

THE GRANITE NEWS



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



21st May 2023 | Volume 17 Issue 17

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

Although the weather is cooling down for winter interesting events and informative evenings in the HCCC area are likely to delay the winter hibernation of us humans.

One such event, coming up on **Wednesday 8th June**, is the first in what will be a series of informal, yet informative, Q+A meetings for local farmers, landholders and land managers to come along and ask questions of a knowledgeable guest speaker. The idea is to increase local awareness of issues that are important for or impacting on our local environment.

To commence this incredibly worthwhile initiative of the Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative (HCCC) the first two topics will be Soil Carbon and Deer Control and Farming - to be held at the Highlands Hall from 5-7pm. Further details are to be found on p.3.

Read on for another excellent issue, Pauline
And Kenny? Was trying to sell the Catch and Release trap

Know Your Weeds

Black Knapweed - *Centaurea nigra* State Prohibited Weed

An erect herb growing to 1m tall and spreading by creeping lateral roots.

It has reddish-purple flowers, that are 3-4cm in diameter with forked outer petals. These appear from December to February at the end of the branches, one flower per branch.

Its leaves are grey to green, hairy and oblong-shaped with the lower leaves being up to 25cm long and with smooth edged or toothed whilst the upper leaves are smaller and clasp the stem

The stems are erect and up to 1m long and turn from green to purple when mature. They are also ridged, hairy and rough to touch.

This plant prohibits the germination and growth of desirable species and is not grazed by stock.

Seed spread occurs in many ways - seeds eaten by stock or distributed by slashing or mowing. Seeds and plant pieces can also be moved by equipment, vehicles and contaminated soil.

Control of this weed is by DEECA from October - February.

For further information re eradication email -

info@hccclandcare.net.au

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

On painting...."There are enough unpleasant things in the world."

**Pierre-Auguste Renoir
(1841 - 1919)**
French Impressionist painter



Black Knapweed in flower

	NB: Fully vaccinated attendees are appreciated at all events.	What's On - May & June 2023
	Wed. 24th May @ 7pm	TABLELANDS COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP @ Tablelands Community Centre
	Thursday 25th May @ 5.30pm	SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS @ Caveat Church All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards BBQ, BYO & chat
	Sunday 28th May @ 10am	HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS @ Highlands Hall Everyone is welcome to come rambling and discover our local district. Enquiries? Andrew 0437 249038 or Robyn 0409 528235
	Monday 29th May 2-4pm	RUFFY VEGE PATCH CLUB @ Pip & Steven's 91 Boat Hole Road Ruffy Sharing, ideas, knowledge and produce - NOTE new time Enquires? Janet 0458 904268
	Fri. 3rd June from 6pm	FIRST FRIDAY of the MONTH @ Tablelands Community Centre It's time to put the FUN back into Friday nights! Enquiries: 0427 690970 or tccruffy@gmail.com
Details? see p.3	Wed. 8th June 5-7pm	HCCC - MEET, SNACK & CHAT @ Highlands Hall First in a series of informal farming chats. All welcome. vanessa@hccclandcare.net.au
	Friday 10th June 6.30pm	DRINKS on the DECK @ Highlands 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
NB NEW day/date	Tuesday 13th June @ 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 and coffee will be provided. Enquiries? Jan 5790 4361
	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 31st May and 14th & 28th June.
	2nd Tuesdays 10-noon	TABLELANDS KIDS PLAY GROUP @ Tablelands Community Centre, Ruffy All ages welcome - Nature play - Playground - Toys - Friends 25th May, June 6th & 20th
	Every Monday @ 10am	Qi Gong is in recess until Monday 10th July 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 at the Tablelands Community Centre \$20 per hour long class BYO mat and blanket Enquiries? Ingrid ingstar.7@gmail.com



Farmers gathering 'Meet, Snack and Chat' - Soil Carbon, Deer Control and Farming

From your HCCC Landcare Coordinator, Vanessa Malandrin

All farmers, landowners and land managers are invited for a gathering on **Thursday 8th of June** at the **Highlands Hall, from 5 pm to 7 pm**.

We will bring food to share, but feel free to bring your favourite nibbles and drinks.

This event is sponsored by HCCC Landcare, and launches our casual gatherings around a theme, where farmers and locals can get together to chat about what matters most to them right now.

Landcare facilitators will help to get the conversation going by providing an update on our Soil Carbon project and our plans to explore more in depth the topic of Soil Health (depending on funding).

Deer management is another topic that has been brought up by the community as very relevant and in need of attention. Our local expert in deer control - Michelle Hanslow - will be our guest speaker and in future we are planning to organise Q&A sessions around various topics, where experts will be invited to join us.

See you all there on Thursday the 8th of June at the Highlands Hall, from 5 pm to 7 pm.
Please RSVP to vanessa@hccclandcare.net.au for catering purposes.



This event is brought to you as part of our Soil Carbon project, and is funded by the Goulburn Broken CMA, From the Ground Up program through funding from Australian Landcare and the Australian Government.



Nature Restoration for Carbon Storage - Bushbank Program

Attention All Landholders The Victorian Government is investing \$30.9 million to revegetate and restore at least 20,000 hectares of native habitat across private land in Victoria. That's an area 10,000 times the size of the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) or twice the size of Phillip Island, which will be transformed into healthy habitat for native wildlife.

Cassinia Environmental is the government's delivery partner for the BushBank program and they will work with more than 20 other partners to secure significant co-investment to achieve this ambitious goal. Cassinia Environmental will support private landowners throughout their restoration projects and help them tap into financial incentives available through biodiversity and carbon markets.

Cassinia Environmental is now taking expressions of interest to participate in this exciting and innovative private land stream of the BushBank program.

Guidelines: go to www.cassinia.com/bushbank for landholder project guidelines, including details about the BushBank program.

BushBank Program overview: Nature restoration for carbon storage – BushBank program (environment.vic.gov.au)

Expressions of Interest close: 31 July 2023 for the pilot stage of the BushBank program, and are submitted at www.cassinia.com/bushbank. Note: Expressions of Interest received after 31 July 2023 will be considered for future rounds of the BushBank program.

More information: contact Cassinia Environmental on bushbank.partner@cassinia.com or call **1300 572 164** to discuss your proposal.

A Cricket Tour

The 7th Wilderness V Riverine Club battle for the Sunshine Cup reflects the times, no longer a knock-em-down, tear-em-up, win at all costs affair, this match was all about inclusiveness & tolerance.

We included the tired, the weak, the injured and the old and if this sounds like the inscription on the Statue of Liberty it is because she reflects our fielding, although I believe she might be more mobile. The Riverine Club tolerated a lot of youth and relatives of ex-test cricketers.

We started well with Alan Jarrott (30no), Andrew Shaw (7), Rod Watson (36no), Scott McKay (15no) and Brent Kelly (11) before Greg Pritchard was run out causing a batting collapse of the tail, only saved from embarrassment by the sturdy defiance at the end by Greg's Sista Pudd.

Sorry Greg but there is an anomaly here in that your super-model-looking-Sista (or the Blonde Bombshell Babe from Beechworth) is the one in the family called PUDD. Anyway, we made 134.

My Brother Dugald's teams openers O'Reilly were sadly not the grandsons of the famously incompetent Irish builder in Fawcett Towers, but the other one Bill (see Australian Bibliography of Sport) and the number 3 batsman Tim is nephew of a fair cricketer called "The Don". He was followed at 4 by Boyce (see Keith, West Indies circa 1970s). They made 94 between them but their tail of no-known-cricket-names-of -any-importance only made another 129 before the unluckiest cricketer in Australia, Robert Menzies was caught by the man described by the Richmond Over 60s as "the bloke who couldn't catch Covid" - me.

All in all we just lost but that didn't stop us retiring to the Bridge Road Brewery for refreshments and some of the finest Pizza this side of the equator.

In the old days this would have been regarded as a bloodbath, a shellacking, a blight on the game but not now, The Highlands Captain said to the assembled press afterwards, "This wasn't a loss but a learning". When asked what those learnings were he said, "We learnt that the next team we bring here will be that strong that Marcus Hill will be lucky to be twelfth man and Hamish McAlpin will be carrying the oranges. Brown paper bags of money will be involved and the only reason I am not trying to do a Tonya Harding on my brother is because he's playing for us in the next match at The Don Bradman Oval". (Now there is a segue)

The Sir Don Bradman Oval - Bowral was the venue for the survivors (plus a few of my cricketing mates from Sydney) to take on the Richmond Over 60s on the following Wednesday. We claimed an advantage as we thought the bus trip up the Hume would take the sting out of them, it didn't.

The day started well when Ian Whiton from Buffalo Sports presented all players with an authentic baggy green (the fact it had the wrong date and a spelling error bothered no one)



Duncan Ferguson (11no), Myself (18no) and Captain Greg Pritchard (15no) got away to a flyer before torrential rain set in. Bowral Oval supplied a morning tea up there with shearing sheds in the old days (oh they were good) then we were shown around the Bradman Museum and if the museum is anything to go by, I'm picking him next year to play for the Wilderness. When we finally emerged from cricketing tragic heaven, the rain had slowed to a drizzle and cleared while we had a lunch fit for a Sunday game in an English Village.

After lunch out came the "super-sopper". Sadly this was human powered but after a two-hour tag team of Sopping the outfield, the covers were removed, the boundary was brought into the high tide line, play resumed about 3.00pm and we got in our allotted 30 over game with modified rules. Dugald McKay (17) and the mid-week draftees from Sydney did their chance of selection at Beechworth no harm as they all averaged in the high 20s. getting us to 166.

Tim the bus driver, who will get to 60 in the later part of this century, dominated the Richmond bowling with 4 wickets.

Richmond came out firing and their openers scored 72 and it looked like another learning was about to happen before the astute captaincy of Greg Pritchard came to the fore, slowing the run rate and taking vital wickets with draftee Richard taking 2-17, Greg 1-20 and Scott 3-26. Then it came down to the last ball, which was caught by "Couldn't catch Covid" McKay. This worried the author as things come in threes.

After further sampling the hospitality of the Bradman Oval we celebrated our tie at the Bowral Hotel. Thanks to Greg Pritchard, who organised and donated the day at Bowral, for a great experience that we will treasure for years to come.

Finally proving that things do come in 3's - three days later I finally caught Covid.

Scott McKay

Letter to the Editor

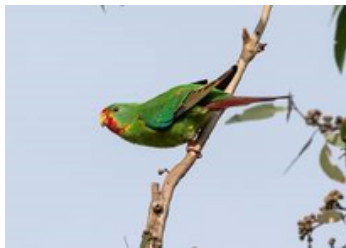
Dear Editor,
In reading your excellent editorial from the last issue of Granite News I cannot help but think of the fate of migratory birds in the Strathbogies Ranges.

The Swift Parrot is a critically endangered species which spends winters in Northern New South Wales and summers in Tasmania. Swift parrots have been observed passing through the Southern Strathbogies in April in the Upton Hill area.

Recently I spoke to Chris Tzaros a professional fauna consultant who has been engaged by Landcare to undertake extensive bird surveys throughout the Strathbogies over a number of years. Our property is included in his survey which is located next to a proposed wind turbine host property. He was very concerned about the threat to the parrot with the proposed wind farm.

In referring to the State Government Planning and Policy Guidelines for the development of wind energy facilities in Victoria the proprietor is required to keep a log of all of the bird and bat fatalities for a two year period.
Yet another threat to the biodiversity of our SHARED unique environment

John Curtis
Caveat Dropmore Road
Highlands



Swift Parrot - source
BirdLife Australia

Many hands make light work

With Mudbash at Mafeking Park almost upon us - and for the first time in 7 decades it will be on the King's Birthday Weekend - the Highlands Caveat CFA will once again be selling firewood and rattling donation buckets, along with POS squares, at the front gate.

If any community members who would like to help out with this fundraising effort please contact

David - 0417 150115 for wood sales OR
Pauline - 0408 246308 for gate fundraising

Thanks in advance for any offers of assistance.

Ruffy Community Action Group

Meeting: Wednesday 24th May

Time: 7pm

Place: Tablelands Community Centre

27 Nolans Rd Ruffy

<<< FREE to GOOD HOME >>>

Piano to give away

Contact - 5796 9328 OR 0450 035981



We need your recipe

**Tablelands Community Centre
COOKBOOK FUNDRAISER**

Recipes for comfort, pleasure, celebration, family, friends
The Tablelands Community Centre welcomes you to contribute your favourite recipe to be published in our fundraising cookbook

Submit your recipe : email tccruffy@gmail.com or drop off at Community Centre mailbox 27 Nolans Road, Ruffy
Include: Title, submitted by, ingredients, method

Cover Design: Calling all artists! Please submit your best design for the cookbook cover and selected cover will win free copy of cookbook

In Their Own Words: We are calling on parents/grandparents to have your child tell us their favourite food/meal. This can be handwritten by your child or transcribed by a parent to be included in cookbook

The funds raised from sales will go towards the increasing costs of running the Community Centre at an affordable level to all users

Thank you for your support

Email: tccruffy@gmail.com or 0427 690 970



You are invited to a free outdoor multi-sensory digital projection event streaming across the historic North Eastern Hotel building and surrounds.

This is an all ages event created by local youth and school students in collaboration with Little Projection Company.

The North Eastern Hotel is in De Boos St, Euroa. The precinct can be accessed by pedestrians from the eastern side of the town via the railway underpass. Car parking in surrounding streets. Some food vans will be onsite.

BIOLUMINESCENCE celebrates the importance of fungi in healthy ecosystems.



Strathbogie
SHIRE COUNCIL

FRIDAY
26 MAY 2023
6-9PM

FREE
EVENT

NORTH
EASTERN HOTEL
DE BOOS ST,
EUROA

strathbogie_ranges.org.au

Home Creek Spring Creek Landcare Group

would like to
present the following Speakers
at our Forum at the Yarck Hall
on Sunday 28th May 2023

10am -2.30pm

Morning Tea and Light Lunch to be
provided

Please RSVP by 22nd May for catering
numbers to:

Pres.HCSCLG@gmail.com

Julie Aldous on Country Kids & Industry
Opportunities

Robert Dahni on Live Weather - Information
for Better Decision Making

Craig Castree on Healthy Soil – Edible
Gardens

Alexandra Lapidary Gem Club on Local
Geology

Open Studio - Hillcrest Gallery

Dennis Spiteri will be having an open studio on the weekend of
3rd and 4th June 2023 at his Hillcrest studio / gallery.

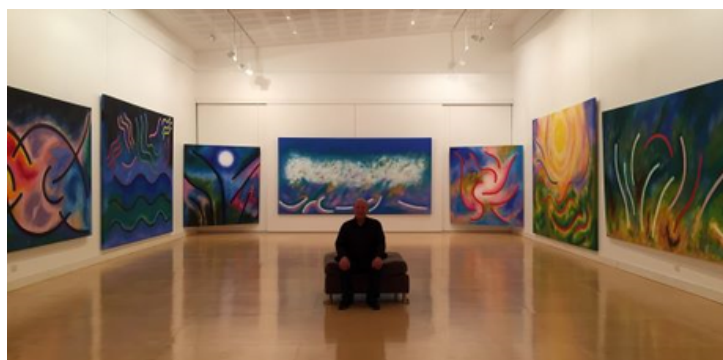
Many of his recent works will be on display.

Opening times: 10am – 4pm

Telephone (03)57969373

Email: dennisspiteri@activ8.net.au

Hillcrest Gallery 33 Old Highlands Road, Highlands, Victoria.



<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>
<p>The Pond Professor Peter Graf</p> <p>DESIGNS, CREATES & MAINTAINS BEAUTIFUL PONDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pond cleaning • Filtration systems • Fountains and waterfalls • Native fish and plants • Algae control • Water testing • Design and construction • Consulting services <p>Phone: 0429 969 243 Email: info@pondprofessor.com.au 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>Little Antechinus living in a hollow near you</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>Tablelands Community Centre</p> <p>Upgraded facilities & playground Ideal for Private or Community gatherings Meetings, Workshops Very reasonable rates Hosts 1st Friday BBQs Contact tcruddy@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.