

THE GRANITE NEWS



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



10th September 2023 | Volume 17 Issue 31

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

This week sees me still traveling around Tasmania and enjoying its natural beauty, despite the best efforts of the weather to rain on my parade. However last Saturday produced an absolute gem of a day.

Several years ago, six large metal signs were positioned along the shores of Lake Dove at the base of Cradle Mountain. They showed the different types of weather that could be encountered at this iconic viewpoint and the number of days you could experience them. Sadly, they have since been removed, and I quote, "because they didn't live up to visitors' expectations." Reality can be a real pain sometimes.

This was no doubt because the least number of days, only 37 a year, applied to the picture-perfect postcard shot of blue sky and sun highlighting that distinctive ridgeline - and it was such a joy to see.



However, that wasn't the only joy - as we completed the Lake Dove Circuit Walk a family of 4 arrived consisting of mum and 3 boys, ages 7, 5 and 3. Those young lads had just finished the same walk, all 6kms of it, and were in better shape than I was at time, bouncing about, munching some well-earned afternoon tea and chucking the odd stone into the lake. BUT my additional joy was due to a question that the oldest boy, aged a whole 7 and a half, enthusiastically asked of his mum, "How old do you have to be to climb Cradle Mountain mum?"

I didn't quite hear her reply but I got the distinct impression that it might not be the last time he asked that question and that one day he would stand atop the mountain's dolomite stacks and gaze northward to Bass Strait and then southward to Mt Ossa, Tasmania's highest mountain, admiring the Cradle's spectacular 360 degree view.

And why did I form this instant opinion - because these 3 children looked comfortable with their achievement, were not complaining they were tired or sore and seemed to have thoroughly enjoyed being in this beautiful outdoor space, experiencing what this wild environment had to offer in a supervised way. Well done mum - introducing the next generation to the joys of bushwalking and all it has to offer. Way to go!

Please read on for another interesting issue, Pauline And Kenny? Was on board the Terip Terip fire truck.

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

"This must be a national park for the people for all time. It is magnificent and people must know about it and enjoy it."

Gustav Weindorfer (1874 - 1932)
Austrian born naturalist & environmental activist. Cradle Mountain & its surrounding beauty are ours to enjoy as a result of his efforts.



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.

What percentage of donated clothes in Australia are resold?

- A - 15%
- B - 40%
- C - 50%
- D - 85%

Answer - next issue of TGN on Oct. 1st.

And the answer to last week's question re what can be recycled is on p.4

	NB: Fully vaccinated attendees are appreciated at all events.	What's On - September & October 2023
	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 @ Tablelands Community Centre, Ruffy Everyone is welcome, put the date in your diary now. Enquiries? Justus 0427 524473
	Saturday 16th Sept @ 7.30-8	RUFFARTZ presents - SASS & SECRETS @ Ruffy Public Hall A wickedly funny cabaret featuring awe inspiring magic, mentalism, fabulous singing and physical comedy mayhem! For tickets - contact Kelly 0407 017090
	Sunday 24th Sept @ 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
	Thursday 28th Sept @ 5.30	SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS @ Caveat Church All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards BBQ, BYO & chat.
	Friday 29th Sept 6-8pm	HIGHLANDS BOOKCLUB @ Highlands Community Hall All welcome, BYO plate to share & preferred beverage. Gold coin donation. The Queen is Dead - Stan Grant will be discussed. Enquiries? Robyn - 0409 528235
	Sunday 1st Oct. @ 10am	RUFFY CFA BREKKY & OPEN DAY @ Ruffy Fire Shed Everyone, in and around Ruffy, is welcome to attend. See p.4 for more details.
	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 20th Sept. and 4th & 18th Oct.
	1st & 3rd Tuesdays 10-12 and 1-3	TABLELANDS KIDS' PLAY GROUP @ TCC, 27 Nolans Rd, Ruffy All ages welcome - Nature play - Playground - Toys - Friends - 19th Sept. & 3rd Oct. DIGITAL & ON-LINE LEARNING @ TCC, 27 Nolans Rd, Ruffy 19th September & 3rd October 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” Landcare Project

Vanessa Malandrin, Project Coordinator

Dear Granite News readers,

August has been full of glider-activities around Seymour, including a wattle-planting day and three spotlight walks, and now I feel like we have some great results to share. Would you believe that in just one month we had nearly 100 people taking part in our events? For many it was the first time on a spotlight walk, and it proved to be not only a great way to contribute to environment protection through citizen science, but also a lot of excitement and fun.

We submitted thirty observations of native animals to the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas, thanks to the efforts of Chris Pocknee (Central Victorian Biolinks Alliance) and Paul McGregor (BEAM Mitchell Environment Group). In total we spotted seven gliders, of which three were confirmed sightings of the endangered squirrel glider (maybe four!).

Seymour Bushland Park proved to be a great location for our spotlight walks, as we saw two barking owls; two tawny frogmouths; one brushtail possum; three ringtail possums; one Krefft's glider (sugar glider) and one koala!

On our way back someone spotted some very shiny black feathers on a branch near the footpath, and our initial surprise gave way to a general laughter when the bird was identified as a rooster. This time we didn't get the chance to see a Brush-tailed Phascogale, but we know that they've been previously spotted here, as the reserve offers them a healthy habitat, including a messy but healthy ground layer, full of logs, branches, sticks and understorey plants.



In conclusion, observing such a variety of native animals in these locations around Seymour was both surprising and uplifting. It made us clearly understand the importance of having healthy green corridors to keep these locations interconnected, as gliders need a continuous tree canopy to move around, and they become very vulnerable when they are forced to descend to the ground.

It's not a coincidence that our squirrel gliders were all spotted along the Goulburn River, where old river redgums offer plenty of real estate options in terms of tree-hollows. This reminded us of the importance of protecting old trees and planting more long-lived species for the future.

Our next and final steps in this project will be to inspect the nest-boxes on Telegraph and Lambing Gully Rd, and to find the right places to instal the new ones that have been built by VCAL students at Seymour College.

This project is funded by the Victorian Government through the Environmental Volunteering New Growth Project.



DON'T FORGET!

The next issue of Granite News will be published on **Sunday 1st October** so please ensure that any ads, articles or information arrive in the editor's inbox by

Thursday 28th September

editor@tgn.org.au



Wanted

I am building a stone house in Highlands and wanting any secondhand materials, windows, doors, timber, roofing and the like.

If you can assist please

Contact Russell - 0410 504 404

War on Waste - Recycling

How much do you know about recycling and the waste facts from the fiction? Test yourself - answers to last week's question.

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 what can be recycled. A & B are correct - see below

- In some instances bottles can be recycled even faster and the loop closed even quicker on plastic production.
- Shredded paper is too small for most kerbside recycling programs. Experts say anything smaller than a credit card causes problems for large-scale recycling machines.

But it doesn't mean you can't recycle shredded paper at all. Commercial businesses exist to process large volumes of paper waste.

- Finally, it actually takes up to 95 per cent less energy to recycle an aluminium can than it does to create one from scratch. More reason to always recycle your cans or take them in for a 10c deposit scheme!

Know Your Weeds

St John's Wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)

St John's Wort is a perennial herb 80-120cm tall with bright yellow flowers that have 5 petals, are 2-2.5cm wide and are found in clusters at the end of the plant's upper branches. Flowering occurs between late spring and summer.

The leaves are green, being lighter on the underside with numerous small oil glands that show up as perforations when held up to light.

The stems are woody and reddish & branched towards the top.

St John's Wort may cause photosensitisation (inflammation of the skin, and occasionally the conjunctiva and cornea of the eye) in stock so eradication is a must. T

The optimal time this can be done, by spot spraying with an appropriate herbicide, is between October and January.

NB: this plant may be confused with the native *Hypericum* species eg: Matted St John's Wort or Small St John's Wort

For further information re eradication email -

info@hccclandcare.net.au



~ VALE ~

Duncan Chisholm passed away on 2nd September 2023. He was aged 85.

Dad was the 4th generation to farm Fernside - one of the original families in the district.

His funeral will be held at
St Mary's Seymour
Tuesday 12th September at 11 am.



Thanks, Rod Chisholm

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



Nature Sketching - THIS Saturday!!

Ann Cremean, landscape artist, is returning to Ruffy, for an afternoon of sketching on **Saturday 16th September 2023**.

The last time Ann led a local session was at the Boathole, and many of you will remember how enjoyable and peaceful it was to sit still in nature and observe the surrounding in detail.

Saturday's session will meet at 1pm @ Tablelands Community Centre then move on as a group to the Ruffy Scenic Reserve at the Mitre Rocks. It finishes at 3pm.

This activity is free!



Bring a chair and sketching materials (Ann will have art equipment to share if you don't have any) dress warmly because it can always be cool in Ruffy but wear a hat too as sunny weather is also possible.

Please contact Ann for further details: 0413 629 125

Now's the time to have your say...

TGN readers may or may not be aware that the Federal Government is conducting a review into how developers of large-scale renewable energy projects are conducting community engagement, particularly in relation to rural communities.

This review has now opened.

The window to provide a response is short - **October 1 is the deadline** to submit feedback to the review - so if you want your voice, and your experience, to be heard in this review click on the link below to do the survey and/or submit a lengthier written response.

Your responses will inform the government about current developer practices around community engagement, about what is working and not working and how the government can modify community engagement guidelines to get better outcomes for regional communities.

Links to a short background paper, to a short terms of reference, the survey and to upload a submission can all be found here.

<https://consult.dcceew.gov.au/aeic-review-of-community-engagement-practices>



HCCC Monthly Meeting

Thursday 14th September @ 7pm

Tablelands Community Centre, Ruffy

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Claude the Leaf Thief couldn't wait

Claude the Koala decided that he couldn't wait for this koala food to be planted and grow and got a head start on the menu. Click & read on -

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-09-05/koala-eats-nursery-seedlings-intended-for-wildlife-corridor/102814920>



Koala Translocation at Tallarook

In Victoria, translocation has been an important component of koala management for more than 90 years. The purpose of translocating koalas has changed in this time as the conservation status of the species has changed. In recent decades an over-abundance of koalas in certain locations has led to over-browsing of habitat resulting in defoliation and eventually death of preferred feed trees. The aims of the translocation in these cases are twofold, to reduce habitat degradation and declining koala health.

Despite the huge scale and duration of this translocation strategy, there have been few science-based investigations into how koalas fare after translocation that can inform future management strategies. To support the translocation of koalas from French Island, the Arthur Rylah Institute identified areas of central Victoria that may be suitable to receive animals, undertook a trial translocation and assessed the short-term survival of individuals.

Translocated koalas showed very high survivorship during this study (97%) indicating that they successfully adapted to the new environment and unfamiliar eucalyptus foliage at the release site. Based on this, several hundred animals have since been released into the Tallarook State Forest, which contains over 5,000 ha of suitable habitat.

Article by Peter Menkhorst (ARI) published in Land for Wildlife Newsletter Dec. 2022

Spring has sprung
The grass has riz
And the good fairy
Has been biz - eee
... again!



STOP PRESS

Darren Gilbert's amazing Art Studio has moved
across the road to

5 Giffard St, Yea

and will continue to be open on the first weekend
each month.

Next open weekend is

Sat. 7th and Sun 8th October 10-4

More info.? - www.monkeytaildesign.com.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 or

Mobile: 0407 017 090

Adults \$25, Students/Pensioners \$15

BYO Nibbles and drinks

Coffee & 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!!!

**Ruff
ArtZ**

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:
www.trybooking.com/CGUBP (Bookings open July 1st)



FREE PARKING

Contact: yeagardenexpo@optusnet.com.au

www.yeagardenexpo.com.au

Emergency Services Expo

10am to 2pm October 21st at Yarck Recreation Reserve

Proudly hosted by Alexandra, Koriella, Merton, Molesworth, Terrip Terrip, Whanregawen & Yarck Brigades



FREE EVENT

TEST YOUR SKILLS



**FOREST FIRE
MANAGEMENT VICTORIA**

Jumping Castle,
Face Painting,
Sausage Sizzle,
Captain Koala

Have a go at fighting a fire in the realistic Virtual Reality Unit.

See how easy (or not) to feel your way through a Smoke House

Check out CFA training Car Fire Prop.

See how accurate you can be squirting a frisbee with a fire hose.

Vote for your favourite Historic Vehicle.

Win one of many excellent Raffle prizes, all generously donated by local businesses.

Work up an appetite for a sizzling sausage or a snack from the food van.

Have your photo taken on a fire truck.



Find us on



Are you interested in adding to the iNaturalist'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.

Emergency Services Expo Raffle

Drawn at 1:00pm October 21st at Yarck Recreation Reserve

Here's your chance to win one of these wonderful prizes
Generously donated by local businesses

\$659 Apollo Villa Bicycle



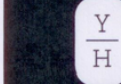
\$109 Fresh
Lux Aus
Hamper



\$200 Hamper



5 x \$100 Fuel Vouchers



YARCK HOTEL

Dinner for 2

\$50
Gift Voucher
From The
Giddy Goat



Mystery Prize

2 Nights Midweek
Accom Plus Wash
& Nail Trim \$120



Dog Wash &
Nail Trim \$60



Meat Platter



12 Tonnes 20m
Crushed Rock
Delivered
within
20km range
of Yarck



2 Nights
midweek
Accom

NOTE: Raffle tickets can be purchased by contacting Terip Captain Shannon Roach by text 0400 842009 or email shnon1@hotmail.com

Raffle tickets are \$5 each.

—YEA RIVER CATCHMENT LANDCARE GROUP—

Farming

F O R T H E F U T U R E



5.30-9.30PM THURSDAY, 21ST SEPTEMBER, 2023

@ YEA BUTTER FACTORY

13 Rattray Street, Yea. Street parking, closer access available if needed

Dale Grey - Seasonal Risk Agronomist, Agriculture Victoria

Dale is a highly respected agronomist and climate specialist, who provides seasonal forecasting and risk management advice to farmers, agribusiness, state governments and media across south-east Australia. His monthly climate newsletter *The Fast Break* and YouTube presentation *The Very Fast Break* are staple reading for farmers industry wide. Dale will share his insights into risk management and climate predictions, and present a seasonal update with an emphasis on local data for the Goulburn Broken Catchment.

Dr Martino Malerba - Centre for Integrative Ecology, Deakin University

Martino is an ecologist, evolutionary biologist and environmental scientist. His most recent research focuses on the development of satellite tools to measure, monitor and reduce greenhouse gases in farm dams (surprisingly large emitters of greenhouse gases), ultimately to enhance water quality and habitat for wildlife and livestock, and create opportunities for the carbon market to support dam and farm water refurbishments.

Cost \$30 includes speakers and three courses by Mint & Jam

Bookings essential

Numbers limited, bookings close 15 Sep

Book here: <https://www.trybooking.com/CKLYU>

More info: Rhiannon 0405 104 714 yeariversecretary@outlook.com



<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 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>@ 5 Giffard Street Yea</p> <p>Open every first weekend of the month Up to date Open Studio days & times on www.monkeytaildesign.com</p>
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 <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 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 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.