beechworth Brewery  
We would like to get the Sunshine Cup back from them.

### Wednesday 29th March

The Bradman Oval Bowral 11.00 am  
The Richmond Over 60's v Team TBC  
There is a bus organised to go up on Tuesday come back Thursday.





## Letter to the Editor

Hi Pauline

Just read the Granite news and saw John Sporry's beautiful story.

I attach a recipe for Elderberry jam.

Whilst googling I noticed some recipes didn't use pectin - not sure what that is, but this recipe does use it.

Maybe someone else will share a recipe with him and he can choose which one to use.

**Angela**

### ELDERBERRY JAM

Total Time: 20 mins

Hands-on Time: 20 mins

Makes: Approximately 1 litre

You'll love this easy-to-make recipe for preparing elderberries. This jam makes it easy to add elderberries to any meal.

#### Ingredients

1/2 cup Elderberries

3/4 cup water

1& 1/2 cups lemon juice

3 teaspoons pectin

1/2 cup honey

#### Directions

1. Allow elderberries to soak in water overnight.
2. In pot, bring berries, water, and lemon juice to a boil. Remove from heat and pour mixture, pectin, and honey into blender and blend until smooth.
3. Return blended mixture to pot and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and stir for 10 minutes.
4. Remove pot from heat and pour jam into canning jars.
5. Cover and place in fridge overnight. The jam will solidify as it cools.

**NB: Pectin is a soluble fibre found in fruits. It is used as a thickener in cooking and baking. Ed.**

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## Next Veggie Club meetings

Sharing garden knowledge and produce.

**Monday 20th March** at Cheryl & Jo's  
190 Red Gate Lane, Ruffy 3pm - 4.30pm

**Monday 24th April** at Barbara & David's  
196 Buntings Hill Road Ruffy  
3pm - 4.30pm.



For further details contact **Janet 0458 904268**

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## Letter to the Editor

Hi Pauline

We are responding to John Sporry's letter about his elderberry experiences. As we don't have his email address, could you please pass this onto him (and include the recipes in the TGN if you wish).

With John's Swiss background it is likely that his mother's recipe for elderberry jam came from a similar source as ours: a cookbook given to all girls as part as their compulsory education for the 'duties of a good housewife'.

The attachment gives recipes for elderberry jam and cordial. Elderberry flowers also make a lovely cordial (Verena could also supply a recipe for this).

Best regards

**Verena and Erwin Weinmann**

### Elderberry Jelly

Clean destalked berries, boil with a little water until berries burst, then strain through filter cloth.

For ½ litre of elderberry juice use ½ kg of sugar and some lemon juice, stir while bringing to boil.

Keep jelly mixture on boil for 5 to 8 minutes (until it jells when tested on a cold saucer).

Fill hot into glasses and finish as for jam.

### Elderberry Cordial

Process elderberries to juice, as for elderberry jelly, but cover berries with water.

For 1 litre of elderberry juice use ¼ to ½ kg of sugar, add a little lemon juice.

Stir while bringing to boil, keep on boil for about 5 minutes.

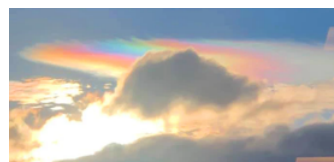
Fill hot into pre-heated bottles and seal immediately.



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**The Funeral service for Neil Nagle  
will be held at**

**Christ Church Anglican Church  
4 Anzac Avenue, Seymour  
Friday 24th March at 1.00pm**



WOODFORDIA INC. PRESENTS

*Coming to a Small Town Near You*  
*Festival of*  
*Small Halls*



*Scott Cook (CAN)*



*Folk Bitch Trio (AUS)*

*Autumn Tour 2023*  
*Port Fairy Folk Festival to Lake Gkula*  
*10th March 2023 – 9th April 2023*

[WWW.FESTIVALOFSMALLHALLS.COM](http://WWW.FESTIVALOFSMALLHALLS.COM)

*Wednesday 22th March at Merton Hall*

*Food Van & Drinks on sale at bar prices*  
*from 5:30–show at 7pm*

*Tickets on sale now—\$30 adults, \$10 Kids under 13*

*NO BYO Book : [festivalofsmallhalls.com](http://festivalofsmallhalls.com)*

*Marg 0409 955 809*

*or Merton General Store*

**Brown's**  
fertilisers  
service *first*



**Mansfield Shire**



Presented by **RuffArtZ**



**PHIL PARA**

**Saturday 25th March**

Twilight Concert from 4 PM  
Live at the Ruffy Rec, Reserve

BYO picnic (food, drinks, blanket etc.)  
Cost: \$20 per person, \$10 concession  
Tickets email [ruffartztickets@gmail.com](mailto:ruffartztickets@gmail.com) or  
Call 0407 017 090  
[www.ruffartz.com.au](http://www.ruffartz.com.au)



**Supported by Strathbogie Shire Council**

**Ruffy Fire Brigade's  
Royal Children's Hospital  
Good Friday Appeal  
Seafood Luncheon and Community  
Fundraising Event  
is on again!**



**Friday 7 April 2023  
@ 12.30pm  
All Welcome  
Put that date in your diary!**

**FOR SALE - Seriously cute puppies**

**Whippet pups.** Both parents very loyal family dogs. Born 30.11.2023 they are vaccinated, microchipped and vet checked ready to go. One solid male black, two tan and white males.

Baby Hector, named this as he looks exactly like his father, solid black body with white tips on the back of his paws and his chest. He LOVES his food, and is the fattest of the pups, and also enjoys some zoomies, albeit a little slower than his siblings because of his chub!

Sable is the gentlest of the bunch and the biggest. He prefers to quietly play by himself and hang back from the pack. Such a sweet boy who loves a cuddle! Sable is as his name suggests a Sable and White colour.

Stanley, is a bit of an old soul, Stanley is very polite and not to mention handsome! He is one of the smaller puppies. His colour is brown and white with dark patches on his cheeks.

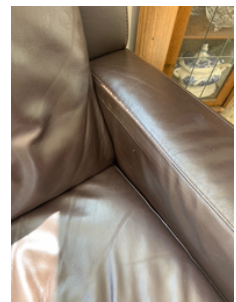
Microchip numbers: 95600001586496,  
956000015865654, 956000015866553

Breeder source number: MB108987 **Ring or text  
Kendall 0497 983 982 OR Robyn 0407 358 191**

**FOR SALE**

**3 seater brown leather couch,  
very heavy. Good condition,  
some wear on one arm as  
shown. \$150 ONO.**

**Call Sue 0411 010 379.**



**Did you know?**

A lack of quality sleep affects 1 : 4  
Australians

Quality sleep is 7 - 9 hours a night in  
quantity and preferably uninterrupted.





## Rabbit Control Information Morning

Join the Burnt Creek Landcare Group for a morning of rabbit control information and demonstration

**Saturday 1st April | 9.30am - 1pm**

Locksley, VIC | Address will be provided upon RSVP  
Morning tea & lunch provided

Learn about:

- Warren ripping and site management
- Fumigation of warrens
- Baiting and K5 release
- Compliance programs for rabbits

To RSVP please contact Susie Bate  
Email: [benacre49@gmail.com](mailto:benacre49@gmail.com) or Phone: 0409 174 041

ALL WELCOME | RSVP ESSENTIAL



## 'ON YOUR GUARD' PADDOCK TREE GUARDS

Now in its fifth year, the Goulburn Broken CMAs 'Linking Landscapes' Grey Box project aims to help protect and preserve our Grey Box Woodland landscapes across the catchment. One facet of this project is the 'On Your Guard' program, where landholders can receive at no charge, three paddock tree guards, for the purposes of protecting naturally regenerating 'paddock trees of the future' on their properties (or protecting planted seedlings that will grow into paddock trees).

The guards are purpose-built to resist sheep/cattle/deer/kangaroos, and stand at 1.8 metres high. A photo of the guards is below.

To receive three guards at no cost, please contact [janicem@gbcm.vic.gov.au](mailto:janicem@gbcm.vic.gov.au) for agreement form

The Linking Landscapes project also requires us to undertake landholder surveys, so we ask that all landholders receiving guards please click onto this Survey Monkey link

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Grey-Box\\_Woodlands](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Grey-Box_Woodlands) to reply to the very quick 7 survey questions.

Because of our project and reporting requirements, completing this survey is a requirement prior to landholders being able to receive the tree guards, so thank you in advance. If a question does not seem relevant, it can be missed. (This is an information gathering survey - there are no right or wrong answers!).

### PLEASE READ THE INFORMATION BELOW CAREFULLY:

To receive your three guards:

- Click on the Survey Monkey Link to complete the survey
- Have signed an agreement form available from Jancie Menitplay - see above
- Refer to the photo to the left so you are aware of the size/length of the guards so when you pick them up you have the correct sized vehicle/trailer that the 1.8m guards will fit into.

Bring along tie-downs and a pair of gloves, as the guards have sharp edges.

**NB: The guards are stored at the Benalla DELWP office, 89 Sydney Road, Benalla**



<p><b>HABBIES HOWE BEEF</b></p> <p>MATURE, WELL HUNG &amp; AVAILABLE</p> <p>IGA SEYMOUR GARY'S MEATS, PRAHRAN MARKET L&amp;L MEATS, BENTLEIGH</p> <p>SCOTCH AND FILLET ST HELENA, MENTONE &amp; MERNDA</p>	<p>Donated by supporters of the endangered Hairy Hop bush</p> 	<p><b>Chris Sharman</b></p> <p>Energy Efficiency &amp; Solar Energy Specialist</p> <p>Acme – Air Conditioning   Electrical   Solar</p> <p>M: 0418 551 301 T: Office - 9785 7339 E: <a href="mailto:chris@acmeair.com.au">chris@acmeair.com.au</a></p>	 <p><b>Darren Gilbert</b> open studio</p> <p>@ Yea Butter Factory</p> <p>Open every first weekend of the month Up to date Open Studio days &amp; times on <a href="http://www.monkeytaildesign.com">www.monkeytaildesign.com</a></p>
<p><b>The Pond Professor</b> Peter Graf</p> <p>DESIGNS, CREATES &amp; MAINTAINS BEAUTIFUL PONDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pond cleaning</li> <li>• Filtration systems</li> <li>• Fountains and waterfalls</li> <li>• Native fish and plants</li> <li>• Algae control</li> <li>• Water testing</li> <li>• Design and construction</li> <li>• Consulting services</li> </ul> <p>Phone: 0429 969 243 Email: <a href="mailto:info@pondprofessor.com.au">info@pondprofessor.com.au</a> <a href="http://www.pondprofessor.com.au">http://www.pondprofessor.com.au</a></p>	 <p><b>SEYMOUR EQUINE &amp; RURAL</b></p> <p>Supplying everything you need</p> <p>Products &amp; Expertise in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Animal Production</li> <li>- Pasture/Crop Protection</li> <li>- Fencing &amp; Livestock Handling</li> </ul> <p>PH: (03) 5792 1088 HELPING YOU GROW</p>	<p>Little Antechinus living in a hollow near you</p> 	<p><b>BenCo</b></p> <p>PLUMBING SERVICES</p> <p><b>Ben Laycock</b></p> <p>0438 512299 Licence no. 105134</p> <p><a href="mailto:ben@bencoplumbingservices.com.au">ben@bencoplumbingservices.com.au</a> <a href="http://bencoplumbingservices.com">bencoplumbingservices.com</a></p>
 <p><b>nomad art</b></p> <p>Online &amp; by appointment Avenel, M: 0428 308 793 <a href="http://www.nomadart.com.au">www.nomadart.com.au</a> Limited edition prints from regional and remote Australia</p>	<p><b>KOPANICA PASTORAL EXCAVATIONS &amp; CARTAGE</b></p>  <p>DAMS EARTHWORKS STOCK+WATER CARTAGE &amp; MORE</p> <p><b>0429 804 235</b> <a href="mailto:MICHAEL.KOPANICA@GMAIL.COM">MICHAEL.KOPANICA@GMAIL.COM</a></p>	<p>RURAL FENCING SERVICES</p> <p><b>JARRAD</b></p> <p>0409 082 257</p> 	
 <p><b>Murrindindi Shire Council</b></p> <p><b>Cr John Walsh</b> Koriella Ward Murrindindi Shire Council <a href="mailto:jwalsh@murrindindi.vic.gov.au">jwalsh@murrindindi.vic.gov.au</a> 0437 835 586</p>	<p><b>Tablelands Community Centre</b></p> <p>Upgraded facilities &amp; playground Ideal for Private or Community gatherings Meetings, Workshops Very reasonable rates Hosts 1<sup>st</sup> Friday BBQs Contact <a href="mailto:tccruffy@gmail.com">tccruffy@gmail.com</a> Ph 0404 833 388</p>	 <p>For All your Aerial Spraying or Spreading Needs. Specialising in Blackberries, Broadleaf, Thistles, Spreading lime/fertilizer &amp; 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 Eastern Small-eyed Snake</p> 	<p><b>HIGHLANDS GROVE</b></p> <p>Australian, family owned local producers of premium cold pressed extra virgin olive oil, made for your goodness and enjoyment.</p> <p>0417 018 070 <a href="mailto:enquiries@highlandsgrove.com.au">enquiries@highlandsgrove.com.au</a> <a href="http://highlandsgrove.com.au">highlandsgrove.com.au</a></p>	 <p><b>HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY HALL</b></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><b>Echidnas</b> take care of their habitat</p> 	<p><b>I'm FREE</b> but I could be all yours in 2023</p> <p>Email Editor to find out more</p> <p><a href="mailto:editor@tgn.org.au">editor@tgn.org.au</a></p>	<p>Need a website? <a href="http://bluetopbiz.com.au">bluetopbiz.com.au</a> Affordable web design &amp; maintenance. Presentations, marketing copy. Grant applications, project management Call</p> <p>Sue 0411 010 379 Neil 0417 503 472</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:sue@bluetopbiz.com.au">sue@bluetopbiz.com.au</a></p>	 <p><b>Strathbogie Granite Project</b> <a href="mailto:neil.phillips@bigpond.com">neil.phillips@bigpond.com</a></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, play and grow.  
May the current generations of Taungurung, HCCC residents & landowners continue this important custodianship into the future.