

THE GRANITE NEWS



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



16th July 2023 | Volume 17 Issue 23

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

As winter roles along our local area has seen some beautiful clear, crisp days over the last week, which is most welcome after the very wet weather we've had over the last few months.

Flying in from northern NSW on Friday I had a brilliant birds' eye view of a fair chunk of central Victoria and with most storage dams, big and small, full to capacity I can certainly understand the residents of Rochester being concerned about Lake Eppalock's water levels.

So, let's hope the rain eases off for a wee while or those dams that have been built for irrigation actually release a bit of water for flood mitigation as it would be a travesty to have a repeat of last spring.

Please read on for another excellent issue, Pauline
And Kenny? Was catching up with the Pobblebonk frog.



An INVITATION

to the

'Opening' of the Highlands Community Book-swap
and a look at the progress of the Hall renovations.

Friday 28th July 6pm – 8pm

BYO Finger food & Drinks

Book-group initial meeting planned for

Friday 25th August 6 - 8pm

BYO Finger food to share and Drinks

Expressions of interest call Robyn on 0409 528235

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

"You can't shake a hand with a clenched fist."

**Indira Gandhi
(1917 - 1984)**

**Indian politician and
Stateswoman who served as
India's Prime Minister twice**



Something to ponder...

There's always some truth behind
just kidding

some knowledge behind I don't
know

Some emotions behind I don't
care
and some pain behind it's okay.

	NB: Fully vaccinated attendees are appreciated at all events.	What's On - July & August 2023
Details? last TGN	Friday 21st July @ 6pm	AVENEL WINTER CONCERT - FLINDERS QUARTET @ Avenel Memorial Hall
 Details? See p.6	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
See p.1	Friday 28th July 6-8pm	The 'OFFICIAL' OPENING OF THE HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY BOOK-SWAP Everyone is invited - Highlands Hall - BYO Finger Food & Drinks Robyn 0409 528235
 Details? See p.7	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
	Friday 4th August @ 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 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	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 And now on Friday mornings too !!

Our "Biolink Corridors for Gliders in Seymour" Landcare Project

Vanessa Malandrin, Project Coordinator HCCC Landcare

Last week I caught up with Lesley to assess a few sites for spotlight walks and nest boxes' inspection. It was a lovely afternoon with some much-appreciated winter sun filtering down amongst the trees. We met on Telegraph Rd, just outside Seymour, in front of what's been named "Lesley's Gate" by the locals, who have placed a bespoke timber sign on the fence. And in case you're wondering, the Lesley I caught up with was the same one honoured by the sign.

On the walking path, small, beautiful mushrooms pop up from the bare soil, attracting our attention. Since I've started learning more about fungi, thanks to the recent Festival in Euroa and Alison Pouliot's books, I can appreciate not only their elegant appearance, but also their underground contribution that keeps the bush healthy. Lesley pointed out to me a few mighty old trees, and we decided that it's the perfect place to host a spotlight walk and look for gliders.

Our reconnaissance tour proceeded by car along Telegraph Rd, then slowly over the Whiteheads Creek (that flows right on top the road), and along Lambing Gully Rd. All along the way I spotted many nest boxes, painted in dark green, that have been installed about 7 years ago by our Landcare facilitator Janet Hagen. A big sign explains the whole project, under the title 'Corridors for Life'.



It's now time to check if these nest boxes need any repair, and to discover who's living in there; surely there should be some gliders, but Lesley observes that there's not much understory, mostly golden wattles and a few black wattles, that are both short-lived trees.

I take notes of all this information, as I want to learn all about it. Would the Euroa Arboretum have some more wattles that we could plant in here? And a couple of phone calls later we were on our way to organising a new planting day for the upcoming National Tree Day. Just a small one, with freshly baked scones (I was promised!) and only 100 trees to plant.

It hasn't been formally confirmed yet, but you can already save the date, **Saturday 29th of July**, and as soon as possible we will confirm further details. See you there, even if you'd like to come just for a chat. Anyone is welcome to join us for this project! 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.



Know Your Weeds

Camelthorn (*Alhagi maurorum*) State Prohibited Weed

Camelthorn is an erect spiny shrub to 1.5m tall with leaves up to 2.5cms long that are pale green and usually solitary or at the base of the spines.

It produces clusters of red-brown pea like flowers 7-10cm long on short branches during late spring to summer.

The stems are rigid, with many branches bearing spines with golden tips 1 - 2.5cm long and the well-defined seeds can be found in reddish - brown pods 2.5cm long.

This is a hardy, perennial and vigorous plant with an extensive root system which might be confused with native bitter-pea species.

It can be spread by slashing and mowing or with seed or plant pieces carried on equipment, vehicles or machinery as well as in contaminated soil.

Its eradication is the responsibility of DEECA and the optimum time is spring through to summer.

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



Volunteers needed



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

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



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.





Farm Chemical Users Course with 1080 Endorsement

The UGLN are running a subsidised course for landowners who wish to learn about the safe use of pest plant and animal control chemicals on their land. The course will qualify attendees for the Agricultural Chemical Users Permit (ACUP) with 1080 endorsement.

Dates:

Farm Chemical Users Course – 12th & 13th August
1080/PAPP Endorsement Session - 19th August

Where: Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre
Hood Street, Yea

Administration fee.
\$30 for Landcare members
\$50 non-Landcare members

Refreshments & light lunch provided.

Numbers are limited. To register contact:
Chris Cobern - Landcare Facilitator
Ph. 0413 855 490
[**ugln.projects@ugln.net**](mailto:ugln.projects@ugln.net)

This course has been funded by the Victorian State Government.



Notice of AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Creighton's Creek, Ruffy, Terip Terip, Longwood East Neighbourhood Watch group will be held on
Tuesday 15th August at 7pm
at the Creighton's Creek Community Centre.

All residents are encouraged to attend. Security and safety of our community is in our hands.

Flood Recovery Music Sessions

Blue Tongue Berries based in Seymour are pleased to announce a special series of Short Straw Sessions. The Live Music for Flood Recovery Program is supported by Music Victoria and by the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria. The program has supported many events throughout 2023, from small gigs in pubs featuring local musicians, to large-scale festivals and community events, with passionate artists supporting communities and sharing music to provide a space for impacted communities to revive, recover and gather together after a tumultuous year.

Blue Tongue Berries offers a unique and intimate space to host live music in their stunning off-grid strawbale venue, the Hacienda.

The session commences on **Sunday July 30th at 2pm** with the icon of the Australian Sudanese music Ajak Kwai together with Kumar Shome & Matthew Rickson. Ajak has a deep connection to community spirits, she knows how it feels to lose your home and experience a disrupted life. Ajak looks forward to bringing her music to the region. Ajak's broadly inspired artistic achievements include a successful collaboration with ARIA award-winner Sarah Blasko, becoming ambassador of the Melbourne International Arts Festival, recording with a group of industry stalwarts including Missy Higgins, and performing live at major festivals around Australia and internationally, including Mofo, WOMADelaide, Panama Festival and the Tamar Valley, Port Fairy and Woodford Folk Festivals.

Tickets are limited but available at
[**bluetongueberries.au/events**](http://bluetongueberries.au/events)

Letter to the Editor

I was astonished to hear that there is a shortage of native tree seed. Many large trees produce hundreds of thousands of tiny seeds in a good year and many millions through their 100 to 500 year life and yet they grew from just one.

So the natural success rate is minuscule. Or to put it another way one tree could easily provide seed for a vast forest if they could be raised to seedling stage. This would produce an undesirable clone so a representative selection would be required.

How is it that not enough natural seed can be harvested?

Robbert Veerman (RFPG - Rubicon Forest Protection Group)

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.



Pobblebonk



Goanna & Frog



Striped Marsh



Perons Tree



Pobblebonk

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.





What's out there?
Learn how to map the plants and animals around you

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 Strathbogie Ranges Nature Atlas project in iNaturalist.

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**



<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>
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 <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.