

THE GRANITE NEWS



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



28th May 2023 | Volume 17 Issue 18

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

As the weather continues its relentless plunge into winter darkness and colder temperatures please drive carefully on our wet and slippery roads. There has been a swag of multiple fatalities on rural roads across the state in recent weeks and as the police commissioner on tonight's news pointed out these are not accidents but collisions and perhaps could have been avoided.

With so many of our local roads still damaged, as a result of last October's floods, but yet to be repaired take extra care on these greasy skidpans and pot-holed routes and watch out for increased traffic on the King's Birthday weekend in June.

Read on for another excellent issue, Pauline
And Kenny? Was observing from the sight board at Bradman Oval

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.

Fancy a Cultural Weekend??

This coming weekend features not one but two excellent local artists showcasing their talents and artwork. Why not discover large canvasses or fine B&W drawings or metallic sculptures?
Dennis Spiteri - Hillcrest Gallery - 33 Old Highlands Rd
Darren Gilbert - Yea Butter Factory - 13 Rattray St, Yea.

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

"Family is not an important thing.
It is everything."

Michael J. Fox
(1961 -)
Retired actor with Parkinson's

"Age is merely the
number of years the
world has been
enjoying you."

Unknown

George Kennedy

TGN readers please forgive me my indulgence but - 28th May 2023 - would have been my dad's 100th birthday. He was much-loved and is still missed and I find it incredible that his life began 100 years ago today. Ed



	NB: Fully vaccinated attendees are appreciated at all events.	What's On - May & June 2023
	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. 2nd 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
	Sat 3rd - Sun 4th June 10-4	OPEN STUDIO - HILLCREST GALLERY @ 33 Old Highlands Rd Dennis Spiteri is proudly opening his studio and showcasing some of his recent works. Enquiries: 5796 9373 dennisspiteri@activ8.net.au
	Sat 3rd - Sun 4th June 10-4	DARREN GILBERT'S OPEN STUDIO @ YEA BUTTER FACTORY Open first weekend each month - 13 Rattray St, Yea - discover some stunning artwork!
Details? see p.3	Wed. 7th June 5-7pm	HCCC - MEET, SNACK & CHAT @ Highlands Hall First in a series of informal farming chats. All welcome. vanessa@hccclandcare.net.au
	Friday 9th 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
	Fri 9th - Mon 12th June	ROVER SCOUT SECTION MUDBASH @ MAFEKING PARK CAVEAT Open Day for the public - Sunday 11th June
 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 - 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 - Senior Project Officer for the Deer Control Program at DEECA (ex DELWP) will be at the meeting to talk about the latest strategies and to answer your questions on this topic.

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.



Know Your Weeds

Hawthorn - Crataegus Monogyna Regionally Controlled Weed

An erect deciduous, perennial shrub to 6m tall, Hawthorn bushes have white, cream or pink flowers 8-13mm in diameter that are strongly scented and occur in spring. They are to be found in clusters at the end of small branches.

The plant also produces fruit - deep red berries in clusters - that are about 8mm in diameter.

Leaves are green and vary from oval to triangular and are generally coarsely serrated. Its bark is rough at the base and smoother further up.

This plant provides harbour for pest animals and diseases such as Fire Blight and its seeds can be eaten or carried by birds and animals.

The optimum treatment time is from Oct - Feb and this can be done by spot spraying the foliage or cutting and painting the stump - both these require the application of an appropriate herbicide or by mechanical removal.

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



Can you help?

Volunteers are still needed to cut wood for Mudbash sales on

Saturday 3rd June

Only a couple of hours work is required to finish filling the shed.

If you can help contact
David - 0417 150115
david_webb1@bigpond.com

Sellers of wood on the weekend would also be appreciated.

Volunteers for tin rattlers are also required over the King's Birthday weekend to help raise much needed funds for the CFA.

If you can help contact
Pauline - 0408 246308

Thanks in advance for any offers of assistance.

Seymour Urban Landcare receives grant for project on Gliders

We're delighted to announce that our project "**Biolink Corridors for Gliders in Seymour**" has been funded by the Victorian Government (DEECA, ex DELWP) through the Environmental Volunteering New Growth Project, and has received full support from the Mitchell Shire Council.

Seymour Urban Landcare will collaborate with BEAM (Mitchell Environmental Group) and the Victorian Biolinks Alliance to engage young people to learn more about gliders and to contribute to habitat restoration.

Many activities have already been planned: on the **9th June Chris Pocknee** (Ecologist, Biolinks Alliance) will deliver a talk on gliders at Seymour College, where VCAL students are already contributing to our project by building nest boxes during their woodwork class, thanks to their teacher David Stute.

On the **25th June there will be a planting day on Whiteheads Creek in Seymour**, and in August we will have spotlight walks along the creek, looking for gliders. In spring we will inspect 50 nest boxes that had been installed as part of a previous project on gliders (available [at this link](#)), when direct seeding was done along Lambing Gully Road to create a wildlife corridor.

Anyone who might be interested is welcome to join us in this exciting project, just email seymoururbanlandcare@gmail.com to find out more about it. Regular updates will be published on this newsletter, so keep an eye out for the next activities coming up.

Squirrel Glider (threatened species) photographed by Chris Pocknee near Heywood Hill in Seymour, 2022.



WOOLLY WANDERINGS

I grew up surrounded by sheep, of course this was long before synthetics and our warm winter clothes were all wool. My father learnt to knit as a child, and one winter - he had broken a bone in his foot and couldn't attend to his usual farm operations - he knitted me a pair of socks! These I took to Dookie Agricultural College where I spent a year of my Agricultural Science degree.

The college footie team's colours were navy blue and red socks with red tops. So I knitted red tops for my father's socks - much admired by the students. An ex-serviceman, who had been part of a submarine crew in WWII offered to swap his woollen, orange balaclava for my socks - to the great satisfaction of us both.

Then in the 1960s and 1970s I ran a business making sheepskin jackets. The inspiration for this came from a Marcus Oldham student working for us for his prac year. He wanted something warm to wear on the tractor - no such things as air-conditioned cabins in those days. So off I went to a tannery in Melbourne and our student was delighted with the result. His brother wanted a similar jacket, followed by wives, girlfriends, etc.

I then discovered a tannery in New Zealand from where I imported beautiful skins - suede on the skin side, all dyed in colours such as dark brown, yellow, beige, etc. Over nearly 20 years I made 4,000 jackets which were sent all over the world - Antarctica to Alaska. Of course there were many offcuts and these I made into soft soled slippers, mittens, hats, even cases for glasses. All sold before they hit the cupboards!

The Americans loved a natural product and some even sent out their measurements and the money, sight unseen! I employed one local woman to help with the cutting out and acquired an industrial sewing machine as well as an overlocker (for slippers, etc).

Then along came synthetics with a vengeance and as I was nearly 60, I decided it was time to retire. So I just stopped. But what pleasure and social connections I made.

My son once came home from the Royal Melbourne Show and said, "Mum, there were 30 of your jackets round the Hereford ring!!" One daughter, travelling in Scotland, stayed overnight with a young man and in the course of conversation she mentioned the name 'Glentannar', our property in the Highlands. My business name was Glentannar Homecrafts. "Just a minute," he said and produced one of my jackets with label attached! An old school friend, ski-ing in Canada saw one of my jackets ski-ing down the slopes beside her!

And recently, to continue the woolly theme I found a 'spencer' (undergarment) with my mother's maiden name attached. She was married in 1925 so this article is nearly 100 years old. And what a joy to wear under my skivvy.

Now my son has developed extra super-fine wool, from which are made such things as raincoats, fine soft material for fashion clothes, etc for the 21st century.

Peg Lade

NB: Although now resident in Yea, Peg grew up north of Glenburn and lived in Highlands on the property 'Glentannar' for many decades. Sheep have obviously been a feature of her entire life. Ed.



PART TIME POSITION VACANT

Experienced person to assist run a beef cattle operation 1-2 days per week.

Would suit retired or part time farmer who is able to work autonomously across all aspects of farm work.

An interest in regenerative farming would be advantageous but not essential. Highlands area.

For more information contact Cam 0417357149.

Victorian Landcare News

The draft Landcare Plan for Victoria is now on Landcare Victoria Inc.'s (LVI) website and is available for review and comment.

Online Forum

Details: LVI will introduce the draft Landcare Plan for Victoria and answer questions from the Landcare community and stakeholders.

Date: Thursday 1st June

Time: 6pm - 7pm

Register: via [Eventbrite](#)

Survey: provide feedback on draft Landcare Plan for Victoria by completing the online survey, available here.

Consultation period closes: Monday 12th June.

Carbon Soil Workshop

Join [RCS](#) and [Carbon Link](#) for fresh discussions on soil health and ultimately increasing productivity and profitability.

In this one-day workshop we cover the latest practical ways to store more carbon in Australian soils. We also explain in plain English everything you need to know when considering a soil carbon project.

[Register here](#) for just \$25 (includes morning tea and lunch)."

During the one-day program learn:

- What is soil carbon
- How soil carbon is measured and how it can improve production
- Insights from case studies on successful projects around Australia
- Practise changes that have seen real results in increasing carbon in Australian soils



Soil Carbon Workshop

Bendigo, Vic: 21 June
Mansfield, Vic: 22 June
Myrtleford, Vic: 23 June



RCS

1800 356 004
rcsaustralia.com.au



carbonlink



Commonwealth Bank

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.

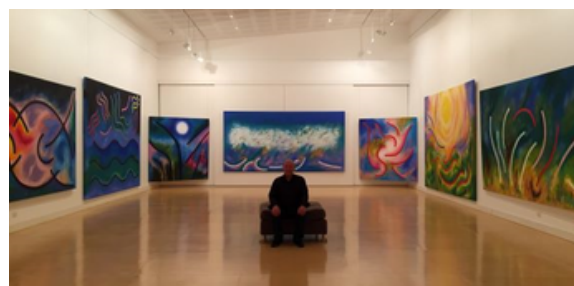
Many of his recent works will be on display.

Opening times: 10am – 4pm

Telephone (03)57969373

Email: dennisspiteri@activ8.net.au

Hillcrest Gallery 33 Old Highlands Road, Highlands, Victoria



If you can't make it to the HCCC's Meet, Chat, Snack session on June 8th, when Michelle Hanslow is also talking about deer issues, maybe this date is an option.

Tools for
effective
community
deer control

Management
options for
landholders

Connect with
locals to share
experiences

Victoria's
Deer Control
Strategy and
Regional
Plans for deer
management

FREE EVENT WILD DEER INFORMATION & MANAGEMENT

Saturday 3 June 10.30am

**Tablelands Community Centre
27 Nolans Road, Ruffy**

RSVP for catering
Donna 0414 336 775

Deer
species,
signs and
impacts

Citizen
science
opportunities



Longwood East
Landcare

Guest speaker - Michelle Hanslow, DEECA Deer Control Program
Presented by Longwood East Landcare Group

<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 tccruffy@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.