THE GRANITE NEWS



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



9th July 2023 | Volume 17 Issue 22

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

Take a couple of weeks' hiatus and that classic line of Roy and HG springs to mind - "When too much sport is never enough." The TGN email inbox has been inundated with articles and notices for this week's issue, so I hope that you read & enjoy all the contributions.

I have just commenced an excellent book - **Koala: A Life in Trees** by Danielle Clode and I am not only finding it incredibly interesting but delighted in this lyrical, yet scientific, description of eucalyptus trees and thought that it deserved a wider audience.

I may never look at gum trees in quite the same way ever again.

"The koala rarely ventures up into the cold mountain forests. It lives on the lower slopes, where tall forests reign. A kingdom of eucalypts: ash, box, bloodwood, messmate and manna, ironbark and peppermint. Monuments to photosynthetic power, the glory of chlorophyll: 200 tonnes of biomass rising in smooth, organic grey obelisks 10, 50, 100 metres high, conjured miraculously from carbon dioxide and water. The invisible and the transparent made mountainous by sheer solar radiance.

They are citadels of biodiversity, these trees: each branch, each hollow each leaf, each crevice, each crack, home to legions of species, sheltering, sleeping, feeding, breeding, living and dying in a continual interconnected cycle.

The solitary koala is not alone in this tree, but one of many. Gliders and possums sleep in dark corners, safe from the glowering eyes of powerful owls, while tiny antechinuses and feathertails cluster in colonies in

cramped, low-ranking accommodation. Twittering bats pack-jam into crooks and crannies. Families of parrots and pardalotes return, year in, year out, like annual holiday-makers. Large cockatoos dominate the prime real estate of spacious penthouse hollows - sulfur-crested, yellow-tailed, pink, grey and black. Chattering flocks of small birds swoop and mob the koala with indignant cries as it munches on, oblivious to their outrage."

Please read on for another excellent issue, Pauline And Kenny? Was sampling the delights of the Vege Patch basket. 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

And during NAIDOC Week....

"I think the referendum just boils down to kindness and empathy."

Ken Wyatt
First Indigenous member of
the House of Representatives
and former Minister for
Indigenous Affairs



Month	Highlands	Ruffy	Terip
June	193	212.5	219.4
	mm	mm	mm
2023	431.8	395.5	506.2
Total	mm	mm	mm
Rainy Days	21 days	19 days	22 days

		NB: Fully vaccinated attendees are appreciated at all events.	What's On - July 2023
		Monday 10th July @ 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
		Friday 14th July @ 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
	Details? See p.10	Fri. 21st July @ 6pm	AVENEL WINTER CONCERT - FLINDERS QUARTET @ Avenel Memorial Hall
	Details? See p.8	Saturday 22nd July @ 10.30	FROGS - Which ones live near YOU? @ Tablelands Community Centre, Ruffy
		Monday 24th July 2-4pm	RUFFY VEGE PATCH CLUB @ Don & Felicity's place 124 Boat Hole Rd, Ruffy Sharing ideas. knowledge and produce. New members welcome. Enquiries? Janet 0458 904268
		Thursday 27th July @ 5.30	SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS @ Caveat Church All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards BBQ, BYO & chat
		Saturday 29th July 10-12	BIO-DIVERSITY MAPPING @ Highlands Community Hall It's back for another session. Come along and learn how to map your wildlife neighbours. Enquiries: Janet - 0427 904268 OR Sam - 0417 576306
		Sunday 30th July @ 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
		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 12th & 26th July and 9th & 23rd August.
		1st & 3rd Tuesday 10-12	TABLELANDS KIDS' PLAY GROUP @ Tablelands Community Centre, Ruffy All ages welcome - Nature play - Playground - Toys - Friends - 18th July,1st & 15th Aug.
		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 Tues. & Fri. 8.45-9.45	And now on Friday mornings 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

Our "Biolink Corridors for Gliders in Seymour" Landcare Project

Vanessa Malandrin, Project Coordinator HCCC Landcare

It's been a busy month for our project "Biolink Corridors for Gliders in Seymour".

Two presentations have been delivered, one at Seymour College (Year 11 and 12 VCAL) and one at St Mary's College (two classes of year 7), all the students were very interested in learning all about gliders, asking about their diet, the hollows where they live and what can we do to help them.

On Sunday 25th of June a very successful tree planting day took place on Whiteheads Creek, next to the bridge on Oak Street (private land and GVW pump site). Despite being a cold winter morning, 50 volunteers gathered to plant about 250 native plants, including three varieties of wattles, which will provide a food source for gliders. Other shrubs and grasses have been planted on the creek's banks to stop erosion and to provide habitat, after first removing invasive weeds like privet, palms and bridal creeper.

Native plants had been selected specifically for this site by Mrs Christine Glassford, River Health Officer at the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority.

If any readers own land along Whiteheads Creek and you would like to restore habitat on your property, the complete list of plants can be requested via email at seymoururbanlandcare@gmail.com

I would like to thank all our volunteers who came along, including the Puckapunyal Scout group, and other enthusiastic locals. We aim to encourage people of all ages to come along to our future events, as there are so many benefits in volunteering for the environment, like enjoying physical activity in nature, connecting with locals, making new friends and feeling more optimistic about life by contributing to a good cause.

The catering for the event was provided by the Seymour Cancer Council volunteer group and the amount raised will be donated to support cancer research.

The Gliders project was displayed at the NAIDOC week's celebrations at Kings Park, and new people signed up to come along to our spotlight walks, that will take place in August.

Anyone is welcome to join us in this exciting project, so keep an eye out for future activities that will be advertised in this newsletter.

To find out more, feel free to email Vanessa at seymoururbanlandcare@gmail.com

This project is funded by the Victorian Government through the Environmental Volunteering New Growth Project. Project partners are BEAM Mitchell Environment Group and the Central Victorian Biolinks Alliance.









Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor.

As well as the proposal by FERA to build an extensive windfarm facility, the proposal involves the construction of overhead transmission lines from the Caveat area through the escarpment forests to Molesworth. These forests have been identified as the habitat for the nationally endangered species, the Greater Glider. This will require an easement of 60metres cut through the forest which will severely compromise the habitat for the Greater Glider.

These are not the only overhead transmission lines proposed by FERA.

At recent meetings with some landowners, the FERA spokesman stated that additional overhead transmission lines would be required in the investigation area linking substations and host properties. This includes an extension of the Molesworth - Caveat transmission line link through a significant conservation property, down the Stewart's Creek valley wall and crossing the valley towards Mount Helen.

Recently the Shire of Mitchell recognised the significance this valley as a notable landscape and propose a **Significant Landscape Overlay** for incorporation in the Planning Scheme.

While the wind turbines will dominate the subtleties of our much loved landscape, criss-crossing the land with transmission line towers will further compromise our shared pristine setting in favour of an industrialised landscape.

John Curtis Highlands



Nationally endangered Greater Glider



Dederang transmission lines. The proposed Molesworth, Caveat, Highlands transmission lines will be similar lattice structures

Main north - south



Signs are already appearing along Caveat Dropmore Road

Stewart's Creek Valley Looking towards The Peak where Transmission lines will cross valley.



Euroa Arboretum - Growing back the bush

We urgently need to upscale the capacity to harvest native seed for large, biodiverse projects. Wild populations alone will not meet the demand for seed and currently we don't come close to harvesting enough seed for large revegetation projects.

In 2024, we aim to plant 13 hectares, (7,000 plants) of seed production orchard at Murchison to enable easy, large scale seed harvesting. This will double our current annual seed harvesting capacity – a predicted extra 120kg of seed.

A \$40 sponsorship will cover the cost of 1 plant for 3 years. This includes the planning, planting and maintenance over 3 years for each plant.

For more information on how you can help support us at the Arb, or details on increasing our seed supply for the catchment, please visit our website donations page www.euroaarboretum.com.au/donate For donations over \$2, receive a ATO compliant receipt for your next tax return.

Cath Olive

Euroa Arboretum Project Manager

An update on FERA's recent activities regarding their proposed Seymour Wind Farm project

We have received concerning feedback from multiple landowners regarding discussions that they have had with FERA in recent weeks, as FERA has been continuing to meet with landowners across the region in an attempt to win support for their project.

In all previous public meetings FERA have stated that all power connections would be underground from the wind turbine generators to a central substation, and then via a single 330kV overhead transmission line to the main grid connection point.

FERA are now saying that they may build multiple substations, each with a 132kV transmission line to the grid connection point. While the size of the 132kV transmission line towers will be considerably smaller than the 330kV towers, having multiple transmission lines running in different routes to the grid connection point would cause even more disruption.

Of greater concern is that the information FERA is presenting to landowners may not be accurate.

The map shown by FERA to prospective landowners detailing the project shows turbines located on multiple properties that FERA know to be completely opposed to their project. When questioned about this FERA conceded that the details on the map are not an accurate representation of the project as it currently stands.

This could misrepresent the facts and may lead landowners to believe that the proposed project differs in size or scope than it actually is, or that neighbouring landowners have committed to hosting wind turbines when in fact they have not.

While it is understandable that details of FERA's proposal will change as the project progresses, it is very misleading for them to continue to present information that they know to be incorrect.

If you are intending to meet with FERA to discuss their project we urge you to question the accuracy of any information that they present, and if you see any details that you know to be incorrect, challenge them on it and let us know.

One final thing, if you have not already completed our online survey please do so as the survey closing date has been extended by a week

STOP PRESS - SURVEY EXTENDED UNTIL 15th JULY.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/srrcglive

Regards

Darryl Otzen Secretary srrcg.com Strathbogies Responsible Renewables Community Group



Ruffy Veggie Patch Club - Monday 24th July 2pm-4pm

@ Don an Felicity's place - 124 Boat Hole Road Ruffy sharing ideas, knowledge and produce.

New members welcome.

Enquires Janet Hagen 0458 904268.



SUPPORTING VOLUNTEERS TO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

In welcome news for the HCCC's facilitators - Janet Hagen and Neil van Buuren - the State Government is providing continued support to volunteers who are delivering on-ground results for Victoria's environment and biodiversity.

Minister for Environment Ingrid Stitt announced an \$8.2 million investment which will extend the roles of 80 part-time Victorian Landcare Facilitators and 10 Regional Landcare Coordinators until 30 June 2025. Based in regional Victoria, these extensions will ensure that facilitators and coordinators are able to continue delivering initiatives such as planting native vegetation, improving wildlife habitat, enhancing wetlands and waterways, and undertaking pest animal control.

Across 2021-22, these roles supported the community in undertaking projects that planted more than 240,000 native plants and restored more than 45,000 hectares of land.

Facilitators support 740 environmental volunteering groups and networks across Victoria, helping them plan on-ground activities to benefit biodiversity and the environment. They also have supported over 700 community events on an annual basis, attracting more than 32,000 participants.

Regional Landcare Coordinators also support the delivery of the annual Victorian Landcare Grants, which delivered \$3.22 million for volunteer groups last year and funded 217 on-ground and capacity-building projects to protect and restore the natural environment.

Through Biodiversity 2037 and a record investment of \$582 million since 2014, the State Government is investing more than ever in Victoria's biodiversity and environment.

The Minister for Environment Ingrid Stitt has emphasised that, "This funding reflects support for our invaluable volunteers who do important grassroots environmental work across the state. These vital roles, facilitators and co-ordinators, support local groups and projects across Victoria to secure our environment for future generations, and this funding will enable them to maintain the continuity of that work. As local volunteers know what needs to be done to get the best environmental outcomes for their communities the government is supporting facilitators to empower locals to act for their environment."

Jan celebrated her birthday in style!!

Detre Speak

With her family - John, Scott, Mel and cousin, Margaret

With the Highlands Spinners - Anne, Muriel, Andrea, Gaylene & Alex









Know Your Weeds

Japanese Honeysuckle (Lonicera Japonica)

Although this plant is sweetly scented, with pretty creamy white to yellow flowers in summer, when spread by careless disposal of garden waste it is likely to become invasive and inhibit the growth of other plant species.

As a vine it climbs by twisting itself around vertical structures, including the trunks and limbs of already established trees.

Its leaves are oval shaped, 3-7cm long and 1-3cm wide and whilst young

stems are covered with fine hairs, older ones become hollow. All stems can produce roots at nodes when they come in contact with soil.

Japanese Honeysuckle is a perennial weed that is best controlled during spring, and this can be done by hand weeding, spot spraying foliage with an appropriate herbicide or by mechanical removal. As parts of this plant can be dispersed in a variety of ways - water, contaminated soil, seeds eaten by birds and animals as well as transported on equipment, vehicles or machinery it is easily spread around the district.

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



For many years Hughes Creek and County Creek had a dedicated team of volunteer Waterwatch monitors



taking monthly water samples and stream flow records, unfortunately in recent years (during Covid times) this team stopped operating. Water quality data is important to collect and Landcare in partnership with Goulburn Broken CMA, would like to get it happening again very soon.

Waterwatch Victoria is a successful community engagement program connecting local communities with river health and sustainable water issues and management since 1993. View our 25 Years of Waterwatch Video.

If you are interested in becoming a Waterwatch citizen scientist, please contact Janet Hagen 0458 904268.

GBCMA has organised a training session in Early August at Euroa and you will be kitted out with a set of measuring equipment.

Ideally we need someone in the Upper Hughes Creek Catchment, the mid catchment near the Boathole and lower down past Tarcombe. Anyone along the County Creek would be useful.

Janet Hagen HCCC Facilitator



Tablelands Community Centre

Community Learning Euroa will be at the Tablelands Community Centre on the First and Third Tuesday of the month from 1-3pm to assist with digital and on-line activities.

Either just drop in or come and follow a program of study.

We run two digital literacy programs free of charge:

BeConnected is aimed at the over 55's to help you learn the basics and the potential of working on-line, being safe online, shopping and banking online. Talk to family and friends and keep up with what is happening in your community. This applies to smart phones, tablets, and computers.

Digital Skills (ACFE) beginner and intermediate which will also help you with databases, organising photos, and the office programs for writing documents, drawing and presentations. Hosting or attending zoom meetings will also be included.

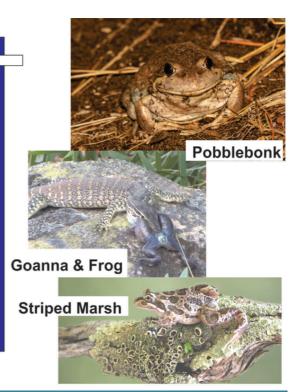
Contact: Bob: 0480 348 788 or 0414 752 871

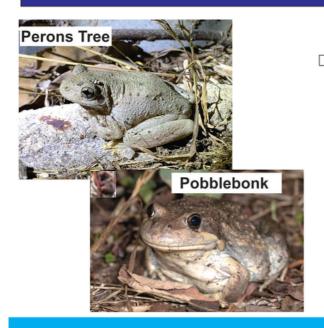
Email address:

contact.cleuroa@gmail.com

FROGS

- Which live near you?
- How can we get to know them? What can we do to encourage or support them.
- Come along & find out !!
- A presentation on Frogs of our Local area & How to use the Frog App.





FREE EVENT ALL WELCOME

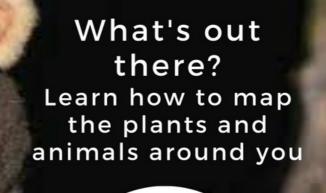
RSVP (for catering): Val - 0419 328 731

Please join us for soup after the Presentation

Presenter: Karen Retra Citizen Scientist / Photographer

SATURDAY 22nd July 2023, 10.30am Location: Tablelands Community Centre, 27 Nolans Rd. Ruffy.

This Presentation is a Joint Venture by Strathbogie Ranges Group of the Australian Plant Society & Longwood East Landcare Group.



Biodiversity Mapping

Why this is for you!

Want to learn how to map the species around you?

Hear how keen locals have been mapping some of the interesting wildlife that calls our area home into the <u>Strathbogie Ranges Nature Atlas project in iNaturalis</u>t.

This information is valuable to help monitor impacts and changes to our environment. By identifying and mapping species we can demonstrate the importance of this unique area for biodiversity.

We'll show what we've been discovering. Bring your own smart device and we'll show you how to use simple online tools to map wildlife in our area.

HIGHLANDS HALL

SATURDAY 29th JULY 2023

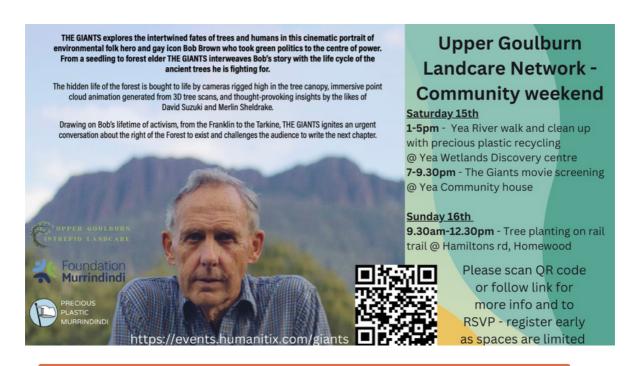
10am -12 NOON

Janet: 0427 904 268

Sam: 0417 576 306

THIS EVENT IS SUPPORTED BY
THE HUGHES CREEK CATCHMENT
COLLABORATIVE
LANDCARE GROUP







Foundation Murrindindi's Connecting Communities Grant Round is now open!

This grant round focuses on Community Health and Well-being.

The Connecting Communities grants program aims to enable local organisations to undertake community led projects and initiatives that help communities to stay connected by reducing feelings of loneliness and isolation, foster community connections, increase social participation and inclusion and enhance a sense of belonging.

Community groups across Murrindindi Shire are invited to apply for small grants of up to \$500 for community-led initiatives that achieve this purpose.

The Connecting Communities small grants program is open from 1 July until 31 July 2023.

For more information, please visit our website www.foundationmurrindindi.org.au



Marysville BookNest 2023 Writing Competition Free Entry from 22nd May - 30th July

For writers who have a residence, live, work or study in the Shire of Murrindindi

Open Short Story (Fiction) Category

Open Age 1st Prize: \$500, 2nd Prize: \$250 -

Open Age 1st Prize: \$500, 2nd Prize: \$250 - up to 3000 words

Young Writers under 18 years of age Short Story (Fiction) Category

3 prizes of \$250 each - up to 1300 words

Open Poetry Category

Open Age 1st Prize: \$500, 2nd Prize: \$250 - up to 40 lines

For primary school students who live or attend a school in the Triangle area

Triangle Junior Writers Short Story (Fiction) Category

3 prizes of \$50 each - up to 500 words

For all details, conditions, and how to submit your entry go to marysvillebooknest.com

We respectfully acknowledge the Taungurung people as the Traditional Custodians of the Country on which the Marysville BookNest is based. We pay our respects to Elders, past, present and emerging.

MURRINDINDI SHIRE COUNCIL NEWS



CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN - NEXT

Council would like to thank everyone who has provided feedback on the draft Climate Change Action Plan: Towards 2035.

Input from residents, business owners and landholders is valuable and will help shape the actions we take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Together we are taking action for a more sustainable future.

The next steps are to review and analyse all community feedback we received, then present the finalised Climate Change Action Plan to Council for adoption in the coming months.

For the latest updates, visit The Loop theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/climateaction or drop into a Library or Customer Service Centre.

EVENTS AND INFLATABLES PERMITS

Do you have an event coming up in Murrindindi Shire? To ensure you are covering off on any Council requirements, please submit an Event Notification Form via our website with as much notice as possible.

Council has recently implemented a permit process for the use of inflatables, including jumping castles, on Council-managed land and sites to minimise the risk of injury and keep our community, particularly children, safe. Inflatable devices can be hazardous if they are not set up and operated correctly.

If you're planning on having inflatables at your next event, you must go through a permit process and provide evidence to Council that demonstrates you are meeting Australian Standards.

Council officers will guide you through the process, so please get in touch with us nice and earlu.

For more information and to submit an Event Notification Form, visit our website at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/organisingevents or call our Events team.

GET IN TOUCH

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

MANAGING OUR LOCAL ROAD NETWORK

Council is reviewing and updating its Road Asset Management Plan (RAMP), to guide how Council-managed roads and road assets are created, maintained, and upgraded over the next decade and beyond. To get involved:

- join the Roads Advisory Group to represent your local community on issues and decisions on road asset management
- complete a community survey. before it closes on Sunday 16 July. It can be completed online or at our Library and Customer Service Centres
- provide feedback on the current condition of the road network via an interactive map

For more information visit The Loop at theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/ramp

HAVE YOUR SAY ON HOW RATES ARE CALCULATED

Local Government Victoria wants your opinion on a new way to calculate rates called a Valuation Averaging Mechanism. It could help reduce the impact of big changes in property values on how much you pay in rates.

A Valuation Averaging Mechanism uses an average of past property values instead of current value to calculate rates. This could make rates more stable and predictable.

Local Government Victoria has prepared a paper that explains how it could work and what it could do. You can read the paper and have your say at engage.vic.gov.au

Consultation is open until 31 August 2023.

STAY WELL OVER WINTER

Influenza (the flu) and COVID-19 circulate all year round, but winter is particularly bad for the spread of illness.

Free Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) are available for all community members to collect at our Customer Service Centres and Libraries. Call us for locations.

You can collect up to two packs of five RATs per household. Face masks are also available.

For more information and to report a positive RAT result, visit the Department of Health website at coronavirus.vic.gov.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.