# THE GRANITE NEWS



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



#### 11th June 2023 | Volume 17 Issue 20

#### Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

Those TGN readers who live, work or play in the HCCC area will know what a truly stunning place it is and that it offers amazing wildlife, magnificent views and incredibly welcoming communities.

It also appears to be an excellent place to raise children who go on to be award winning and valuable members of the wider Australian community. Readers may remember that in this year's Australia Day Awards Dr John Craven, who grew up on his family's dairy farm, 'Woodlands' at Ruffy, was awarded an AO for his dedicated and lifelong service.

It now appears that another local identity has been awarded an AM in this the first King's Birthday Honours for over 7 decades.

**Congratulations to Sandy McKenzie** 

Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia Award - Alexander John (Sandy) McKenzie - For significant service to the People and Parliament of Australia, to Education and to Conservation.

Some readers may remember that Sandy recently featured in the TGN when he generously donated an impressive collection of his

environmental books to the HCCC reference library.

Find out more about Sandy's life and his contribution to the wider Australian community on p.4.

Enjoy another excellent issue, Pauline

And Kenny? Was checking out the pegmatite (type of granite)



## or to subscribe on-line go to www.highlands.org.au

Feedback? editor@tgn.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

"Equip yourself for life, not solely for your own benefit but for the benefit of the whole community."

#### General Sir John Monash (1865 - 1931)

addressing a class of graduating students at Melbourne University.





#### The Good Fairy Strikes again

With the 2023 ski season officially commencing this weekend, the good fairy has been at it again and for those readers who travel the Ghin Ghin Cutting look out for the Snow Bunny hoping for an early snowfall!

#### \*\* DON'T FORGET!\*\*

That next week's TGN is not only the last for this term BUT (due to connectivity glitches) will be emailed on **Friday 16th June** instead of the usual Sunday. If you have any articles / diary dates to go in, please note that **Tuesday 13th June** is now the deadline. **Ed.** 

#### **STOP PRESS!**

Please note there will be a slight variation to two regular activities in the HCCC area.

Tablelands Kids Play Group is now operating on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays each month but will take a break during school holidays and

Highlands Black Market is having a break over winter, but will be back with a bounce in spring - dates TBA in TGN.

|                      | NB: Fully<br>vaccinated<br>attendees are<br>appreciated at all<br>events. | What's On - June 2023  |
|----------------------|---|--|
| Details?<br>See p.7  | Monday 12th<br>June @ 11am  | FESTIVAL of FUNGI with ALISON POULIOT in Avenel Another excellent fungi presentation - if you've missed previous ones be there for this one!   |
| NB NEW day/date      | Tuesday 13th<br>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 |
| Details?<br>last TGN | Saturday 17th<br>June @ 10am  | KONG MENG HILL TREK commencing from 1323 Tarcombe Rd, Avenel Interested in the geology, botany and geography of this local area? This walk is for YOU!   |
|                      | Thurs. 22nd<br>June @ 7pm   | HCCC MONTHLY MEETING @ Whiteheads Creek Hall Everyone is welcome, put the date in your diary now. Enquiries? Justus 0427 524473  |
| Details?<br>See p.7  | Saturday 24th<br>June 2-3pm   | TERIP TERIP CFA - HOME FIRE SAFETY INFORMATION SESSION @ Terip Rec Like to find out about smoke alarms and causes of house fires, come along to this event!  |
|                      | Sunday 25th<br>June @ 10am  | HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS @ Highlands Community Hall Everyone is welcome to come rambling and discover our local district. Enquiries? Andrew 0437 249038 or Robyn 0409 528235   |
|                      | Monday 26th<br>June 2-4pm   | RUFFY VEGE PATCH CLUB @ Donna's place 286 Buntings Hill Rd, Ruffy Sharing ideas. knowledge and produce. New members welcome.  Enquiries? Janet 0458 904268   |
|                      | Thursday 29th<br>June @ 5.30  | SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS @ Caveat Church All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards BBQ, BYO & chat   |
|                      | Every Second<br>Wednesday<br>10-30-12.30                                  | MURRINDINDI MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE @ Highlands Community Hall The Mobile Library visits the TGN area, based at the Highlands Hall every fortnight. Why not pop in? Forthcoming dates are 14th & 28th June and 12th & 26th July.                                |
|                      | 1st & 3rd<br>Tuesday 10-12  | TABLELANDS KIDS' PLAY GROUP @ Tablelands Community Centre, Ruffy All ages welcome - Nature play - Playground - Toys - Friends - June 6th & 20th  |
|                      | Every Monday<br>@ 10am  | Qi Gong is in recess until Monday 10th July RUFFY QI GONG has recommenced - EVERY Monday - at 10.00am.   |
|                      | 2nd & 4th<br>Sundays  | ST DAVID'S UNITING CHURCH - TERIP RUFFY 2nd Sunday 11.15am Pastor Scott Leslie / 4th Sunday 11am Morning tea & Study group   |
|                      | Every Tuesday<br>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  |

#### **Windfarm Meeting at Highlands**

The committee of the Strathbogies Responsible Renewables Community Group would like to thank the Highlands community for their support at Saturday's meeting at the Highlands Hall.

More than 75 people attended, we couldn't count them all because some were standing out in the foyer as the hall itself was full. It is clear that the community opposes the proposal by FERA to turn the Strathbogie Ranges into an industrial landscape, filling the region with massive wind turbines that will be the dominant feature on the landscape from any viewpoint, as well as carving out an easement for the power transmission line.

Our stance, backed by continued support from the community, is that FERA's proposal is inappropriate for this area. There are better places to construct wind energy facilities, places with more wind, places with less environmental impact, and places with less social impact. FERA should heed the government's preference and look to build offshore.

The State Member for Eildon, Cindy McLeish, attended the meeting and spoke in support of the community's opposition.

For anyone that was unable to attend the meeting, the presentation file is available on the website: https://srrcg.com

While at the website, please complete the survey to voice your opinion on FERA's proposal.

## Darryl Otzen Secretary srrcg.com Strathbogies Responsible Renewables Community Group

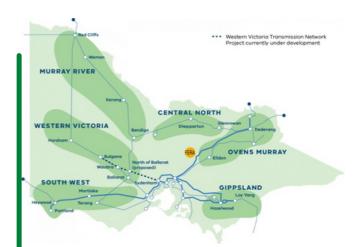
#### Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I commend the excellent letter by John Curtis and Susan Ackroyd, and question whether any approach has yet been made by local residents/farmers to the Strathbogie and/or Murrindindi Shires seeking answers as to whether a similar Landscape Assessment Study to the one undertaken by the Mitchell Shire has yet been considered? As the correspondents state, it would appear to be of the utmost importance to have this/these in place as soon as possible. Moreover, as mentioned by the writers, certain areas in the Mitchell Study, designated Area 5, which are actually right on the borders of the adjacent shires, are deemed to have 'Significant Landscape' value. I wonder if a local representative would undertake to approach either or both shire offices to discuss this urgent situation, perhaps one of the aforementioned correspondents?

Lisa Stephens





#### Victoria's Renewable Energy Zones (REZ)

- REZs are priority areas for renewable projects (access to infrastructure and resources) and reflect State Government Strategy
- Aim to co-ordinate developments to minimise negative impacts on local communities.
- FERA's proposed project is NOT in a REZ (see orange dot on the map)

NB: This map was part of SRRCG's presentation at Highlands - the darker green indicates the selected REZ areas.

#### Sandy McKenzie AM

Having spent my childhood on my Grandfather's farm at Seymour and as the only child of a war widow, my father being killed in Rabaul in the early stages of the War with Japan – my friends were the farm dogs and horses rather than children of my own age.

It was when I studied at the University of New England in the Department of Animal Physiology that I started to understand the incredible biological inheritance of actually being alive and on this extraordinary planet of the solar system. Such a unique privilege simply to be born – to have survived childhood and to have led a full and rewarding life for a little bit more than eight decades. One of our lecturers said to us, spread out your arms to represent the 300,000 years that homo sapiens has been present on earth. Now consider that your spread arms actually represent the 3 to 4 billion years that life has existed on earth, but just two strokes of a nail file off one fingernail represents that tiny period when homo sapiens existed.



Thus, when one considers the memories and learnings that one has experienced, one has a responsibility in life, in my view, to share those with family and the wider community. Indeed, there may even be some 'glimpses of wisdom'!

The Australia Day award mentions service to the people and Parliament of Australia and to Education and Conservation. So I might start with education following on from University.

After lecturing for a few years at the Marcus Oldham College I was then appointed founding principal of a College of Advanced Education being the Orange Agricultural College in New South Wales. This was a new concept in Australia of having a binary system of tertiary education. The CAE's directly served industry and community, while the universities maintained their more academic programs and research.

The Orange College, like Marcus Oldham, required a year's industry experience prior to entry, and a further year's experience between the two full-time years of tuition. It is of concern to me that so many courses are now provided online, and the emergence of A.I. - that the experience of living and working together as a group is missed

A further rare opportunity was offered when I was appointed to develop the concept, facilities and programs of an international boarding school in the far north of Thailand as a joint venture with the Thai Royal family.

Following my time at Orange I then had three terms as the Federal member for Calare in the central west of NSW covering centres like Orange, Bathurst, Parkes, Mudgee and Forbes.

In those eight years I learnt how extraordinary so many people were in their adversity.

The extraordinary woman and the wonderful community that supported her in Peak Hill. Barbara Milgate spent most of her life in an iron lung, having contracted polio as a child. She was such an inspiration.

The two old guys who lived under the overpass at the Bathurst railway workshops, the wonderful Catholic Archbishop of the Bathurst diocese, Alby Thomas, took me to see Bluey and Curley in their cardboard "home" who escaped every time they took them into an aged care home. The sheer devastation of seeing patients in the Bloomfield Mental Hospital in Orange through the glassed-in viewing platform, to the padded day room below; and, courtesy of Bishop Alby's influence, I was also able to visit the women's refuge in Lithgow where men were not welcome.

Being an MP provided a unique insight into such a diversity of human condition that few others might experience and some real-life experiences that really tested one's fortitude such as having a boning knife held against one's throat at the Blayney Abattoir. Perhaps my school vacation work in the Angliss Meatworks in Melbourne had been advantageous.

And some more humorous occasions -

At the Tullamore Show, with a red heeler lifting his leg on me as I addressed the modest and mostly disinterested audience. What was even more hilarious was that the owner of the heeler was Wally Curran, the communist leader of the Australian Meat Workers Union.

And bear with me once more. I was summonsed to meet with a farmer at Ootha – for God's sake where's Ootha? But when I got to the Ootha crossroads and waited for an hour after the appointed time, I left. When I rang him later he simply said "Oh, I don't do Daylight Saving"! Dear Bert from Ootha even turned up to our house, teeming with children on a Christmas morning for a chat – he simply said, "Well I knew you'd be here".

I was sworn in as the Australian Country Party member after the election of 1975. I shared a very modest office with Sam Calder the member for the NT. Sam had been a fighter pilot in the War and it was a wonderful experience to learn so much about the Territory. In due course Bob Hawke became our neighbour and the two of us hit it off with Bob immediately. A lot of banter but we all respected each other. As did most members and senators in those days. The swing to the coalition in 1975 was, and is to this day, the largest influx of coalition members in Australia's history. I so well recall the two earliest people to congratulate me were Neville Bonner the first aboriginal senator, and Lionel Bowen a former member of the Whitlam Ministry. They were heady days for the Country Party with the leadership of Doug Anthony, Ian Sinclair, Peter Nixon and Ralph Hunt. We were a dedicated team for the interests of country Australia.

At one party meeting the Whip said that the Prime Minister had asked us to nominate a Party member to be the spokesperson for The Australian Council of Local Government Organisations. Dead silence from the room till Doug said, "OK, well Sandy you're it – Well Done".

When I was appointed to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment and Conservation a new world of opportunity arose. Having gone to Macquarie Island and Casey Base on the Danish ice breaker, the Thala Dan, I had the unique experience of standing beside the ice bound hut where Mawson spent two winters. What an extraordinary experience to be there on a sunny and near-still day in one of the coldest and windiest places on earth. I had been asked by the Minister for Science and Environment to provide some insights as to the future of the huts and whether they should be dismantled and re-erected in Australia.

The committee conducted a number of enquiries – sand mining on Fraser Island, uranium waste in Kakadu, hazardous chemical storage, and the preservation of aboriginal rock carvings on the Burrup Peninsular in the Kimberley.

Having climbed Federation Peak in the far south-west of Tasmania after leaving school and camping at Lake Pedder I was very much involved in the campaign to save the Franklin River, which Bob Hawke as PM achieved. But perhaps the greatest environmental tragedy and vandalism in Australia was the flooding of the pristine Lake Pedder in 1972.

Since parliamentary days I have worked with the Macfarlane Burnet Medical Research Centre where we set up a shop front for heroin users with the cooperation of the Police in Maribyrnong. There addicts could access methadone therapy and dental services especially for their children.

In 1999 the Howard Government provided "Safe Haven" centres for Timorese refugees, and the Seymour community responded magnificently for the 820 who were housed at the Puckapunyal Army Barracks.

More recently I have been involved in Landcare at a local, State and National Council level. Six years on the Board of the Board of the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority; the Prime Ministers Summit on Drought where I represented Landcare Australia, and also in 2020 presenting to hearings of the Fire and National Disasters Inquiries. A major interest has been the disastrous state of the Darling River and the issues of irrigation licences in both NSW and Southern Queensland.

I joined the Australian Council for Children and Parenting in the early 2000's. This was another wake-up call and I held strong views on children in detention and parental neglect which to this day is still a national issue of concern.

Being part of the local effort to save the Sea Lake Bush Nursing Home was rewarding as was initiating the relationship between the Tallarook Primary School and the Tol 2/22 Primary School in Rabaul. This school commemorates the Tol Massacre where 160 Australians prisoners of war were killed by the Japanese forces in 1942 contrary to the Geneva Convention regarding the treatment of POW's.

So in saying enough is enough, I would like to close where I started.

Continued p.6

#### Sandy McKenzie AM - continued from p.5

What an extraordinary experience for any and all of us homo sapiens, and our homo sapiens ancestors. To have been born, to have parents that were fertile, to not have been eaten and who survived long enough in good health to rear children and to pass on their genetic inheritance to us. As the wonderful Greek philosopher, Epicurus, said in 300 BC - it is a great privilege, simply, TO BE.

#### **Know Your Weeds**

#### **English Ivy (Hedera Helix)**

Most people are familiar with English Ivy which has a nasty habit of escaping from domestic gardens and forming dense mats that prevent revegetation in the surrounding areas.

It is a perennial plant that can grow to 30m in length, with flowers a greenish-yellow in colour, that display between March and July and are followed by black globular berries.



Its distinctly shaped leaves alternate. They are usually glossy and dark green on top and lighter on the underside. Its stems are flexible when young but become woody when mature with the climbing stems having roots along the underside. Stems can also reshoot at nodes when cut. In short it is incredibly invasive and can be easily spread by seed, stems or careless disposal of garden waste.

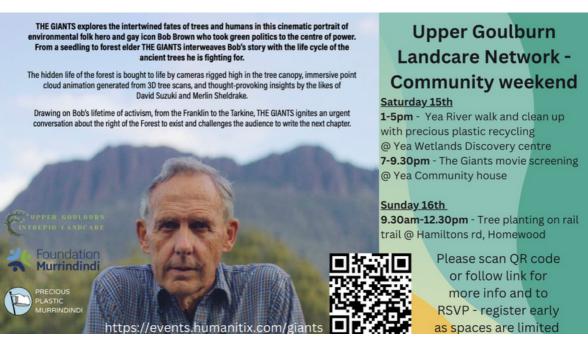
Optimum time for eradication is Oct - Dec by a variety of options - spray, cut and paint, mechanical or by hand weeding.

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

#### Ruffy Veggie Patch Club - Monday 26th of June 2pm-4pm

@ Donna's Place 286 Buntings Hill Road Ruffy sharing ideas, knowledge and produce. New members welcome. Enguires Janet Hagen 0458 904268.





### **Terip Terip Home Fire Safety** information session





Gather around the open fire while we will cover topics like;

- · Common causes of fire in the home
- Escape plans
- Smoke alarms
- Free Smoke alarm program for vulnerable members of our community
- · Practical sessions with fire blankets

Where - Terip Terip Recreation Reserve

Saturday 24th June 2023

Time:

Every home represented gets a free fire blanket



For more information, Contact North East Region - District 12 - Community Safety Team 39 McIntyre Street, Seymour Vic 3660 T: 03 5735 3114 M: 0419 472 579 E: d12commed@cfa.vic.gov.au



#### **SUNDAY 2 JULY**



Aunty Angela ter iren. Followed by

#### **WEDNESDAY 5 JULY**





#### **Huge Thanks**

to those wonderful volunteers who helped out at Mudbash and raised funds for the Highlands-Caveat RFB

thanks to YOU 2023 was the most successful Mudbash yet.



#### **RUFFARTZ** is **BACK!**

The RuffArtz Committee are pleased to present The Merindas, Ruffy Hall, 1st July 2023.

Doors open at 7.30 pm for an 8.00 pm start. Free coffee and cake will be available on the night.

Tickets (\$25.00) available at the door or via email: ruffartztickets@gmail.com



The Merindas are an Indigenous Australian pop duo comprising Candice Lorrae and Kristel Kickett.

They began their career singing Mowtown hits for the premiere of The Sapphires movie.

These soul sisters are trail-blazing with their innovative style of music, which they describe as électric pop with a dance-hall feel, alongside hip hop and R & B influences.

One last chance to join a Festival of Fungi event by **Avenel Active** 

The amazing Alison Pouliot will be running a fungi Ecology and ID workshop and Kings Birthday Mushroom Hunt in Avenel on

12th June 2023 11am start. \$5 pp

Copies of her latest book 'underground Lovers' will be on sale as well as her 2 other publications.

Bookings essential as numbers are limited.

Please text Helen Gwillian 0403 158 410 or Janet Hagen 0458904268 for further details.

### MURRINDINDI SHIRE COUNCIL NEWS



#### **ANNUAL BUDGET 2023/24 ADOPTED**

Council adopted its Annual Budget for 2023/24 at its Scheduled Meeting on 24 May 2023, with a focus on maintenance and renewal of Council infrastructure, including sealed and unsealed roads, footpaths and bridges.

The 2023/24 Budget outlines the resource requirements and priority projects in line with the key strategic objectives that have been set in the Council Plan 2021-2025.

Thank you to everyone who made submissions to Council about the draft Budget earlier this year.

To read the Annual Budget 2023/24, please visit Council's website at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/budget or drop in to one of our offices or the Mobile Library Service.

#### HAVE YOUR SAY ON COUNCIL'S PLAN FOR NET-ZERO EMISSIONS BY 2035

Demonstrating our commitment to fighting climate change, Council has developed a draft Climate Change Action Plan: Towards 2023 and is calling on the community to review the Plan, provide feedback and vote for your choice of actions that Council can take to support you.

To get involved, register for one of the below focus group sessions:

- Wednesday 14 June from 6.00 8.00 pm at the Yea Council Chambers, 15 The Semicircle, Yea (next to Yea Library)
- Thursday 15 June from 6.00 8.00 pm at the Marysville Community Centre, 31 Falls Road, Marysville
- Monday 19 June from 6.00 8.00 pm at the Kinglake Library, 19 Whittlesea-Kinglake Road, Kinglake

Catering will be provided. For more information and to register: theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/climateaction

You can also give us a call or visit one of our Library and Customer Service Centres.

#### **GET IN TOUCH**

customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au murrindindi.vic.gov.au/request 5772 0333

#### **ROAD ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW**

To ensure roads and road assets across Murrindindi Shire meet the needs of the community, Council is reviewing and updating its Road Asset Management Plan (RAMP), which will guide how Council-managed roads and road assets are created, maintained, renewed and upgraded over the next decade and beyond.

Council is seeking input from the community on all aspects of road asset management to help us develop our draft RAMP 2023-2033, including:

- inspection, maintenance, and repair standards
- · renewal, and asset rehabilitation priorities
- upgrade and expansion priorities
- willingness from the community to pay for changes to the standard of service provided

There are many ways for you to get involved and contribute important information.

For more information or to provide input, give Council a call or visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/ramp

#### **VOLUNTEER HUB NOW LIVE**

To help community groups and organisations recruit more volunteers, Council launched an online 'Volunteer Hub' during National Volunteer Week.

If you are an individual looking for a way to give back to the community, check out the Volunteer Hub and consider getting involved.

If you're a member of a volunteer organisation not yet listed on the Volunteer Hub, complete the online form at theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/volunteer or give us a call.

### COUNCIL MEETING CATERING EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Council is inviting Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from registered food businesses interested in providing catering services for Council meetings for the 2023/24 financial year.

To submit your EOI, please visit our website at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/businessopportunities

EOIs close on 23 June 2023. For more information, please give us a call.



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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

May the current generations of Taungurung, HCCC residents & landowners continue this important custodianship into the future.