THE GRANITE NEWS



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



27th August 2023 | Volume 17 Issue 29

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

It's dull day when you don't learn something new and yesterday the stars were in alignment for my attendance at the Ruffy information meeting, held by FERA, for their proposed windfarm - and I learned heaps! So, bearing in mind the guidelines set by this publication a couple of months ago, re any windfarm commentary, I would like to offer the following facts, and information gleaned, to TGN readers.

- From the faces I recognised in the 70+ crowd there was an excellent representation from across the HCCC area - Ruffy, Terip, Caveat, Highlands, Whiteheads Creek, Kobyboyn, Tarcombe, Bungle Boori and even one woman from Mansfield.
- 7 landholders have indicated a willingness to sign up to FERA's proposal and 10 x more that number turned up to the meeting to be informed of the current situation and developments.
- Inka Veltheim a qualified ecologist, specialising in biology, from the
 independent company Biosis presented her findings from the
 desktop study that has been completed. This broad overview is the
 first step in the process that assesses the potential habitat
 destruction and threats posed to any endangered species that live
 in the designated area. It included a 2-day rapid field trip that was
 confined to public roads. (A summary of these results, taken
 from the slides presented is on p. 7 & 8)
- Such environmental studies apply to all aspects of the project, including the construction phase.
- According to FERA spokesperson Andrew Lawson they are aiming to avoid any sensitive areas, as listed by Biosis in its reports and any areas that can't be mitigated will be deleted from the project.
- Due to the size of the proposed project any decisions made re its implementation are subject to State and Federal environmental protection laws and, according to Inge, projects of this size have all required EES (Environmental Effects Statements) in recent years.
- The EPBC (Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation)
 Act was cited several times during the course of the meeting & is a vital piece of legislation aimed at protecting our unique flora/fauna.
- As the meeting moved from Inge's to FERA's presentation, for various reasons, about 2/3 of the audience walked out.
- 'We are all in this together' was mentioned several times and FERA would like to hear from anyone who is interested in / has concerns about the project to contact them and there are a number of ways to do this - a.lawson@feraustralia.com.au

seymour@feraustralia.com.au 0481 234 229

454 Victoria Pde, East Melbourne 3002

Maybe as a courtesy cc the SRRCG your comments info@srrcg.com so all interested parties have an accurate idea of community opinion. Please read on for another interesting issue, Pauline And Kenny? Was looking forward to the On The Road library visit.

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

"Asking a quilter to do mending is like asking Picasso to paint your garage."

Quoted by Jan W but probably by many other quilters too.



War on Waste - Recycling

How much do you know about recycling and the waste facts from the fiction? Test yourself - answers in next week's TGN.

You can recycle Tetra Paks everywhere in Australia?

A - True

B - False

And the answer to last week's question - A. Garbage (red bin)

Even though blister packs contain a range of materials that can be recycled, kerbside and council recycling facilities don't have the capacity to process them just yet. At least not within cooee of the HCCC area. If you are a reader further afield **Pharmacycle** may be of help.

		NB: Fully vaccinated attendees are appreciated at all events.	What's On - August & September 2023
CFA		Thursday 31st Aug @ 5.30pm	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	Thursday 31st Aug @ 5.45pm	SPOTLIGHT WALKS - BIOLINK CORRIDORS @ Seymour Bushland Park
	×	Friday 1st Sept. @ 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
	Details? See p.4	Sat. 2nd Sept @ 5.45pm	SPOTLIGHT WALKS - BIOLINK CORRIDORS @ end of Anglesey St, Seymour
	Details? See p.5	Friday 8th Sept. 6-7.30	ON THE ROAD - Library Visit @ Highlands Community Hall
		Friday 8th Sept. @ 6.30	DRINKS on the DECK @ Highlands Community Hall Starts @ 6.30pm, bring food to share a d catch up with friends old and new. All welcome, especially new faces. Gold cin donation to cover power. Contact Paula 0419 551882
	Details? See p.6	Sat. 9th Sept. @ 6pm	TERIP TERIP FIRE BRIGADE AWARDS NIGHT & DINNER @ Terip Rec Reserve
		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 6th & 20th Sept. and 4th & 18th Oct.
		1st & 3rd Tuesday 10-12	TABLELANDS KIDS' PLAY GROUP @ TCC, 27 Nolans Rd, Ruffy All ages welcome - Nature play - Playground - Toys - Friends - 5th & 19th September.
		1st & 3rd Tuesday 1-3	DIGITAL & ON-LINE LEARNING @ TCC, 27 Nolans Rd, Ruffy 5th & 19th September Enquiries? Bob - 0480 348788
		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

Biolink Corridors for Gliders in Seymour Inspiring the next generation of environmental volunteers

Dear TGN readers.

I hope you are enjoying this mild season at the end of winter. We've been lucky to have a bit of rain coming right after our wattle-planting day, with about 11.6 mm registered in Seymour. About 30 people attended the planting day, and we were all wearing hi-vis. What a view! It was also a lovely social occasion to connect with each other, especially when we all gathered around for brunch at the end. I can feel that we are becoming a great team.

Thank you, Lesley Dalziel for bringing a cake and the scones with cream and jam, as promised; they were delicious. John Dalziel brought a 1k litre water cube on the trailer, much needed as the soil was bone dry under the surface. Barbara Moss and Peter Mitchell looked after the seedlings for about a month (we all know how dedicated you must be to keep them alive) and helped coordinating the work at the planting (as always!). Zeb from the Shire looked after our safety by putting in place the Traffic Management Plan prepared by the Engineering Officer at Mitchell Shire. The Willis and the Wallis worked together planting trees, each team on their side of the road. My John got everything organised the day before the planting

day and then brought a trailer full of tools, including a wheelbarrow, our very heavy Landcare sign and all the equipment needed to make tea. Young Eoin (just 14 yrs old) flew our Landcare drone like a Pro and took footage of the whole event.

Many thanks also to Viviana Halley, Senior Environment Officer at Mitchell Shire, for all the work behind the scene, and to Jill Croome, Strategic Coordinator Environmental Volunteering for Hume Region at DEECA, for her ongoing support to our Gliders project. The list doesn't end here, but I'm trying hard to fit this article in one page. Every single participant contributed to make this planting day happen, and that's what it takes.



You'd think now I could take a rest, but I've been organising three spotlight walks: the next one is scheduled for **Thursday 31st at 5:45 pm (Meet at: Seymour Bushland Park, Telegraph Rd entrance)**. How to get there: from Seymour take the Goulburn Valley Highway towards Yea; past the Golf Course turn left into Telegraph Rd and after 1.3 km you'll see a gate on your left. The gate will be open to allow for more parking spaces. We will walk on a path inside the reserve (fenced area), where there's a few old trees with hollows, ideal for spotting some gliders. The length of the walk will vary according to circumstances.

Thank you all again, let's keep up the good work and we will inspire more and more people in our community to care for the environment.

To find out more about this project, **email Vanessa at seymoururbanlandcare@gmail.com Vanessa Malandrin, Landcare HCCC Project Coordinator**

This project is funded by the Victorian Government (DEECA, ex DELWP) through the Environmental Volunteering New Growth Project.





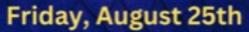






SPOTLIGHT WALKS





meeting at 5:45 pm at the end of Bolton St

Thursday, August 31st

5:45 pm at Seymour Bushland Park Telegraph Rd entrance.

Saturday, September 2nd

5:45 pm at the end of Anglesey st

BYO torches!

For more information, email Vanessa at SeymourUrbanLandcare@gmail.com













On the Road



Join us at the Highlands Community Hall for an evening of 'On the Road'. Real people talking about real books, eBooks, magazines, films and other great works.

6.00 - 7.30 pm | Friday 8 September Highlands Community Hall 1603 Ghin-Ghin Road, Highlands

Please RSVP by calling 5772 0333





III I I / / / Libraries Change Lives

DON'T FORGET!

The Granite News will be taking its usual termly break on 17th & 24th September.

This means there are only 2 more issues after this one to get any ads, articles or information out to a wider audience - editor@tgn.org.au so hop to it

The Terip Terip community is invited.



Terip Terip Fire Brigade awards night and dinner

Details

Date: Saturday 9th September 2023

Location: Terip Terip Rec Reserve and tennis courts.

Time: 6pm

\$20 per person for community members, free for brigade members and immediate family. Dinner and sweets provided, BYO Alcohol,

RSVP

Please RSVP by Monday 21st of August to brigade secretary Nick Jones 0402 022 228 or email teripteriprfb@gmail.com or Facebook: Terip Terip community

OUR COMMUNITY . OUR CFA



Results & Summations of the Biosis Desktop Study for **FERA's proposed Windfarm**

Summary

Values

- · Fauna habitat woodland, grassland, aquatic
- Threatened Species likelihood of occurrence
- Threatened Ecological species

Constraints

- · Native vegetation cover and threatened flora and fauna habitat (fixed constraints)
- Birds and bats (dynamic constraints)

Results - Windfarm & Transmission Line

Native Vegetation

- 22 Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs)
- · Mainly woodland and forest vegetation
- 2 endangered EVCs Grassy woodland & Perched Boggy Shrubland
- 1 additional EVC along transmission line Floodplain Riparian Woodland



Fauna Habitat

- · Woodland and forest
- Complex understory
- Large hollow bearing trees
- · Scattered trees
- Woody debris and rocky outcrops
- * Wetlands and waterways
- * Introduced vegetation
- * Potential for native grassland habitat
- * Goulburn River
- * Roadside vegetation

Results - Windfarm

Threatened Flora

• 31 likely to occur including EPBC Act listed - River swamp wallaby grass Matted flax lily Trailing hob bush



Results - Transmission Line

Threatened Flora

· 26 likely to occur including EPBC Act listed - Clover glycine

Euroa guinea flower Round leaf pomaderris

Results - Windfarm

Threatened Fauna

• 36 likely to occur including 11 EPBC Act listed species including -

Birds - Swift Parrot Gang Gang Cockatoo White Throated Needletail Species other than birds - Southern Greater Glider

Growling Grass Frog Striped Legless Lizard Golden Sun Moth Macquarie Perch Southern Pygmy-Perch

Results - Transmission Line

Threatened Fauna

• 44 likely to occur including 12 EPBC Act listed species including -

Birds - Swift Parrot Gang Gang Cockatoo White Throated Needletail Species other than birds - Southern Greater Glider

Growling Grass Frog Striped Legless Lizard Golden Sun Moth **Barred Galaxias**

Results & Summations of the Biosis Desktop Study for FERA's proposed Windfarm - continued....

Results - Threatened Ecological Communities

Nationally Listed (EPBC Act)

- Grey Box Eucalyptus Microcarpa Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of SE Australia (Endangered)
- Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands (Freshwater) of the Temperate Lowland Plains (Critically Endangered)
- White Box Yellow Box Blakely's Redgum Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands (Critically Endangered)

State-listed (FFG Act)

- Victorian Temperate Woodland Bird Community
- Lowland Riverine Fish Community of the Southern Murray Darling Basin



Avoiding Impacts on Biodiversity Values

- · Findings inform project design to avoid impacts
- Biodiversity vales >> Design constraints, project layout
- Typically, in Victoria Windfarm projects can achieve avoiding significant impacts through design

Seymor Windfarm will aim to

- · Avoid / minimise native vegetation removal, which will avoid impact on native species habitat
- · Consider bird and bat collision risk in infrastructure siting
- · Avoid threatened woodland and derived native grassland
- · Minimise water/floodplain impacts through siting and underboring

Legislative Considerations

- Commonwealth Environmental Protection & Biodiversity Act 1999
 - * Consider potential impacts on EPBC Act listed species and communities likely to occur
- State Planning & Environment Act 1987 (including Panning Schemes)
 - * Planning permit for native vegetation removal
 - * Native vegetation removal requires offsets
 - * Specific permit requirements of overlays
- · Victoria's Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation
 - * Avoid, minimise and offset requirements
- Environment Effects Act 1978 Seymour Windfarm may require EFA approval
- Fisheries Act 1995 Considers any impacts on aquatic fauna
- Water Act 1989 GBCMA consultation works in waterways permit
- Environment Protection Act 2017 Environmental Reference Standards

Biodiversity Survey and Technical Studies Program

Detailed flora and fauna assessment mapping and identifying

- · Native vegetation and fauna habitat
- · Threatened ecological communities
- · Threatened species habitat

Bird and bat utilisation studies (12-24 months)

- Systematic point count surveys
- · Targeted threatened species surveys





Winterreise - Dennis Spiteri does it again

Over the August weekends local Highlands artist Dennis Spiteri has once again opened up his amazing studio with yet another stunning exhibition of his latest paintings. Like his previous collections this display is also influenced by a classical composer - Franz Schubert (1797 - 1828).

Winterreise (Winter Journey) is a cycle of 24 songs, that were written in the last year of Schubert's short life - he died young at 31, and they incorporate the poetry of German poet Wilhelm Muller. Just like his musical muse Dennis also completed these 24 paintings in the space of a year, but has surprised those regular patrons, familiar with his HUGE canvasses, with their size.

Small, but evocative they convey the very essence of each of Schubert's songs and range from very sombre neutral palettes to hints of darkness with splashes of vivid, vibrant colours. For an abstract artist to capture this ambience with purely colour and brushstrokes is an impressive achievement.

As Dennis states "The main problem I faced of course is the fact that both the poems and their music settings are so literal that trying to do the same story in visual abstract terms is difficult to do. All I can do is to try and hint at the essence of the man's feelings throughout his journey. These 24 paintings are my humble attempt."

The paintings will remain in situ for the remainder of the year so if you missed this annual event but would be interested in discovering this visual feast in the next few months contact Dennis directly **5796 9373** or **dennisspiteri@activ8.net.au** to arrange a mutual convenient time to visit.







A DATE for your DIARIES - Sass and Secrets

NOTE - NEW Date!!

Saturday 16th September, Ruffy Public Hall

Doors open 7.30 pm. Performance commences 8.00 pm. Reservations essential: Email Kelly:

ruffartztickets@gmail.com or Mobile: 0407 017 090

Adults \$25, Students/Pensioners \$15

BYO Nibbles and drinks Coffee and cake available at intermission \$5.00

PRESENTED BY RUFFARTZ

A wickedly funny cabaret featuring awe inspiring magic, mentalism, fabulous singing and physical comedy mayhem! Not to be missed!!!

Know Your Weeds

Did you know that the following weeds are all State Prohibited Weeds?

- Alligator Weed
- Black Knapweed
- Camelthorn
- Horsetail
- Ivy-leaf Sida
- Lagarosiphon
- Mesquite
- Parthenium Weed
- Salvinia
- Thistle Nodding
- Water Hyacinth

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

Letter to the Editor

Hi Everyone,

CFA Dinner

Just a reminder that the community is invited to the Terip Fire Brigade Awards Night and Dinner as per the attached flyer.

The night is a chance for the community to join in saying thank you to recently retired brigade captain Geoff Penny, after more than 3 decades of dedicated service in that position.

Missing Equipment

The Stihl leaf blower is missing from the shed at the Rec Reserve. Hopefully someone has just borrowed it. If so, please return it as soon as possible.

Trivia Night

Planning is underway for another Terrific Terip Trivia night which we hope will become a regular fixture on the Terip social calendar!

More details soon.

Terip Terip Community

Another Letter to the Editor

Hi Pauline.

I'm enjoying reading the granite news as always :-)
I do however have a question regarding recycling....

Occasionally I come across products ie: a yoghurt tub that on the label part, usually printed on plastic and non-removable, has a bin logo but on the plastic, it has a recycle logo. Which is correct? (Now that I write this, I'm not sure if the label is printed on or wrap around, I don't buy yoghurt often enough to confirm, however maybe I will buy some this week to inspect closer and report back).

This year I finally became more recycle conscious and we've discovered that 2/3 of our household waste is recycling and are sending a lot less to landfill than ever before. How amazing would it be if the Strathbogie Shire did recycle bin collection in our area. I feel that this would encourage more recycling knowing that's one less thing to take to the Ruffy refuse site on a Wednesday or Sunday.

Renee Drysdale

Can anyone help with Renee's recycling query? Ed.

Highlands Book Group First Meeting

A successful first book group was held on Friday night at the Highlands Community Hall. Grazing dinner fare and choice of wines, amid a great discussion on reading preferences, preferred writing styles and favourite genres.

We have decided to read 'The Queen is Dead' by Stan Grant.

A sharing of books read and enjoyed is also recommended.

Our next meeting - **Friday 29th Sept 6-8pm**. All welcome. BYO plate to share & preferred beverage. Gold coin donation.

Enquiries Robyn 0409528235



Larry Taylor and all his family

would like to sincerely thank
McCormack's Funerals, in particular,
Andrew Howie and his staff.
Thanks also to all the friends and
relatives who attended Jan's funeral
especially the wonderful Highlands
Community people who supplied the
flowers along with a myriad of other
things over the last few weeks.



MURRINDINDI SHIRE COUNCIL NEWS



THE LOOP - GET INVOLVED

Big things are happening in the engagement space! Get involved in our new projects. Visit Council's engagement platform at theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au

PLANNING SCHEME REVIEW

As part of the Murrindindi Planning Scheme Review, Council is inviting community feedback on how the Planning Scheme has worked, as well as input that will guide future planning work.

For more information and to share your thoughts, visit The Loop or give us a call.

Feedback closes 30 September 2023.

FREE LUNCHES FOR SENIORS

In recognition of the Victorian of Seniors Festival in October, Council is hosting FREE lunches in Alexandra, Yea, Flowerdale, Eildon and Kinglake.

Come along and enjoy a hot lunch and live music by Steve Paix. Bring your friends, or make new ones. Book a seat, it will be fabulous!

These events are available for seniors living in Murrindindi Shire. Limited spots available.

For more information and to reserve your place, give us a call or visit The Loop.

Registrations are required by 5 October.

REDUCING ROAD TRAUMA IN THE SHIRE

Council is seeking community input to help plan for future road safety measures across the Shire.

Tell us what you think about road safety and how we can work together to improve it. Your feedback will help us prepare a draft Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan, with the goal of reducing road trauma, death and serious injury on our roads.

Road safety is a shared responsibility and community input is extremely valuable.

There are many ways you can get involved. Visit The Loop or give us a call for more information.

Get involved by 30 September 2023.



MURRINDINDI BUSINESSES WANT

have your say survey

Murrindindi Businesses, we want to hear from you! Are you a small business in Murrindindi Shire? If so, we want to hear from you! Murrindindi Food and Wine Inc is seeking feedback from small businesses about your challenges, the support you need and what events or activities you'd like to participate in.

The information gathered will be used to develop programs and initiatives to support small businesses across our region.

The quick 10-minute survey is available online at murrindindifoodandwine.org.au/survey





GRANTS AND SPONSORSHIPS APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR ROUND TWO

Are you interested in applying for a grant through Council's Grants and Sponsorships Program?

Applications for Round Two are now open, including Quick Response Grants and Special Purpose Grants which are open year-round.

Visit our website murrindindi.vic.gov.au/grants or call our Grants team on 5772 0333 for more information.

GET IN TOUCH

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



YEA



GARDEN EXPO

23 & 24 SEP 2023 **9AM - 3PM**

Location: Yea Saleyards
Flat Lead Road, Yea (see website for directions)

Only an hour from Melbourne!



Native & flowering plants **Garden sculptures Motorised barrows & vehicles** Garden tools & Vegetable bins Seedlings

Mulch, fertilisers & compost Ride-on & push mowers **Nurseries**

Small chainsaws

Roses

Deciduous & Ornamental trees Garden books

Plant Creche

Speakers Program And much more.....



Entry \$10 for adults - Kids U/16 FREE.

Pay at the gate or book online via www.trybooking.com: www.trybooking.com/CGUBP (Bookings open July 1st)



Contact: yeagardenexpo@optusnet.com.au

www.yeagardenexpo.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.