

THE GRANITE NEWS



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



23rd July 2023 | Volume 17 Issue 24

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

In about a month's time I'll be heading off to Tasmania for a couple of weeks' R&R and revisiting places I haven't been back to in more than half a lifetime. One of these places will be Strahan on the rugged west coast, where the nearby entrance to Macquarie Harbour was known by the convicts sent there, as Hell's Gate.

My overriding memory of this place is 6 of us taking one look at the denuded moonscape surrounding, and the 'concrete creek' sludging its way through, Queenstown and thinking there's got to be a better place than this to camp for the night - so we kept heading west, until we could go no further and ended up at Strahan.

A quick trivia question - Did you know that the next landfall at that latitude is the east coast of South America? But I digress.

Now this trip was before the Franklin River was blockaded in an effort to stop Tasmania's Premier, 'Electric Eric' (Reece) - he who thought that the pristine Tasmanian Wilderness would be better off flooded than preserved in its natural state for all time - from flooding yet another amazing environmental gem.



(Photo: Allira Johnston - Examiner)

I only recently discovered that July 1st 2023 is the 40th anniversary of the landmark court decision that saved the Franklin River from being dammed. It was an incredibly close call with a 4:3 High court ruling. **However this decision did more than save a river, it galvanised generations of people to protect nature.**

If you haven't yet seen the film 'The Giants' which, among other things, focusses on this environmental watershed, it's well worth tracking down. Enjoy.

Please read on for another excellent issue, Pauline And Kenny? Was catching up with the Peron's Tree Frog.

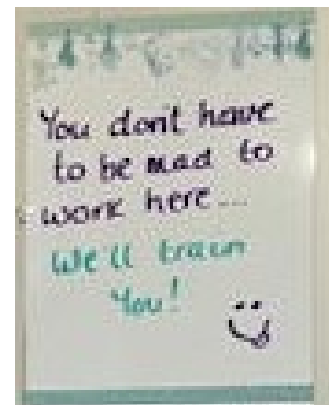
Feedback? editor@tgn.org.au
or to subscribe on-line go to
www.highlands.org.au

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

"A people without knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots."

Marcus Garvey (1887-1940)

Jamaican Political activist



War on Waste is Back!

After 2 excellent series the ABC program War on Waste will be back on TV - Monday 25th July @ 8.30pm.

This time the focus is on waste - food, fashion and big pharma and how this is impacting climate change.

Did you know that over 60% of our clothing is made from plastic? Just think polar fleece for starters.

NB: Fully vaccinated attendees are appreciated at all events.

What's On - July & August 2023



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

Details?
See p.4

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.5

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

Sat 5th & Sun
6th Aug. 10-4

DARREN GILBERT'S OPEN STUDIO @ YEA BUTTER FACTORY
Open first weekend each month - 13 Rattray St, Yea - discover some stunning artwork!

Sunday 6th
Aug. @7.30pm

TERIP TENNIS CLUB AGM @ Terip Clubhouse
All welcome!
Enquiries: Cindy - temagong@bigpond.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 @ TCC, 27 Nolans Rd, Ruffy
All ages welcome - Nature play - Playground - Toys - Friends - **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**

There's more to gain with enhanced farm dams



Vanessa Malandrin, Project Coordinator HCCC Landcare

Last week I had the opportunity to attend a full-day training on farm dams, delivered by the ANU's Sustainable Farms team experts. The workshop was free to attend, thanks to a small training budget allocated by the Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs) for Landcare Facilitators and Volunteers as part of the Victorian Landcare Program.

Our Field Day on Farm dams at Janet and Justus' property on the 6th May had such a good response that we nearly had to turn people away; even with the few last-minute cancellations, we still had nearly 50 participants. However, the growing interest for doing things differently comes accompanied by doubts and fears, and rightly so, as water storage on farms is so crucial that we cannot muck it up.

But are we doing it in the most efficient way right now? And how do we measure efficiency?

The latest research shows that **enhanced dams**, compared to control dams, can offer multiple benefits, such as improved water quality (lower Nitrogen, Phosphorus, faecal bacteria and turbidity levels), reduced methane emissions (up to 57% less) and reduced evaporation rates (thanks to vegetation around the dam). Enhanced dams can bring about more eco-system services, like pollination, nutrient cycling, regulation of pest populations, soil carbon sequestration, control of soil erosion and retention of sediments and nutrients, just to mention a few.

In turn, all this will contribute to more resilient farming systems and, on a larger scale, to more resilient and sustainable agricultural landscapes.

Carbon sequestration in farm dams is not a very well-known topic yet, but there's a chance that in the future you'll be able to earn carbon credits by managing your dam; even if this idea has been initially rejected, scientists are still lobbying for it, as explained in this article ([ABC, 2022](#)): **Researchers push for carbon credit payments for Australian farmers who fence their dams**.

Now I'd like to hear from you, dear Granite News' readers. Would you like to share some stories (either publicly or in private) about your farm dams? Where are you at, and what plans are on your mind? If you've attended our field day in May, is there anything new you've done, or that you're planning to do? And in case you've missed it, I'll be more than happy to send out my notes, or you can head to [Managing dams – resources on the Ag Vic website](#) or to the [Sustainable Farms' website](#). Also, more information on [enhanced farm dams is available here](#).

As always, feel free to email me at vanessa@hcccclandcare.net.au to keep the conversation going.

Looking forward to meeting you around a farm dam, sometime soon in the next few months.



ATTENTION all CFA MEMBERS

A CFA accredited First aid course at Glenburn is at risk of being cancelled due to low numbers, please see information below:

CFA District 12

Glenburn FB

Tuesday 15/08/2023 07:30PM

TOPICS - Provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation and Provide First Aid

Please nominate through learning hub or by replying with full name/member ID/brigade/mobile number to D12 Training d12.training@cfa.vic.gov.au

Kind regards

Shannon Roach - Coordinator
Learning & Development
CFA Training - District 12 Headquarters

T: 03 5735 3123 M: 0428 578 463

**You never know when First Aid will be useful - why not register now?
Ed.**



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



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.

Euroa Arboretum - Get ready for Spring Planting in YOUR garden

Hi everyone, a few ups and downs in the nursery this year, but we still have plants ready, and more plants that will be ready by August.

Lots of requests are coming in for wildflowers. Very slow germination this year for wildflowers, but the babies are finally coming up! If you are chasing lilies, they will be ready by August.

If you are chasing wildflowers, drop by in September and October. We shall look forward to seeing you in the nursery.

******10,000 plants in stock and the NEW order form is on the website.**

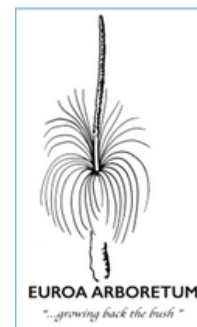
Make your orders and select a time to collect.****

If you're just after a smaller number, our retail nursery is open
Monday & Thursday 12-4pm and has just been re-stocked.

<http://euroaarboretum.com.au/plant-order-form/>

Cath Olive

Euroa Arboretum Project Manager





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.



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

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

@ Don & Felicity's place - 124 Boat Hole Road Ruffy
sharing ideas, knowledge and produce.
New members welcome.
Enquires Janet Hagen 0458 904268.



Know Your Weeds

Horehound (*Marrubium Vulgare*) - White **Regionally Controlled Weed**

Horehound is an erect bushy shrub, a perennial plant, that grows to 75cm tall. It is a widespread weed of bushland, roadsides and cropping fringes and unlikely to be confused with any native species.

The leaves are blue/green with a silvery appearance due to fine hairs on top, but they are wooly underneath. Their edges are lightly serrated and can be crinkled, leathery, rounded and up to 7cm in diameter.

It flowers from summer through to autumn with white flowers, formed in dense rounded clusters about 6-10mm long. These flowers surround the stem at the nodes, with the stems woody at the base and branched at the top.

The best time to eradicate this weed is April to September by either spot spring or cultivation before flowering.

For further information re eradication email -
[**info@hccclandcare.net.au**](mailto:info@hccclandcare.net.au)



warm up this
WINTER

Did you know that the

\$250 Power Saving Bonus

can be spent on anything, not just on electricity bills.

NEED HELP?
Call in to the
Tablelands Community Centre
1st and 3rd Tuesday of the Month
1pm-3pm
Or by appointment other times
0427 690 970
Finishes 31st August

www.nhvc.org.au/power-saving-bonus-outreach-program

NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE VICTORIA

Good Shepherd

VICTORIA

Community Learning Euroa
will be at the
Tablelands Community Centre

1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month
1pm - 3pm

Digital Literacy 'BeConnected' Program
Provides support or training for the over 50s

Understand & use your own devices
Get on-line
Keep up to date
Cybersecurity
On-line shopping & banking
Stay in contact with family & friends
Help with Energy Bonus
Printing service
Hard copy Granite News by request

**Drop into a session
Computers available**

We help with digital literacy & digital skills through two programs Federal & State supported

Digital Skills Course Beginner
30 hour pre-accredited program
Supports you to gain digital skills
Certificate on completion

Intermediate
30 hour pre-accredited program
The use of Word, writing emails, spreadsheets
day to day technology, On-line (zoom) meetings
Certificate on completion



Contact: Community Learning Euroa
Email: contact.cleuroa@gmail.com
Mob: 0480 348 788, 0414 752 871 Call or Text



We need your recipe

**Tablelands Community Centre
COOKBOOK**

Many traditions and memories centre around food
A custom cookbook is a great way to preserve those memories

Help us celebrate the 30 plus years reprint of
"Tastes of the Tablelands"

Recipes for comfort, pleasure, celebration, family, and friends

The Tablelands Community Centre welcomes you to
contribute your favourite recipe to be published in
the reprint cookbook

Submit your recipe : email tccruffy@gmail.com or drop off at
Community Centre mailbox 27 Nolans Road, Ruffy
Include: Title, submitted by, ingredients, method

Thank you for your support

Email: tccruffy@gmail.com or 0427 690 970

PLANTING TREES FOR NATIONAL TREE PLANTING DAY



THE CANOPIES FOR KOALAS PROJECT

HELP OUR LOCAL KOALA POPULATION SURVIVE

PLANT SOME TREES, RECIEVE SOME FREE TREES

LUNCH PROVIDED
ALL WELCOME AND NEEDED

RSVP FOR CATERING AND SITE LOCATION
PLANTING - SUNDAY 30th July 2023

RSVP BY FRIDAY 28th JULY
Tablelands Community Centre, 27 Nolans Rd Ruffy
Contact tccruffy@gmail.com or 0427 690 970

This project received funding from the Australian Government's Planting Trees for the Queen's Jubilee

<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 tcruddy@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.