# THE GRANITE NEWS



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



### 16th June 2023 | Volume 17 Issue 21

# Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

This week's, slightly out-of-sync, Granite News is coming to you from Australia's northern most capital city - Darwin and boy has it changed dramatically since my one and only visit to it in 1990. Whilst the number of high-rise buildings in the CBD has certainly grown there is still a relaxed feeling to this tropical city with its winter temperatures of 30+ degrees.

Extensively bombed by the Japanese in WWII and then totally trashed by Cyclone Tracey in 1974 this is a place that just keeps rebuilding itself and continuing on with its laid-back lifestyle.

There is a can-do attitude here and the fact that the capital cities of Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea and Indonesia are closer to Darwin than any Australian capital city may be the reason why.

Don't forget that this issue of TGN is the last for 2 weeks and that the next issue will arrive in your email inboxes on Sunday 9th July.

Until then please read on for another excellent issue, Pauline And Kenny? Was working out how best to eradicate English Ivy.



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

This TGN is the last for this term, but this informative and entertaining read will be back landing in email inboxes on **Sunday 9th July**. Any articles or ads will need to arrive by **Thursday 6th July** but sooner rather than later is best. **Ed.** 

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

"As long as there is love and memory there is no true loss.

#### Cassandra Clare American young adult author



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY JAN!

Caveat local Jan Sporry is celebrating a significant birthday today. **Congratulations Jan!!** 



		NB: Fully vaccinated attendees are appreciated at all events.	What's On - June & July 2023
	etails? st TGN	Saturday 17th 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 June @ 7pm	HCCC MONTHLY MEETING @ Whiteheads Creek Hall Everyone is welcome, put the date in your diary now. Enquiries? Justus 0427 524473
	etails? see p.7	Saturday 24th 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 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 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 June @ 5.30	SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS @ Caveat Church All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards BBQ, BYO & chat
Ruff	ArtZ	Saturday 1st July 7.30 for 8	RUFFARTZ is BACK!! @ Ruffy Hall The Merindas - an Indigenous Australian pop duo comprising Candice Lorrae and Kristel Kickett and coffee and cake - what a winning combination. See p.7 for ALL the details
(	*	Friday 7th July @ 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
		Every Second Wednesday 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 28th June and 12th & 26th July.
		1st & 3rd Tuesday 10-12	TABLELANDS KIDS' PLAY GROUP @ Tablelands Community Centre, Ruffy All ages welcome - Nature play - Playground - Toys - Friends - June 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
s	See p.3	Every Tuesday 8.45 - 9.45 am	And now on Fridays too !!  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

# Highlands Hall farmers' meeting follow up

Our meeting last week was very successful, with 20 people in total attending the event, despite the weather and roads' conditions, after 120 mm of rain were recorded the day before at Bluetop Road. For those that were not able to make it, here's a brief recap of the meeting and some additional information.

# Soil Carbon project presentation by Vanessa Malandrin (project coordinator) and Neil Van Buuren (Landcare facilitator)

We started with the importance of reducing emissions on farms and the emerging market that pays farmers to sequester carbon in the soil by adopting various agricultural practices. The prevalent goal of this project was to increase general knowledge about soil carbon, demonstrate that it can improve soil health and farm productivity, and therefore growing soil carbon levels will make farming more profitable. Examples were given of agronomic practices that can increase Soil Carbon and their effects on productivity in a local vineyard, and the importance of increasing soil Carbon levels to improve water absorption and retention and to adapt to a changing climate, with different rainfall patterns. Interestingly, from farmers' feedback it seems like that locally the use of compost and/or organic matter has recently become much more common, especially on the plains, where many paddocks have been affected by the recent floods, that have caused Nitrogen loss.

Here's a summary of the Soil Carbon project: three local farms were selected to be part of it, and on each one a demo trial was set up with a specific research goal. At Lawsons farm we trialled the application of soil ameliorants (compost 5 t/ha, lime 3 t/ha, Nutrisol) and a hybrid fertiliser (20% carbon plus added nutrients, 300kg/ha), to see if that would improve soil pH and nutrition, and ultimately lead to an increase in soil carbon levels. At Tarcombe Herefords we wanted to increase paddock productivity, and ultimately soil carbon levels, with a combination of grazing strategies and a multi-nutrient fertiliser application. Two trial plots have been fenced off, and three grazing strategies were advised for each plot: based on time (six weeks rest after grazing); based on growth stage of Phalaris, to avoid grazing close to the ground (sheep in at 4th leaves' stage; sheep out with grass no less than 5 cm long); third plot with set stocking as control. At Looking Glass we compared the long-term effects on pasture composition and growth, and soil carbon levels, of a multispecies winter mix sown with conventional drill vs the Soilkee Pasture Renovator. At this stage, all the demo trials have been set up and we will continue monitoring them into the future to find out what conclusions can be drawn from each one of them.

# Deer control presentation by Michelle Hanslow, Senior Project Officer for Deer Control Program at DEECA (ex DELWP)

Michelle delivered a very comprehensive presentation on the topic, starting from what the government is doing about the deer issue in Victoria. Hog, Red, Sambar, Fallow, Rusa, Chital, Sika and Wapiti deer are protected wildlife under the Victorian Wildlife Act 1975, and not a declared pest animal as you would think. But at the same time Hog, Red, Sambar, Fallow, Rusa and Chital Deer are also defined as game, which means they can be hunted by licensed game hunters. Michelle explained how the expanding deer population in Victoria is impacting on biodiversity, cultural heritage, soil structure and on waterways, mainly from pugging, wallowing and herbivory in riparian zones, which in turn can affect water quality due to sedimentation, water turbidity and bank erosion.

For more information on deer control and related topics, please refer to the "East Victoria Deer Control Plan 2023-2028" online document and check out the Game Management Authority website, and its controlling deer on private property FAQs page.

Most people would agree that deer populations need to be controlled, but we understand and fully respect the fact that others may have different views on this topic, and we encourage this approach when discussing this issue with neighbours and locals.

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### Highlands Hall farmers' meeting follow up - continued

For those who agree on deer control, you might be interested in the printed materials that Michelle has shared with us:

- how to use the DeerScan App and why; please follow the link to find out more.
- Landholder Deer Control Plan Details.
- Neighbour notification details form.
- Checklist for private property deer control (example from Nillumbik).
- Community deer control summary and notifications for group deer control.
- A3 poster with images of Victoria's game deer.

Please get in touch at vanessa@hccclandcare.net.au if you wish to receive copies of these materials. It's a lot of information to handle all at once and on your own, so we are planning to get together again soon to find out how to get organised and what strategies we can adopt to act in synergy. Thank you, Michelle, for offering us your valuable support in this journey.

Keep an eye out for our next meeting.





This event is 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.

Science partners: Dr. Cassandra Schefe, Soil Scientist, David Hawkey, Agronomist - AgriSci Pty Ltd Local Farm Partners: Callum & Les Lawson, Lawsons Farm - Highlands. Cameron Stewart and Stephanie Reeves, Looking Glass - Highlands. Rob and Tim Hayes, Tarcombe Herefords - Tarcombe.



### **Know Your Weeds**

#### Arum Lily (Zantedeschia aethiopica)

This common garden plant is known by a variety of other names including Calla Lily, Funeral / Death Lily and Lily of the Nile and as result most of its spread is the result of careless garden waste disposal.

Originating in South Africa it is toxic to people, livestock, pets and native animals, can choke waterways, reduce pasture productivity and outcompete native plants.



A robust herbaceous plant with dark green glossy, arrow-shaped leaves 15-45cm long on stems 50-100cm long that grow from invasive rhizome roots. Flowering all year long the white sheaths with yellow spike are very distinctive.

Eradication control is best done in October and November by either spraying or mechanical removal.

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. Enquires Janet Hagen 0458 904268.



# King's Birthday Fungi Hunt

Avenel Active and HCCC Landcare combined to host a fungi workshop and foray at Avenel with the wonderful and world famous fungi expert Dr Alison Pouliot. How lucky we were to send time with such an engaging and knowledgeable scientist. Many Granite News readers will have seen Alison on Gardening Australia or heard her on Radio National or Regional ABC.

Alison tours around Victoria and NSW during the fungi season, doing workshops, lectures, conferences and book launches, then heads off the do it all in the northern hemisphere during their autumn. Her enthusiasm for the Kingdom of Fungus is very contagious and she inspires many participants in her workshops to continue to explore the bushlands searching for more fungi species and understanding their importance in ecology and soil health.

It was good to see everyone totally engaged and inspired. Lovely to have some young people there too. The catering was also terrific.

Alison will be back again in the future - keep your eyes open for more encounters with fungi.

Janet Hagen

#### Letter to the Editor

To all TGN readers I've started another Yoga class at the Tablelands Community Centre on Fridays 8.45am

This class is in addition to the Tuesday class that will continue.

Regards, Ingrid

# NEW Guidance for an EAD (Emergency Animal Disease) Outbreak

This new guidance is available for industry, farm owners and managers re on-farm burial of carcasses in an EAD outbreak.

https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecuri ty/animal-diseases/emergencyanimal-diseases/guidance-for-onfarm-burial-of-carcasses-in-anemergency-animal-disease-outbreak



#### Letter to the Editor

Dear Pauline,

I was delighted to read that Sandy Mackenzie received a gong in the King's Birthday Honours and to read about some of his interesting life experiences.

In a very full life, one thing Sandy did not mention was that he was a Landcare facilitator in Burnt Creek Landcare for several years and, of course, very involved in our rabbit control program. I was reminded of a social event we had on winter solstice 2012 (that long ago!) in the Upton Hill fire shed when the attached piece about rabbits and Sandy's Herculean efforts confronting them was read out.

The reference to the croquet mallet was because Sandy at the time had started a croquet club in the backyard of his place in Shelton Street Avenel. The green was pretty rough and difficult to manage because the ball would hit something and veer off at right angles to where it was intended to go.

Best regards,

**Kevin Whithear - Avenel** 

### The Man from Shelton Street aka Sandy McKenzie

There was movement at the fire shed, for the word had got around, That the bunnies were on the move again.

They had started digging warrens deep into fragile ground, And were reproducing like only rabbits can.

This dreaded bunny invasion was bound to make things tough, So the members of the Burnt Creek Landcare band, Had mustered at the fire station to declare - "we've had enough. We must get cracking before these bunnies, ruin all our land."

There was McCracken who made his pile when wool prices went sky high. The Hon Treasurer of the Landcare group, he keeps a tight rein on the dough. But few can keep with him when the bunny chase is nigh, He can go wherever those pesky rabbits choose to go.

And McGreggor from Upton Hill had come to lend a hand, He is CFA captain and respected Landcare head. No finer rabbit buster is known across the land. He learnt his trade while raising chooks in a dirty great big shed. (Though what that's got to do with bunnies hard to know).

And one was there called Mackenzie who drove a battered Subaru, And the landholders took one look and said, "mate you won't last too long, These Strathbogie hills are far too rough for such as you." Get back to Shelton Street, where you belong.

So he waited sad and wistful - only McGreggor stood his friend "I think we ought to let him come," he said;
"I warrant he'll be with us when he's wanted at the end,
For both his Subi and he are Strathbogie bred."

#### The Man from Shelton Street - continued

So they went a rabbit bustin' with all the tools on hand they had.

Myxo and calici were not much good because the bunnies became resistant.

The excavator came in handy but things still looked pretty bad.

1080 was not an option because the greenies were persistent,

And got those piss-weak bureaucrats to make it near impossible to use.

No matter how hard they tried, the bunnies kept a' breeden. And those landholders conceded that this was a battle they're going to lose So one by one they retreated, well and truly beaten.

But Mackenzie was not beaten and he tried to rally the troops. He was once a federal pollie and to survive that you must be tough. "We must try new things to confound these bunnies and put them through the hoops. When I've finished with them they will have had enough."

"We need to have a field day on how to control this menace.

I will ring my contacts, so that they know of this in the high places of the mighty,
And we'll have many social functions to raise everyone's awareness,
And newsletters with lots of info, including rainfall stats way back to 1880."

Did Mackenzie manage to curb the dreaded rabbit menace? Well unfortunately this poem has already gone too long, So the results of his endeavours must wait for next winter's solstice. When all will be revealed, perhaps in song."

Suffice to say that the bunnies start to fly, When The Man from Shelton Street is about. With his croquet mallet held way on high, As he clubs the little buggers with a God almighty shout.

#### **Apologies to AB Patterson**



# BuffArtZ is BACK!

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

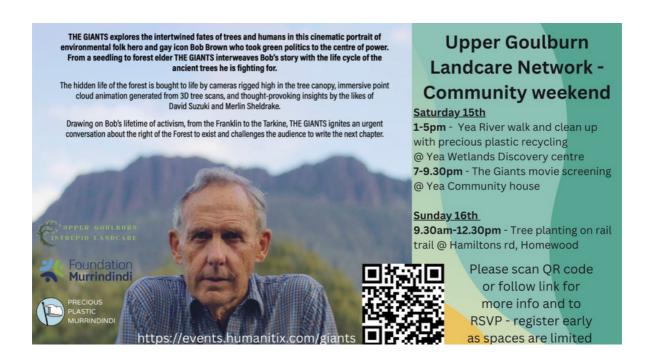
Doors open at 7.30 pm for an 8.00 pm start. Free coffee and cake will be available on the night.

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 electric pop with a dance-hall feel, alongside hip hop and R & B influences.





# Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre celebrates NAIDOC Week 2023

The theme chosen by NAIDOC for this year's celebrations is "For our Elders".

A Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony will take place on **Sunday 2nd July** in the Indigenous Gardens of the Yea Discovery Centre, **from 10.30**, followed by morning tea.

At 1pm, there will be an address in the Centre by Uncle Ronald Briggs on the important matter of the Voice to Parliament. We are lucky to have Uncle Ron addressing us. He is a Yorta Yorta Elder, a Senior Cultural Advisor, very involved with aboriginal health. He is on the board of several organisations, in particular VAHS - Victorian Aboriginal Health Services.

On **Wednesday 5th July** talented artist/educator/master weaver/bushtukka woman Cassie Leatham will conduct 2 workshops: at **10am** a story reading and painting workshop for primary school age children. At **1pm** a weaving workshop for adults.

Sunday's events are free but registration for catering and sitting purposes would be appreciated. Wednesday's sessions are ticketed, places are limited and booking is essential. Further details via Try Booking or www.yeawetlands.com.au



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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.