

# THE GRANITE NEWS



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



3rd September 2023 | Volume 17 Issue 30

## Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

I arrived in Tasmania last Tuesday to discover that, in August, it rains a lot here. With the exception of the hottest month of February, Tasi always reminds me of England with its verdant, green fields (definitely NOT paddocks) populated by that quintessential English breed of sheep the Suffolk - with its distinctive black head and legs and white body, lines of long-established deciduous trees and solid Georgian farmhouses.

But then, not too far from Devonport, I came across this sign - Strathbogie Rd - and realised that maybe some early Scottish settlers had staked their claim first. (Strath - means a broad mountain valley in Scottish) The fact that we had that very Scottish variety of precipitation - mizzle - for a constant companion after disembarking from the ferry only emphasised my perceived UK connection.



Interestingly the farm directly adjacent to the signpost had these signs on its gate - highlighting its owner's position on climate change as well as a commitment to private forestry. Interested? Click on these...

[www.farmersforclimateaction.org.au](http://www.farmersforclimateaction.org.au)

[www.treealliance.com.au](http://www.treealliance.com.au)

So, I guess it doesn't matter what state you live in, environmental concerns appear to be consistent across our entire country.

Please read on for another interesting issue, Pauline And Kenny? Was still looking forward to the OTR library visit.

## 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.

### Pick the 2 correct statements?

- A - A recycled bottle can be back on the shelf in 6-8 weeks
- B - Shredded paper can't go in curbside recycling
- C - It takes 30% less energy to recycle & reuse an aluminum can than to produce it

### And the answer to last week's question re Tetra Paks - A. False

Even though many products that come in Tetra Paks — think alternative milks and juice — say they're recyclable, that's not the case in every state and territory. It comes down to where you live and what your local council or government offers. For example, Tetra Paks can't be recycled at all in Western Australia, whereas in the ACT they can be, but you have to remove the plastic nozzles. Go figure!

Feedback? [editor@tgn.org.au](mailto:editor@tgn.org.au)  
or to subscribe on-line go to  
[www.highlands.org.au](http://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

"My cat isn't spoilt, she just has me well-trained."

As seen on a cat lover's fridge.



Month	Highlands	Ruffy	Terip
Aug.	52.2 mm	53.5 mm	55.4 mm
2023 Total	541.9 mm	489 mm	602.8 mm
Rainy Days	4 days	9 days	19 days

	NB: Fully vaccinated attendees are appreciated at all events.	What's On - September 2023	
Details? See p.3	Friday 8th Sept. 6-7.30	ON THE ROAD - Murrindindi Library Special Visit	@ Highlands Community Hall
	Friday 8th Sept. @ 6.30	DRINKS on the DECK 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.	@ Highlands Community Hall Contact Paula 0419 551882
 Details? See p.6	Sat. 9th Sept. @ 6pm	TERIP TERIP FIRE BRIGADE AWARDS NIGHT & DINNER	@ Terip Rec Reserve
	Monday 11th Sept. @ 11am	HIGHLANDS SPINNING CLUB The Highlands Spinning Club will get together in 2023 at the same place - 450 Caveat - Dropmore Rd, at the same time and with the same good company! BYO lunch and great tea and coffee will be provided.	Enquiries? Jan 57900 4361
	Thursday 14th Sept @ 7pm	HCCC MONTHLY MEETING Everyone is welcome, put the date in your diary now.	@ Tablelands Community Centre, Ruffy Enquiries? Justus 0427 524473
	Saturday 16th Sept @ 7.30-8	RUFFARTZ presents - SASS & SECRETS A wickedly funny cabaret featuring awe inspiring magic, mentalism, fabulous singing and physical comedy mayhem!	@ Ruffy Public Hall For tickets - contact Kelly 0407 017090
	Every Second Wednesday 10.30-12.30	MURRINDINDI MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE The Mobile Library visits the TGN area, based at the Highlands Hall every fortnight. Why not pop in?	@ Highlands Community Hall Forthcoming dates are 6th & 20th Sept. and 4th & 18th Oct.
	1st & 3rd Tuesday 10-12	TABLELANDS KIDS' PLAY GROUP All ages welcome - Nature play - Playground - Toys - Friends -	@ TCC, 27 Nolans Rd, Ruffy 5th & 19th September.
	1st & 3rd Tuesday 1-3	DIGITAL & ON-LINE LEARNING 5th & 19th September	@ TCC, 27 Nolans Rd, Ruffy 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 \$20 per hour long class BYO mat and blanket	at the Tablelands Community Centre Enquiries? Ingrid ingstar.7@gmail.com



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



@murrindindilibraryservice  
murrindindi.vic.gov.au/libraries  
5772 0333



Murrindindi  
Shire Council

/// / / /  
Libraries  
Change Lives

## DON'T FORGET!

The Granite News will be taking its usual termly break on 17th & 24th September. This means there is only 1 more issue after this one to get any ads, articles or information out to a wider audience - [editor@tgn.org.au](mailto:editor@tgn.org.au) so hop to it





## Threatened Species Day - 7th September

Threatened Species Day was declared in 1996 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the death of the last remaining Tasmanian Tiger (also known as the Thylacine) in Hobart in 1936.

Threatened Species Day is a time to reflect on what happened in the past and how similar fates to the thylacine could await other native plants and animals unless appropriate action is taken.

On 7 September 1936 only two months after the species was granted protected status, 'Benjamin', the last known thylacine, died from exposure at the Beaumaris Zoo in Hobart. While it is estimated there were around 5000 thylacines in Tasmania at the time of European settlement, excessive hunting, combined with factors such as habitat destruction and introduced disease, led to the rapid extinction of the species, along with a bounty introduced in the 1830s.

The name thylacine roughly translates (from the Greek via Latin) as 'dog-headed pouched one'. The world's largest marsupial carnivore, the thylacine was commonly known as the Tasmanian Tiger, due to the distinctive stripes on its back. Despite its fierce reputation, the tiger was semi-nocturnal and was described as quite shy, usually avoiding contact with humans.

The fossilised remains of thylacines have been found in Papua New Guinea, throughout the Australian mainland and Tasmania. Indigenous drawings in Kakadu have been dated to 6,000 years ago.



## Know Your Weeds

### Alligator Weed (*Alternanthera Philoxeroides*) **Weed of National Significance!**

Alligator weed is generally aquatic but can be terrestrial. It forms a free-floating mat or can be rooted to soil.

It is a highly invasive and destructive weed, choking waterways, depleting oxygen and collecting sediment.

Its flowers are generally produced from January to March with silver/white flowerheads 1.2 to 1.4cm in diameter on stems 2-7cms tall that grow from the leaf joins. The veined leaves are smooth and waxy and about 2-7cms long, growing in opposite pairs along the main stem.

It is a perennial plant and can be spread by water and boat movements. As it is a State Prohibited Weed its control, between November and April, is done by DEECA.

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

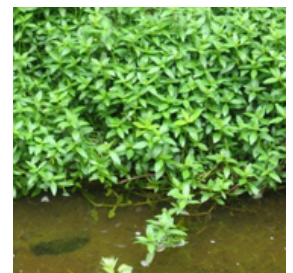
## Ruffy CFA Brekky and Open Day 10am Sunday October 1st

Free breakfast with free farm fighting equipment (BYO) chat n check plus the latest on the seasonal bushfire outlook and how to keep yourselves, your property and the wider community safe. Open to all community members in and around Ruffy.

Run by your Ruffy CFA at the Fireshed  
1 Nolan's Rd Ruffy



**Any queries:**  
**Felicity Sloman Ruffy Community Fire Safety**  
**Coordinator**  
**0413 483 450**  
**Or**  
**Captain George Noye**  
**0432 928 301**



## Letter to the Editor

FERA held their third round of community information meetings on Saturday 26th August at Ruffy and Upton Hill.

A summary of the preliminary environmental survey was presented by Inka Veltheim from Biosis. The initial survey has identified a number of threatened and endangered species of flora and fauna across the area proposed for development by FERA. The initial survey was mostly done by reviewing existing data sources such as the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas.

Further field studies will be conducted over the next 12 to 24 months to provide more details. Inka commented that even if a particular species is not actually recorded during the surveys, if the habitat for that species is found then it is most likely that the species would actually be there and would be recorded as such. Inka also said that based on the initial survey it is most likely that a full Environmental Effects Statement would be required due to the threatened species already identified and the size of the proposed development.

FERA agreed to a request in the meeting that they ensure that there was transparency in the design of the ecological surveys and that they implement a meaningful process for anyone in the community to provide input into the design. This would ensure that the surveys were conducted across a wide enough area and at appropriate times (eg to capture seasonal movements) to capture a representative sample of all the threatened and vulnerable ecological communities. Biosis were very receptive to having community input into their research, acknowledging the deep understanding that landholders have of the biodiversity on their properties.

We continue to encourage everyone to log observations of any interesting flora and fauna into iNaturalist, as Biosis will be using this data as well as data from other State and National biodiversity databases.

FERA then presented an overview of climate change and the need for renewable energy, a topic which the local community is already fully aware of and has no argument with, but unfortunately FERA did not provide any further information about their actual project other than that they may opt to construct multiple 132kV transmission lines along the roadsides to reach the main transmission line near Alexandra. Such a proposal should be strongly discouraged as it would require an easement of approx. 45m wide along the route of the transmission lines, leading to removal of almost the entire roadside remnant vegetation across the project area.

Those who attended the meetings left disappointed that FERA continue to treat the community with disrespect by withholding almost all information about their project and not engaging in an open discussion.

**Darryl Otzen**  
**Secretary srccg.com**  
**Strathbogie Responsible Renewables Community Group**

**For anyone interested in the complete Biosis desktop report - Biosis-Study-p1 (1).pdf**

**And for the results of the SRRCG Community Survey - Survey results final.pdf**

## Letter to the Editor

Hello Pauline,

I asked Molly at Strathbogie Shire Council who heads up our recycling, waste and environmental team for an answer to your reader's question regarding recycling.

Kind Regards,  
**Laura Binks (she/her)**  
**Councillor | Mayor**  
**Strathbogie Shire Council**

Hi Laura,

Please see below.

The label referred to is the Australian Recycling Label that is slowly being rolled out on all packaging across Australia to help residents pick the right bin. The imaging, below, can mean slightly different things but identifies how each part of the packaging can be disposed of.

The far left filled in recycling symbol means, the box in this case, can be placed in the recycling bin. The clear recycling symbol in the middle means the material can be recycled if the additional instruction is followed and the bin symbol means that part of the packaging must be placed in the red bin. Further information on the Australian Recycling Labels can be found at <https://apco.org.au/the-australasian-recycling-label>

Also, re her request I assume she lives in Ruffy and sadly we don't offer a collection service up there but if she reaches out to Council we can investigate, depending on her address.



**Molly O'Connor**  
**Environment and Waste Coordinator**  
**Strathbogie Shire Council**

## The Terip Terip community is invited.



### Terip Terip Fire Brigade awards night and dinner

#### Details

Date: Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> of August to brigade secretary Nick Jones 0402 022 228 or email [teripteriprb@gmail.com](mailto:teripteriprb@gmail.com) or Facebook: Terip Terip community

OUR COMMUNITY • OUR CFA



[cfa.vic.gov.au](http://cfa.vic.gov.au)

## Don't forget - 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](mailto:ruffartztickets@gmail.com) or

**Mobile:** 0407 017 090

Adults \$25, Students/Pensioners \$15

BYO Nibbles and drinks

Coffee & cake available at intermission \$5.00

**PRESENTED BY RUFFARTZ**

**Ruff  
ArtZ**

A wickedly funny cabaret featuring awe inspiring magic, mentalism, fabulous singing and physical comedy mayhem!

**Not to be missed!!!**

## Now's the time to plan ahead!

**Saturday 11th November**

### Ruffy Hall Fundraiser Trivia Night

**Ruffy Veggie Patch Club -  
Monday 25th September**

**2 - 4 pm**

@ Cheryl & Joe's place  
190 Red Gate Lane, Ruffy  
Sharing ideas, knowledge and  
produce.

New members welcome.

**Enquiries?**

**Janet Hagen 0458 904268**



### The Tree Project

Seedling Orders are now open for 2023-24 🌱

<https://preview.mailerlite.com/u3a4c1p8b9>



## 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.....

**FOOD & DRINKS  
AVAILABLE!**

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

Pay at the gate or book online via [www.trybooking.com](http://www.trybooking.com):

[www.trybooking.com/CGUBP](http://www.trybooking.com/CGUBP) (Bookings open July 1<sup>st</sup>)



**FREE PARKING**

Contact: [yeagardenexpo@optusnet.com.au](mailto:yeagardenexpo@optusnet.com.au)

**[www.yeagardenexpo.com.au](http://www.yeagardenexpo.com.au)**





Home Creek Spring Creek Landcare Group  
& Merton Landcare Group would like to  
present



## “Farming 2023”

### With the Fox Pastoral Company

- **WHEN** - Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> of September 10.30am
  - Meet at the shearing shed.
- **WHERE** - 313 Growlers Gully Road Merton
- **WHY** - Innovative breeding Programs.
  - Managing very steep country with exceptional Landcare practices.
  - Large cattle and sheep grazing property.
  - Over 150 years of farming history
- **Program** - 10.30am-11.00am Morning tea
  - 11.00am - 12.00pm Talk by Stuart Fox
  - 12.00pm - 1.00pm Lunch
  - 1.00pm onwards farm tour

**Morning tea and lunch supplied.**

- **RSVP by the 20<sup>th</sup> of Sep:** Richard Beswick 0457 597 629

**Note:** Bio security measures will be in place

**P.S:** If it is wet then we will need to carpool for the farm tour.

Are you interested in adding to the  
iNaturaliste's environmental knowledge base  
of the local HCCC area?



If **YES** then download the App now, follow the instructions for use in **TGN 30/7/23**, and start recording our unique natural wonders of both fauna and flora. It's an incredibly valuable resource.

<p><b>HABBIES HOWE BEEF</b></p> <p>MATURE, WELL HUNG &amp; AVAILABLE</p> <p>IGA SEYMOUR GARY'S MEATS, PRAHRAN MARKET L&amp;L MEATS, BENTLEIGH</p> <p>SCOTCH AND FILLET ST HELENA, MENTONE &amp; MERNDA</p>	<p>Donated by supporters of the endangered Hairy Hop bush</p> 	<p><b>Chris Sharman</b></p> <p>Energy Efficiency &amp; Solar Energy Specialist</p> <p>Acme – Air Conditioning   Electrical   Solar</p> <p>M: 0418 551 301 T: Office - 9785 7339 E: <a href="mailto:chris@acmeair.com.au">chris@acmeair.com.au</a></p>	 <p><b>Darren Gilbert</b> open studio</p> <p>@ Yea Butter Factory</p> <p>Open every first weekend of the month Up to date Open Studio days &amp; times on <a href="http://www.monkeytaildesign.com">www.monkeytaildesign.com</a></p>
<p><b>The Pond Professor</b> Peter Graf</p> <p>DESIGNS, CREATES &amp; MAINTAINS BEAUTIFUL PONDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pond cleaning</li> <li>• Filtration systems</li> <li>• Fountains and waterfalls</li> <li>• Native fish and plants</li> <li>• Algae control</li> <li>• Water testing</li> <li>• Design and construction</li> <li>• Consulting services</li> </ul> <p>Phone: 0429 969 243 Email: <a href="mailto:info@pondprofessor.com.au">info@pondprofessor.com.au</a> <a href="http://www.pondprofessor.com.au">http://www.pondprofessor.com.au</a></p>	 <p><b>SEYMOUR EQUINE &amp; RURAL</b></p> <p>Supplying everything you need</p> <p>Products &amp; Expertise in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Animal Production</li> <li>- Pasture/Crop Protection</li> <li>- Fencing &amp; Livestock Handling</li> </ul> <p>PH: (03) 5792 1088 HELPING YOU GROW</p>	<p>Little Antechinus living in a hollow near you</p> 	<p><b>BenCo</b></p> <p>PLUMBING SERVICES</p> <p><b>Ben Laycock</b></p> <p>0438 512299 Licence no. 105134</p> <p><a href="mailto:ben@bencoplumbingservices.com.au">ben@bencoplumbingservices.com.au</a> <a href="http://bencoplumbingservices.com">bencoplumbingservices.com</a></p>
 <p><b>nomad art</b></p> <p>Online &amp; by appointment Avenel, M: 0428 308 793 <a href="http://www.nomadart.com.au">www.nomadart.com.au</a> Limited edition prints from regional and remote Australia</p>	<p><b>KOPANICA PASTORAL EXCAVATIONS &amp; CARTAGE</b></p>  <p>DAMS EARTHWORKS STOCK+WATER CARTAGE &amp; MORE</p> <p><b>0429 804 235</b> <a href="mailto:MICHAEL.KOPANICA@GMAIL.COM">MICHAEL.KOPANICA@GMAIL.COM</a></p>	<p>RURAL FENCING SERVICES</p> <p><b>JARRAD</b></p> <p>0409 082 257</p> 	
 <p><b>Murrindindi</b> Shire Council</p> <p><b>Cr John Walsh</b> Koriella Ward Murrindindi Shire Council <a href="mailto:jwalsh@murrindindi.vic.gov.au">jwalsh@murrindindi.vic.gov.au</a> 0437 835 586</p>	<p><b>Tablelands Community Centre</b></p> <p>Upgraded facilities &amp; playground Ideal for Private or Community gatherings Meetings, Workshops Very reasonable rates Hosts 1<sup>st</sup> Friday BBQs Contact <a href="mailto:tccruffy@gmail.com">tccruffy@gmail.com</a> Ph 0404 833 388</p>	 <p>For All your Aerial Spraying or Spreading Needs. Specialising in Blackberries, Broadleaf, Thistles, Spreading lime/fertilizer &amp; 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><b>HIGHLANDS GROVE</b></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 <a href="mailto:enquiries@highlandsgrove.com.au">enquiries@highlandsgrove.com.au</a> <a href="http://highlandsgrove.com.au">highlandsgrove.com.au</a></p>	 <p><b>HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY HALL</b></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><b>Echidnas</b> take care of their habitat</p> 	<p><b>Granite Hills Community Nursery</b></p>  <p><a href="http://www.granitehillsnursery.com.au">www.granitehillsnursery.com.au</a></p>	<p>Need a website? <a href="http://bluetopbiz.com.au">bluetopbiz.com.au</a></p> <p>Affordable web design &amp; maintenance. Presentations, marketing copy. Grant applications, project management. Call</p> <p>Sue 0411 010 379 Neil 0417 503 472</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:sue@bluetopbiz.com.au">sue@bluetopbiz.com.au</a></p>	 <p><b>Strathbogie Granite Project</b> <a href="mailto:neil.phillips@bigpond.com">neil.phillips@bigpond.com</a></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.