

THE GRANITE NEWS



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



23rd April 2023 | Volume 17 Issue 13

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

Although The Granite News is read right across our wide brown land (and even overseas) those TGN readers, who actually live within the HCCC area, are lucky enough to have not one, not two, but three social events each month to choose from to socialise and enjoy with their neighbours.

Ruffy offers the First Friday of the Month BBQ, the second Friday each month sees Drinks on the Deck happening at Highlands and then there's Secret Men's Business at Caveat on the last Thursday each month.

I suspect that cross-pollination between these events might be limited but all are important and valuable gatherings for each of their respective communities. A chance to catch up with people not seen for a while, or to enjoy a good meal with friends or to just get out and about and be a part of our wonderful local and inclusive communities.

My own local gathering is Drinks on the Deck, but sadly a regular monthly attendance is not always feasible. However, I was privileged to be a part of April's meeting when the Side Walk Engineer shared his thoughts and memories of another local chap with us. It was a very special occasion and I thank the SWE for making the evening so memorable for all of us who were there - it's what community is all about.

If you haven't managed to attend one of these excellent gatherings as yet I urge you to do so, it's a great way to spend a few hours and become a part of our wonderful local communities.

Read on for another excellent issue, Pauline
And Kenny? Was enjoying the HCCC's April Fool's Picnic of course.



Stop Press

It wasn't just the adults who had fun at the HCCC's April Fool's Picnic. The next generation did 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

"Everyone thinks they have the best dog and none of them are wrong."

W. R. Purche



Did you know?

\$8 billion worth of edible food is discarded annually. The average household in NSW alone wastes \$1,000 each year on food bought but never eaten.

Organic waste accounts for upwards of 40% of the average Australian household's rubbish bin.

If only 1% of Australians composted, we would collectively save 28.2 million kgs of waste from landfill and 45.1 million kgs of CO2 emissions every year.

Good Money - Australian Ethical

	NB: Fully vaccinated attendees are appreciated at all events.	What's On - April & May 2023	
	Monday 24th April 3-4.30pm	VEGGIE PATCH CLUB Sharing garden knowledge and produce.	@ 196 Buntings Hill Rd, Ruffy Enquiries? Janet 0458 904268
	Thursday 27th April @ 5.30	SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards BBQ, BYO & chat	@ Caveat Church
Details? See p.5	Saturday 29th April @ 10am	POTTERY WORKSHOP Join in the fun of community tile making. BYO lunch, tea & coffee provided.	@ Tablelands Community Centre
	Sunday 30th April @ 10am	HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS Everyone is welcome to come rambling and discover our local district. Enquiries? Andrew 0437 249038 or Robyn 0409 528235	@ Highlands Hall
	Friday 5th May from 6pm	FIRST FRIDAY of the MONTH BBQ It's time to put the FUN back into Friday nights! Enquires: 0427 690970 or tccruffy@gmail.com	@ Tablelands Community Centre
Details? See p.4	Saturday 6th May 10-12	HCCC's FIELD DAY on FARM DAMS An excellent opportunity to discover the latest research on dams RSVPs by May 1st	@ Weibye Track, Ruffy
	Sat.6th & Sun. 7th May 10-4	DARREN GILBERT'S OPEN STUDIO @ YEA BUTTER FACTORY Open first weekend each month - 13 Rattray St, Yea - discover some stunning artwork!	
	Monday 8th May @ 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
	Friday 12th May @ 6.30	DRINKS on the DECK 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
	Every Second Wednesday 10-30-12.30	MURRINDINDI MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE The Mobile Library visits the TGN area, based at the Highlands Hall every fortnight. Why not pop in? Forthcoming dates are 3rd, 17th & 31st May and 14th & 28th June.	at Highlands Community Hall
	Every Monday @ 10am	RUFFY QI GONG has recommenced - EVERY Monday - at 10.00am.	
	2nd & 4th Sundays	ST DAVID'S UNITING CHURCH - TERIP RUFFY 2nd Sunday 11.15am Pastor Scott Leslie / 4th Sunday 11am Morning tea & Study group	
	Every Tuesday 8.45 - 9.45 am	CUSTOM YOGA is BACK with Ingrid \$20 per hour long class BYO mat and blanket	at the Tablelands Community Centre Enquiries? Ingrid ingstar.7@gmail.com

Letter to the Editor

A big THANK YOU.

A few weeks ago, Sue and I hosted a small group of local people for a Sri Lankan lunch; the aim was to raise money for a charity in Sri Lanka, the Tea Leaf Trust (TLT), who run a number of campuses around the hill country tea estates in Sri Lanka.

"TLT run educational programmes for children and young people in Sri Lankan tea estates, lifting them and their families out of poverty through employment, further education, and training. The current constantly evolving economic situation in Sri Lanka, in particular, the high inflation and increased cost of living, is making it extremely difficult for our students to regularly attend school. They are being forced to choose between going to school and having enough food for their family".

"Tea Leaf Trust was founded by Yasmene Shah and Tim Pare, who travelled to the Sri Lankan tea estates in 2007 whilst on their honeymoon. Their romanticised picture of the tea estates was turned upside down when they witnessed the tragic conditions that Indian Tamil women work in, the poverty of their community and the hardship of their history. Yas and Tim decided to move their lives to Sri Lanka and do something about it."

"We exist to lift Sri Lankan Tea Estate communities out of extreme poverty. We created Tea Leaf Trust for the Indian Tamils of the tea estates who are deliberately kept as an uneducated and dependent workforce. 83% of tea estate women suffer domestic violence, 85% of male tea estate workers are alcoholics and youth suicide rates are disproportionately high."

"Tea Leaf Trust is a Sri Lankan-led charity that runs free, high-quality education programmes for professional, personal and leadership development. All so that our youth alumni can lift their families out of extreme poverty and lead change from within the tea estates."

"14 years later Tea Leaf Trust has helped 39,182 youth through education with over 80% of young people progressing into employment, further education and training. Along the way, these young people have, in turn, supported 349,397 members of their communities."

"OVER 80% OF OUR STUDENTS LIVE OFF LESS THAN \$1 A DAY"

Source [HTTPS://TEALEAFTRUST.COM/](https://tealeaftrust.com/)

The aim - purpose of this letter is to publicly say a very big thank you to all who attended and their generosity. We have been living in the Highlands/ Whiteheads Creek community for nearly 12 years (not yet locals, a long way to go). The friendship and the sense of community we have felt in those 12 years is amazing.

We talked about the event that night and how successful it was, and how lucky we are to live in this community. By comparison we came here from one of Melbourne's more well known and affluent suburbs where we knew no one, not even our closest neighbours and we would have never contemplated running such an event.

After consulting with the Trust, we have decided that the money raised, nearly \$2,000, will be spent on purchasing over 350 pocket dictionaries and given to all new students.

We can't thank the community enough, and we consider living here a joy and a privilege.

Sue and Neil van Buuren

Letter to the Editor

Good morning Pauline,
I hope you are enjoying the Easter break.

I'm writing to thank you for the support you gave the Merton community in publishing our flyer for the Festival of Small Halls on March 22.

The evening was a great success & we had a sell out performance on the night.

People came from the local & surrounding areas & from further afield too. Your support meant a lot to us as we are trying to make community building & interaction a priority in everything we do.

The Granite News definitely works towards the same goals—thanks for your persistence & positive outlook as you publish this important document each week.

Warm regards,
Margaret FitzGerald
Chair, Merton Recreation & Memorial Hall Reserves Inc

Notice of Public Meeting

Saturday 6th May 2:00pm at Ruffly Hall

An open meeting for the community to hear from the SRRCG committee on developments with the proposed Seymour Wind Farm.

The committee will present their current strategy and explain what activities are being worked on, what activities the general community can assist with, and any specific requests for assistance that community members may be able to provide.

Community members will have the opportunity to voice concerns, ask questions of the committee, or offer to join the committee to assist in our opposition to this proposal.

If you have any specific concerns or questions that you would like to be addressed it would assist us to have them prior to the meeting, you can email them to info@srrcg.com

Darryl Otzen
Secretary srrcg.com

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



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



Hughes Creek
Catchment
Collaborative
Landcare

Know Your Weeds

Pampas Grass - Cortaderia Selloana

A standard feature of any 1970s suburban garden.

Pampas is an undeclared, but still invasive weed that can be hard to eradicate due to its fibrous rhizomes spreading in clumps up to 4 metres across and 3 metres deep, along with its flower plumes that are capable of producing 100,000 seeds that can be blown for several kilometres.

It is best described as a large tussock forming grass with long, narrow drooping leaves and white to pink clusters of flowers 30-90cm long, on stems 4 metres tall. These flowers appear between March and May.

Its leaves are bluish green above and dark green below, 2 metres long and tapering to a fine point with serrated edges.

As well as being spread by seed dispersal and rhizome invasion it can often be spread by careless disposal of garden waste.

The best time for eradication of this perennial weed is September to December with October and November being optimum - spot spraying (with appropriate herbicide) and mechanical removal are the most efficient methods of treatment.

For further information re eradication email -
info@hccclandcare.net.au



Want to get rid of your WEEDS?

Several of the Know Your Weeds articles featured in TGN in recent issues suggest spot spraying - with an appropriate herbicide - as a means to control and/or eradicate certain weed problems.

As the use of some chemicals is restricted in the Goulburn Broken Catchment (HCCC's home ground) you should always seek advice on the appropriate herbicide for your situation and use in accordance with the manufacturer's label.

Cody Stewart from Weed Force Agrichemicals >>> presented on this topic at the April Fool's Day picnic and would therefore be a good source of such advice.

Free Firewood

Highlands Road - Fallen Trees and Limbs

Ring 0412 805 872

TABLELANDS COMMUNITY CENTRE

Pottery

WORKSHOP

COMMUNITY TILE MAKING

TIME: 10 AM

BYO LUNCH TEA/COFFEE PROVIDED

SATURDAY 29TH APRIL 2023

27 nolans road ruffy

REGISTER NOW

tcruddy@gmail.com 0427 690 970

SEYMOUR EQUINE & RURAL

03 5792 1088

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Controls a wide range of broadleaf weeds
in lawns and turf*

WEED CONTROL IN PASTURES
Controls over 45 different broadleaf weeds
in grass pastures*

*Always read the product label before using this product

Sustainable Soils

Dear Granite News readers,

It's been a couple of busy weeks!

On the 31st of March I attended the Sustainable Soils Forum in Bendigo, hosted by the North Central Catchment Management Authority. The Honourable Penelope Wensley AC (National Soils Advocate) spoke about the fundamental need for more awareness of the importance of healthy soils for healthy communities, as soil health is recognised more and more to be connected to human health.

Soil is a fragile resource which is degraded in many parts of the world, a theme addressed in Dr Peter Dahlhaus's presentation (Principal Research Fellow, CeRDI).

According to the "Australia State of Environment Report" (2021), the overall state of soil health in Australia is poor, with main issues being land clearing, climate change and groundcover loss. In the intensive land-use zone, soil health is very poor (nutrient imbalance, soil structure decline and land-use intensification), and poor in the extensive land-use zone (grazing, clearing, climate change, groundcover loss).

Dr Dalhaus also offered a snapshot of all the resources available online to access information and data about soil, like Ansis (Australian National Soil Information System), Soil and Landscape Grid of Australia, Soil Health Knowledgebase, Soil Science Australia, and Victorian resources online.

The forum continued with presentations on how groups and individuals are working together to improve their soils, with the following speakers: Jade Killloran, Central Vic Regen Farmers group; Deane Belfield, Mt Alexander Regen Ag group; Danny Pettingill, Loddon Plains Future Farming group; Andrew Borg, Kara Kara Regen Ag group, and Jessica Conlan, Runnymede Farm, Elmore.

Next week I'll write about the Sustainable Agriculture Project forum in Dookie (20th of April), with presentations on soil carbon (including our HCCC project), soil acidity and biodiversity on farms.

Vanessa Malandrin



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.

AROUND EUROA Watercolours



Join local artist, musician and author

Bruce Hargrave

as he launches "Around Euroa"

- a new book of his paintings of Euroa scenes.

Euroa Library

Thursday 27th April

2.30 - 5 pm.

Afternoon tea provided

Book and art launch in the Euroa Library - 27th April

Bruce is a fantastic local artist, water colours mainly, and he's compiled a number of his works into this stunning publication - Around Euroa.

Bruce is generously donating the proceeds of the book sales at the launch to the Bogie Tree local environment project - Tea-towels for Trees!

Tea-towels for Trees! (wait till you see the designs!) is the follow-up to Pizzas for Trees, the Tableland community fundraising project to help landholders plant trees on their farms/properties.

Bruce's generosity will help us print the tea-towels and, through their sale, subsidise the purchase of hundreds of trees for which we're very grateful indeed.

All that remains is to come along to the Euroa Library on the April 27th, enjoy afternoon tea and buy a copy of Around Euroa!

See poster above for more details.

Calling all crafty people, that's crafty as in arty, as opposed to sneaky....

The annual UFO (Un-Finished Projects) weekend is once again happening at the Highlands Hall on

Saturday 27th & Sunday 28th May

Come along & have a great time continuing or commencing your next masterpiece

For further information **0408 246308**



<p>HABBIES HOWE BEEF</p> <p>MATURE, WELL HUNG & AVAILABLE</p> <p>IGA SEYMOUR GARY'S MEATS, PRAHRAN MARKET L&L MEATS, BENTLEIGH</p> <p>SCOTCH AND FILLET ST HELENA, MENTONE & MERNDA</p>	<p>Donated by supporters of the endangered Hairy Hop bush</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>Darren Gilbert open studio</p> <p>@ Yea Butter Factory</p> <p>Open every first weekend of the month Up to date Open Studio days & times on www.monkeytaildesign.com</p>
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 <p>Murrindindi Shire Council</p> <p>Cr John Walsh Koriella Ward Murrindindi Shire Council jwalsh@murrindindi.vic.gov.au 0437 835 586</p>	<p>Tablelands Community Centre</p> <p>Upgraded facilities & playground Ideal for Private or Community gatherings Meetings, Workshops Very reasonable rates Hosts 1st Friday BBQs Contact tcrcruffy@gmail.com Ph 0404 833 388</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 Eastern Small-eyed Snake</p> 	<p>HIGHLANDS GROVE</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 enquiries@highlandsgrove.com.au highlandsgrove.com.au</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>Granite Hills Community Nursery</p>  <p>www.granitehillsnursery.com.au</p>	<p>Need a website? bluetopbiz.com.au</p> <p>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>Strathbogie 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, play and grow.
May the current generations of Taungurung, HCCC residents & landowners continue this important custodianship into the future.