

# THE GRANITE NEWS



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



2nd April 2023 | Volume 17 Issue 12

## Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

Welcome this week to our newest supporters of the Granite News - Zara Marais and Fearghus Wallis - Granite Hills Community Nursery.

Fearghus and I have launched a new project - we are building a not-for-profit native plant nursery on our farm here in Highlands. We have a long way to go but to start with, we have grown a selection of advanced trees that are now ready for sale. Would it be possible for you to please let the Granite News subscribers know about this?

<https://www.granitehillsnursery.com.au/store> for more information.

The Granite News will be taking its usual school holiday break and will be back in your email inboxes on **Sunday 23rd April**. Until then best wishes for a happy Easter, safe travel on the roads and maybe even a visit by the Easter Bilby!



Read on for another excellent issue, Pauline And Kenny? Was on board the Ruffy CFA truck looking forward to the Good Friday RCH fundraising celebrations.

## Know Your Weeds

### Chilean Needle Grass - Nassella neesiana

Chilean Needle Grass is a tussock grass growing to about 1m in height with a loose flowering head to 40cm long. Flowers appear between March and August, which is the ideal time to control this invasive weed by either hand weeding or spot spraying with an appropriate herbicide. The leaves are up to 30cm long and 5mm wide and can be hairless, flat or slightly rolled.

The seeds are to be found in a raised crown consisting of a sheath with a ridge of small teeth that encircles the base of the awn (the awn is a long tail of seeds, that can be 60-90cms long). Each seed is 8-10mm long, pale brown, warty and hairless. Stem seed is also produced at swellings along the stem and the base of the leaves conceals these seeds.

This weed is a **Weed of National Significance** as it invades native grasslands and agricultural land and is difficult to selectively control.

It is easily spread by slashing or mowing or by cultivation as well as seed or plant pieces being carried on equipment, vehicles or machinery. Stock can eat the seeds and spread them as can farm produce.

As a perennial it lives for longer than a year.

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

"Dogs laugh with their tails."

Anon

How to write "I changed a lightbulb" on your resume:  
"Single-handedly managed the successful upgrade and deployment of a new environmental illumination system with zero cost overruns and no safety incidents."

## Did you know?

Koala populations are down across the region! So maybe it's time to take advantage of autumnal rains and plant some 'koala food' trees.

Month	Highlands	Ruffy	Terip
March	59.1 mm	49 mm	64.8 mm
2023 Total	86.3 mm	76.5 mm	147.6 mm
Rainy Days	9 days	8 days	11 days

NB: Fully vaccinated attendees are appreciated at all events.

## What's On - April 2023

Details?  
See p.5

**Friday 7th  
April @ 12.30**

**RUFFY CFA - ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL GOOD FRIDAY APPEAL**  
Seafood luncheon and community fundraising event is on again! All welcome.

**Fri 7th - Mon.  
10th April 10-4**

**DARREN GILBERT'S OPEN STUDIO @ YEA BUTTER FACTORY**  
Open in April especially for Easter - 13 Rattray St, Yea - discover some stunning artwork!



**Friday 14th  
April @ 6.30**

**DRINKS on the DECK** @ Highlands Community Hall  
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. **Contact Paula 0419 551882**



**Friday 15th  
April 12-2pm**

**HIGHLANDS BLACK MARKET** @ 94 Old Highlands Rd  
Bring along your excess produce, buy local & learn from each other.  
**Enquiries? Clare 0428 969366**



NB Date  
changed

**Monday 17th  
April @ 11am**

**HIGHLANDS SPINNING CLUB**  
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**

**Thursday 20th  
April @ 7pm**

**HCCC MONTHLY MEETING** @ Highlands Hall  
Everyone welcome - put the date on your diary now **Enquiries? Justus - 0427 524473**

Details?  
See p.4

**Saturday 22nd  
April 10-12**

**BIODIVERSITY is BACK!** @ Tablelands Community Centre  
Due to popular demand this excellent session on biodiversity mapping is back - encore!



**Monday 24th  
April 3-4.30pm**

**VEGGIE PATCH CLUB** @ 196 Buntings Hill Rd, Ruffy  
Sharing garden knowledge and produce. **Enquiries? Janet 0458 904268**

Details?  
See p.8

**Saturday 29th  
April @ 10am**

**POTTERY WORKSHOP** @ Tablelands Community Centre  
Join in the fun of community tile making. BYO lunch, tea & coffee provided.



**Sunday 30th  
April @ 10am**

**HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS** @ Highlands Hall  
Everyone is welcome to come rambling and discover our local district.  
**Enquiries? Andrew 0437 249038 or Robyn 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? **Forthcoming dates are April 5th & 19th and 3rd, 17th & 31st May.**

**Every Monday  
@ 10am**

**RUFFY QI GONG** has recommenced - EVERY Monday - at 10.00am.

**Every Tuesday  
8.45 - 9.45 am**

**CUSTOM YOGA is BACK with Ingrid** at the Tablelands Community Centre  
\$20 per hour long class BYO mat and blanket **Enquiries? Ingrid ingstar.7@gmail.com**

## HCCC APRIL FOOL'S PICNIC - a GREAT day out for all !

Approximately 50 locals attended the lamb spit roast lunch, served with scrumptious salads and Turkish bread, and followed by an array of desserts brought by the participants.


The attendees were treated to a drone spraying demonstration by Sonia Gulec from Drone Spraying Australia, and then a talk about weed spray chemicals for different purposes by Cody Stewart from Weed Force.

Whilst the weather was cool, the rain stayed away and the fire in the spit and the wood heater inside kept everyone comfortable at the beautiful Ruffy Recreation Reserve. It was a wonderful community gathering in support of Landcare. Thank you to all who attended.

**Sue van Buuren**







What's out there?  
Learn how to map  
the plants and  
animals around you

# Biodiversity Mapping

Why this is for you!

Many local people have been mapping some of their interesting wildlife into the [Strathbogie Ranges Nature Atlas project in iNaturalist](#). This information is valuable to help monitor impacts and changes to our environment. By identifying and mapping species we can demonstrate the importance of this unique area for biodiversity.

We'll show what we've been discovering and hear from you, the bio-mappers, to share some of your exciting and interesting discovery stories.

***Want to learn how to map the species around you?***

Join us if you couldn't make the first session to learn about the importance of mapping wildlife in our area and how to use some simple online tools.

## RUFFY TABLELANDS COMMUNITY CENTRE

**SATURDAY 22ND APRIL 2023**

**10am -12 NOON**

Janet Hagen: 0427 904 268

Sam Strong: 0417 576 306



THIS EVENT IS SUPPORTED BY THE HUGHES CREEK CATCHMENT COLLABORATIVE LANDCARE GROUP





**Ruffy CFA  
Seafood Luncheon  
& Royal Children's Hospital  
Good Friday Appeal**

**Good Friday April 7th..From 12:30pm**

**At the Ruffy Fire Shed**

**Fish & Chips, Salads & Desserts**

**Adults \$20 Kids \$5 (under 16)**

**Everyone is Welcome..bring family & friends,  
there'll be something for everyone**

**\* Jumping Castle \* Easter Egg Hunt**

**\* Royal Children's Hospital Raffle**

**\* Ruffy Fire Brigade Silent Auction including  
Hay, Drone Video Package, Firewood, local B&B voucher**

**For more information contact**

**Felicity 0413 483 450**

**George 0432 928 301**



# JOIN US FOR A FIELD DAY ON FARM DAMS



**When?** Saturday, May 6th, 10 am - 12 pm

**Where?** Weibye track, Ruffy

Join us for lunch afterwards

**Hear the latest research on:**

**Improving water quality and its benefits for productivity**

**Revegetating dams and adding habitat features**

**Farm dams as biodiversity hotspots**

**Reducing greenhouse gas emissions**

**Increasing water security**

**Reticulated water systems**

**RSVP by the 1st of May at [vanessa@hccclandcare.net.au](mailto:vanessa@hccclandcare.net.au)**



This event is sponsored by Hughes Creek  
Catchment Collaborative and  
The Australian National University  
Sustainable Farms



Hughes Creek  
Catchment  
Collaborative  
Landcare



## FREE Concert in Seymour!

Go Seymour is hosting a FREE school holiday concert by Formidable Vegetable Sound System at the Seymour sound shell, Goulburn Park. Kids and adults alike will enjoy a fantastic, fun and action packed afternoon that will celebrate fruits and vegetables.

It's harvest time in mid Autumn and the perfect time to celebrate the abundance. Pack your own picnic and drinks, walk or catch public transport to the event. Buses will run from Avenel, Nagambie, Yea and Puckapunyal, schedule to be advised, follow the Facebook event for all the updates, find the QR code on the poster.

This will be a waste free event. Seymour Show will have a kids' activity table to make your own scarecrow in preparation for the Seymour Show. There will be other community based stalls present.

Formidable Vegetable Sound System has a mission to inspire local action for global issues and now find themselves firmly planted in the fertile soils of the growing regenerative movements worldwide. Their latest album has just been released and their song "I love carrots" has charted on AMRAP. Inspiring minds young and old with songs about simple solutions for living a good life, Formidable Vegetable are most at home on the live stage, whether it be to heaving crowds at Glastonbury Festival (where they've performed several times) or school kids rocking out in the playground.

*"Songs are some of our most powerful tools for learning, remembering and sharing knowledge. Music can be so much more than entertainment" - Charlie Mgee, TEDx PERTH*

This event is proudly supported by Go Seymour, Rotary Club of Seymour, Seymour Health, BEAM Mitchell Environment Group, the food exchange, Seymour FM 103.9, Mitchell Shire Council, Seymour Show, Our Place, Blue Tongue Berries and Healthy Kids Mitchell.

Like to hear FV? <https://youtu.be/ALFWprP399Q>

## Free Firewood

Highlands Road  
Fallen Trees and Limbs

Ring 0412 805 872

## Don't Forget...

The next meeting of the HCCC is on  
**Thursday 20th April, 7pm at the Highlands Hall**  
Everyone is welcome to attend.



## Ruffy CFA Honour Board (1930 to present day)



A preview of the Honour Board text will be available for comment at the Ruffy CFA Royal Children's Hospital Appeal Luncheon on Friday 7th April from 12.30pm at the Ruffy Fire Shed.

## FOR SALE

Very large Dutch Dresser located in Highlands.

Size: Base 2.75 metres long & .508 metre deep.

Top 2.85 metres long approx.

Total Height 2.4 metres approx.



**Very solid in perfect condition.**

**\$675**

Phone Gavin 0419 309431

# Pottery

WORKSHOP

COMMUNITY TILE MAKING

TIME: 10 AM

BYO LUNCH TEA/COFFEE PROVIDED

SATURDAY 29TH  
APRIL 2023

27 nolans road  
ruffy

REGISTER NOW

tccruffy@gmail.com 0427 690 970

## BIRDS ON FARMS – 'YARRA TO YEA' WORKSHOP



Our workshop will explain the 'Birds on Farms: Yarra to Yea' project, including the benefits of bird monitoring and how to get involved, offer advice and tips for providing habitat for birds on rural properties, a short tutorial on bird surveys and bird identification, followed by a 'practice' 20-minute bird survey at the Yea Wetlands.

BirdLife Australia's 'Birds on Farms: Yarra to Yea' project works with landowners to develop scientifically rigorous and fully costed habitat plans, to help to increase the quality, connectivity, and resilience of woodland habitat on private rural properties and surrounds.

We encourage participants to bring a pair of binoculars if they have them.

**When: Friday 21st April**

**Time: 2.00PM to 3.00PM**

**Where: Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre, Hood Street Yea.**

To register contact Chris Cobern on [ugln\\_projects@ugln.net](mailto:ugln_projects@ugln.net)  
or 0413 855 490

### Important Covidsafe advice:

Do not attend the activity if you are unwell, especially with cold/flu symptoms.

Do not attend if you have been in contact with someone where there is a risk you may have been exposed to COVID-19 in the last 7 days.



## Birds on Farms Yarra to Yea

Would you like to learn more about woodland birds and their habitat preferences?

Would you like FREE, property-specific advice on how to attract birds to your rural property?

Would you like assistance with applying for funding for on-ground conservation activities?

Then the *Birds on Farms: Yarra to Yea* project is for you! We work with landowners (on any type of rural property) to develop scientifically rigorous and fully costed habitat plans and help source grants to fund their implementation. These habitat plans align with known conservation needs for threatened woodland birds, and will help increase the quality, connectivity, and resilience of woodland habitat on your property and surrounds.



J Carr



As part of our project, we also carry out engagement activities and citizen-science data collection (on birds and their habitat) with local landholders and the wider rural community. Our project operates within central-east Victoria, from the Yarra Valley to the Murrumbidgee Shire. Register your email at [yarratoyea@birdlife.org.au](mailto:yarratoyea@birdlife.org.au) to get involved in one or more of the following ways:

✎ Receive general tips and advice for providing habitat for birds on your rural property

✎ Fill out a simple expression of interest form to receive detailed property advice and a potential habitat plan

✎ Receive updates on upcoming bird ID workshops and planting days

✎ Register your property as part of the Birds on Farms monitoring program



This project is supported by private philanthropists, Ross Trust, Naylor Stewart Foundation, Garry White Foundation and Wettenhall Environment Trust.



## Goulburn Broken Regional Sustainable Agriculture Project Presentation Forum.

Hear from farmers, Landcare and Industry groups presenting the results of their projects conducted over the last 4 years.

Projects have been funded through the From the Ground Up project and include precision soil mapping and grazing management, cover cropping, regenerative grazing and much more.

**When: Thursday 20th April 2023**

**Where: University of Melbourne, Dookie Campus  
Dookie - Nalinga Rd Mount Major /Dookie**

**Time: 9.30am to register with a 10am - 3.00pm.  
Follow the signs to the Patrick Ryan Room**

Goulburn Broken CMA are hosting a forum to hear from farmers, Landcare and Industry groups presenting the results of their projects conducted over the last 4 years. Projects have been funded through the From the Ground Up project and include precision soil mapping and grazing management, cover cropping, regenerative grazing and much more.

Register [Here](#) to attend this forum



### **VOLUNTEER HUB - REGISTER NOW**

Are you a group or organisation accepting volunteers? Would you like to share your organisation's volunteering opportunities with the community? Register your organisation to have it listed on Council's Volunteer Hub!

To celebrate National Volunteer Week (15 – 21 May) and to help community groups and organisations recruit more volunteers, Council will be launching a 'Volunteer Hub'.

The purpose of the Volunteer Hub is to promote volunteering and increase volunteering opportunities for organisations and individuals in Murrindindi Shire. It allows Council to highlight how community members can become more involved in their community.

To participate, add your organisation or group to our list by completing the form on our online engagement platform at [theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/volunteer](https://theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/volunteer)

Submissions are open until Sunday 30 April.

### **FREE GREEN WASTE DISPOSAL IN APRIL**

Until 30 April, you can dispose of your green waste for FREE at Council's Resource Recovery Centres in Alexandra, Yea, Kinglake, Eildon and Marysville.

This includes domestic quantities of grass clippings, leaves, garden trimmings, branches, and tree trunks.

For green waste to be acceptable, it must:

- not be mixed up with other materials.
- be no longer than 1.5 m in length and be less than 25 cm in diameter. Branches and stumps larger than this will continue to incur a fee.

For more information, visit our website and search 'green waste' or give us a call.

### **STAY INFORMED**

To stay up to date with the latest Council news, visit [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/news](https://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/news) or follow us on Facebook.

### **GET IN TOUCH**

[customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au](mailto:customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au)  
[murrindindi.vic.gov.au/request](https://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/request)  
5772 0333

### **LINE-MARKING WORKS**

Council's Line-Marking Program is underway and will run until the end of April 2023 across Murrindindi Shire.

Contractors will begin in Marysville then work their way to Kinglake, Castella, Toolangi, Alexandra, Eildon, Thornton, Yarck, Highlands, Yea and Murrindindi.

Please be aware that there may be some slight delays if you're driving through these areas. When you see our workers, please slow down and drive safely. It's up to all of us to protect the people who are working on our roads network.

### **ONLINE FLOODS HUB**

Need support and information regarding flood recovery? Visit our online Floods Hub on the Council's website by clicking on the blue banner at the top of the web page.

Here you will have access to a range of resources including:

- the latest editions of the Murrindindi Shire Flood Recovery Newsletter
- notices of community meetings and events
- updates on infrastructure impacts, closures and upcoming repairs
- wellbeing, financial and waste support resources

Any community member affected by the October 2022 Floods is eligible to receive support from a Flood Recovery Support Worker through the Goulburn Flood Recovery Service. The Recovery Support Workers is your single point of contact and can assist you by providing service navigation, information and advice, referrals for additional support (financial and wellbeing support) and can provide assistance with paperwork and accessing grants.

### **DRAFT ANNUAL BUDGET 2023/2024**

Council is preparing its draft Annual Budget for the next financial year. The draft Budget will soon be made available to the community for comment this month. Keep an eye out on Council's website, our online engagement platform, The Loop, and Council's Facebook page for more information on how you can provide feedback.

<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>Advanced Trees FOR SALE</b></p>  <p><a href="https://www.granitehillsnursery.com.au/store">https://www.granitehillsnursery.com.au/store</a></p>	<p>Need a website? <a href="http://bluetopbiz.com.au">bluetopbiz.com.au</a></p> <p>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.