THE GRANITE NEWS



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



1st October 2023 | Volume 17 Issue 32

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

The last week of weather has certainly seen some lovely blue sky and sunny days and with the footy Grand Final out of the way for another year it might even be time to consider planting some tomato bushes in advance of Cup Day.

As usual when TGN has a mini-break, the first issue back is full of interesting articles and a plethora of upcoming social dates. With spring making a welcome appearance it might be time to cease the winter hibernation and get out and about in our local area.

To that end the Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative (HCCC) is setting the pace by hosting another fun **Spring Picnic at the Ruffy Recreation Reserve on Saturday 21st October** - last year's event was cancelled due to extensive flooding, so why not make up for that omission and put the date in your diary now!

Please read on for another interesting issue, Pauline And Kenny? Was keeping the flowers on Ghin Ghin cutting company.



Spring... is the time to hit Paterson's Curse.

It's Pato spraying time and HCCC are looking for Expressions of Interest from anyone who would like to join HCCC in spraying this very noxious weed.

This year we are planning a more targeted course of action.

- Instead of helicopter spraying we are planning to use drones as drones can fly very low and target plants in difficult to get at places.
- HCCC will pay 50% of chemicals costs up to 6 drone loads.
- HCCC will pay \$3,000 in total for the drone hire.

Please contact Neil van Buuren for details.

Phone: 0417 503472 neil@hccclandcare.net.au

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

"Most jobs aren't worth your mental wellbeing or your overall health... You should be able to take a lunch break and be able to leave on time."

Jennifer Cownie - UK Writer

Mental Health Awareness Day October 10th



War on Waste - Recycling

How much do you know about recycling and the waste facts from the fiction? Last issue's answer What percentage of donated clothes in Australia are resold?

Answer = 15%

The vast majority of clothes donated to charity stores in Australia are either sent on to be made into rags or other commercial uses, or they end up in landfill.

That's why it's important to remember that while donating clothes is a great alternative to just chucking them out, the best thing you can do is lower your clothing consumption to begin with, use what you have and check out op shops first for things you need.

		NB: Fully vaccinated attendees are appreciated at all events.	What's On - October 2023
₩ CF7		Friday 13th Oct. @ 6.30pm	DRINKS on the DECK @ Highlands Community Hall 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. Contact Paula 0419 55188
		Monday 16th Oct. @ 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 19th Oct. @ 7.30pm	HCCC MONTHLY MEETING @ Highlands Community Hall TBC Everyone is welcome, put the date in your diary now. Enquiries? Justus 0427 524473
	Details see p.4	Saturday 21st Oct. @ noon	HCCC SPRING PICNIC - **SAVE the DATE** Middle Eastern BBQ and activities for all ages @ Ruffy Recreation Reserve Enquiries? Jenny 0408 969236
	Details see p.7	Saturday 21st Oct. 10-2	EMERGENCY SERVICES EXPO @ Yarck Recreation Reserve FREE EVENT - Come along and test your skills, buy raffle tickets and win great prizes!
		Thursday 26th Oct. @ 5.30	SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS @ Caveat Church All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards BBQ, BYO & chat.
	EURAA ABONITUH Ayanay katin kadi	Saturday 28th Oct. 10-4.30	EUROA ARB and FRIENDS WILDFLOWER DAY @ Euroa Arboretum A day filled with activities for young and old. https://www.trybooking.com/CMBDZ
		Sunday 29th Oct. @ 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
		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 4th & 18th Oct. and 1st, 15th & 29th Nov.
		1st & 3rd Tuesdays 10-12 and 1-3	TABLELANDS KIDS' PLAY GROUP All ages welcome - Nature play - Playground - Toys - Friends - 3rd Oct. and 17th Oct. DIGITAL & ON-LINE LEARNING 3rd & 17th October @ TCC, 27 Nolans Rd, Ruffy @ TCC, 27 Nolans Rd, Ruffy Enquiries? Bob - 0480 348788
		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

Healthy Soils in the Hughes Creek Catchment

We're pleased to announce that the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA) has funded our project "Healthy Soils in the HCC" as part of the new round of Victorian Landcare Grants for 2023-24.

The project will focus on three main themes: multi species perennial pastures;

pasture management practices and grazing strategies: use of organic manures and specific nutrients to improve soil

If you're interested in this topic and you'd like to learn more, there's a couple of local events coming up that you cannot miss.

"Keep in touch day" at Allanvale, Avenel, with RCS - Resource Consulting Services



Location: "Allanvale", 937 Upton Rd, Avenel, VIC, 3664 Date: Monday, 16 October, 2023 from 9:30am to 4pm

Engaging Topics:

- Navigating Spring grazing & strategies for dry spells.
- The intricacies of biology-focused soil health & nutrition.
- Techniques for effective pasture & fodder cropping.

Day's Agenda:

- 9:30am: Smoko (tea and coffee provided)
- 10:00am: A warm introduction to "Allanvale" by Callum Lawson.
- 10:20am: Engaging discussions facilitated by the renowned Nic Kentish.
- 12:30pm: Lunch break (Remember to pack your chair, lunch, and water)
- 1:30pm: Delve deep into the property with a guided tour, followed by interactive discussions.
- 4:00pm: Wrap up, leaving you enriched with new perspectives and ideas.

RSVP by the 15th of October by contacting info@rcsaustralia.com.au

Workshop on soil health and soil biology with Grant Sims

This event is organised by the Burnt Creek Landcare Group with support from Gecko Clan Landcare Network, GB CMA and Victoria State Government.

Location: Locksley, VIC. Address will be provided upon RSVP Date: Monday 23rd October, from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm.

Engaging Topics:

- Soil health principles.
- Ways to improve soil structure and carbon sequestration.
- Ways to reduce inputs and use less chemicals.
- Utilising cover crops to improve soil and add biodiversity.

Day's Agenda: please refer to flyer included on page 5. Morning tea and lunch provided.

RSVP by 20th October to Susie Bate via email at benacre49@gmail.com or via text to 0409 174 041

Gremlins again?

I was contacted by a couple of readers after the previous TGN arrived in email boxes informing me that they were having issues opening it up. At the moment, TGN's dispatch is working smoothly so any problems might be associated with specific phones and i-pads. If you have any issues maybe try accessing from another device or email me as a last resort and I will re-send. Ta

Wanted

MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

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



HCCC Community Engagement BBQ & Environmental Activity Day.

12.00 noon Saturday 21st October 2023 at the Ruffy Recreation Reserve.

BBQ meat and salads provided. Please bring a dessert to share.

Since the Covid pandemic, we are all more aware than ever of the importance of connecting with our community.

HCCC recognises the value of social gatherings for connecting like-minded people and of its role in providing information, education and encouragement on all environmental matters. Mostly we have focused on local matters in the Hughes Creek catchment, including conservation and the study and promotion of farming best practices.

More broadly, there are issues which we have in common with all neighbouring Landcare networks, including promoting preparedness for a changing climate. The HCCC BBQ which was planned for October, 2022 was cancelled due to the flooding which occurred throughout the Goulburn catchment.

HCCC has invited community members from the Shepparton region and the Goulburn-Murray Landcare network to attend our BBQ at Ruffy.

As Australia is now a culturally diverse nation many of our citizens were either born overseas or have a parent born overseas. It is not easy for new arrivals to fully comprehend the Australian environment, even though many of them have a rural background themselves and some are now actively engaged in agriculture or horticulture.

In an effort to promote environmental awareness amongst all communities, HCCC is welcoming a number of families from the Shepparton Afghan community who will be cooking a traditional middle-eastern BBQ. We extend that welcome, not only to our HCCC members, but also to any friends or colleagues who might have been born overseas.

As always, we will be offering information and activities with a distinctly local environmental theme. We trust this will be an HCCC 'event-with-a-difference' and we look forward to sharing our experiences and knowledge with a wider audience.

For catering purposes, we require RSVPs, not later that 16th October, to either Justus, 0427 524 473 or Jenny, 0408 969 236.

Following the sensational dessert/fruit plates that were brought to the last BBQ by HCCC members, we would be grateful for any similar contributions.

DON'T FORGET...

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

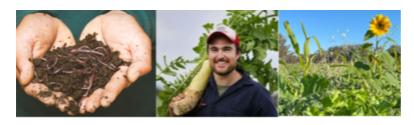
Sat. 7th and Sun 8th October 10-4

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

Now's the time to plan ahead!

Saturday 11th November

Ruffy Hall Fundraiser Trivia Night



WORKSHOP ON SOIL HEALTH AND SOIL BIOLOGY with Grant Sims

Join the Burnt Creek Landcare Group for a day with well known farmer Grant Sims from North Central Victoria

Monday 23rd October | 9.30am - 2.30pm

Locksley, VIC | Address will be provided upon RSVP Morning tea & lunch provided

Grant will talk about soil health principles, ways to improve soil structure and carbon sequestration. He will also discuss ways to reduce inputs, use less chemicals and utilise cover crops to add diversity.

The presentation will start at 9.30am (tea/coffee available from 9am) until approximately 12.30pm (inc. a morning tea break) followed by lunch and a short walk to a paddock to look at soils, plants and what tools to use to measure progress.

To RSVP please contact Susie Bate by 20th Oct. for catering Email: benacre49@gmail.com or Phone: 0409 174 041 ALL WELCOME | RSVP ESSENTIAL | ADVISE OF DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

This event will be held outdoors, please wear enclosed footwear and dress for conditions.











MITCHELL SHIRE AWARDS

Nominations can be made & full details for each sub-category, including selection criteria, can found at www.mitchellshire.vic.gov.au/community-awards

Nominations close 9am Wednesday 8th November.

This year, the seven categories are:

1. Citizen of the Year

A person who is over 25 years of age, must be an Australian Citizen, who resides in Mitchell Shire and who has either made a noteworthy contribution during the current year and/or given outstanding service to the local community over a number of years.

2. Young Citizen of the Year

A person aged 25 years or under, must be an Australian Citizen who lives in Mitchell Shire and who has made a noteworthy contribution during the current year and/or given outstanding service to the local community over a number of years.

3. Online or Community Event of the Year

Community event of the year is bestowed upon a community organisation or community group who have staged a noteworthy event during the preceding year to the award, this may include an online event as innovation is celebrated.

4. Community Group of the Year Community group of the year is

bestowed upon a community group that has made a significant contribution and exceptional service to the local community in the current year or over a number of years.

5. Access and Inclusion

This award recognises people with or without disability working in a voluntary capacity to improve access and inclusion for people with disability within Mitchell Shire.

6. Sports Person of the Year

Sports Person of the Year is someone who has made a significant impact to the development, integrity and professionalism of sport in the community.

7. Arts and/or Culture Person of the Year

Arts and/or Culture Person of the Year is someone who has valuably continued to, shown commitment to the development, and demonstrated significant achievement in the arts and/or culture in the community.



Whilst the Arboretum Grasslands are in full bloom, join us for a day filled with activities for Adults and Children.

Lunch is included in ticket price.

- * Special dietary requirements not catered for.
- *Family ticket price includes 4 tickets.
- Welcome to Country with Aunty Jo
- Grassland Tours
- Stories for kids in the nest
- Zumba & Qi Gong
- Building a Blue Banded Bee hotel
- Minibeasts Wander
- Bandicoots and Bilbies the role of digging mammals.
- Making a flower press
- Coffee Van
- Partner Stalls

DATE Saturday 28 October 2023 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM

LOCATION Euroa Arboretum Euroa Main Road, 76 Hume Fwy, Euroa Vic 3666

TICKETS Adults \$10 Kids \$5 Family of 4 \$25

https://www.trybooking.com/CMBDZ

Know Your Weeds

Hoary Cress (Cardaria draba)

Hoary Cress is an erect herb 15-75cm in height. Its leaves are covered in fine hairs, with the lower leaves up to 10cm long and oval or wedge-shaped, whilst the upper leaves are smaller.

Flowers appear between September and November and consist of 4 small white petals, clustered at the top of the plant. The stems are erect, branched near the top and covered in fine downy hairs.

This deep-rooted, perennial plant can seriously effect crop yields and is difficult to control as it spreads by seed and root fragments.

The optimal treatment time is from May to October and methods include spot spraying, hand weeding or mechanical cultivation prior to flowering.

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

SNAKE AVOIDANCE TRAINING FOR DOGS

Back by popular demand on

Thursday 9th November commencing at 10am in Highlands

Please contact Craig 0407 800651 craig@mortgagepoint.com.au

if you are interested in attending a snake avoidance training course for your dog.

> Accredited dog trainer Highly recommended

\$400 per dog

for dogs that haven't been through the training previously with Daniel

\$200 per dog

for dogs that have already trained with Daniel for a refresher course

For more information: https://www.vdta.com.au/service s/snake-avoidance-dog-training/







Survey by Aviya Naccarella Digging Animals in Our Agricultural Landscapes

I am contacting you to request assistance with the distribution of a short questionnaire designed for Victorian farmers, researching the opportunities, challenges and knowledge gaps that exist in the application of digging mammals as 'soil engineers' in our agricultural landscapes.

Given the many benefits that native digging mammals can have for soil health we are interested if there might be a role for these animals in our agricultural landscapes – whereby these mammals can restore and maintain soil health, and at the same time our farms can provide valuable habitat, improving conservation outcomes for these species.

Through the questionnaire we are particularly interested in understanding what farmer perspectives are of digging animals, if they think there might be a role for these digging animals on their farms, and their perspectives on soil health and current farm management practices.

Aviya Naccarella PhD Candidate - Centre for Integrative Ecology Deakin University

See next page for further details

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.



Spring continues to Sproing...

With signs of spring starting to become obvious all around us - just think wildflowers and wee birds - **NOW** is the time to get your camera and/or phone out and take photos of these community members for posterity, or....for uploading them onto the iNaturaliste app so that other people can enjoy what is in our backyard too.



Are you interested in adding to the iNatutaliste'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.

Digging Animals in Our Agricultural Landscapes

Do you have bandicoots or potoroos on your property?
Or would you love to see a healthy population of native diggers roaming your paddocks?

We want to hear from you!

Digging mammals, such as our native bandicoots, potoroos and echidnas help improve soil health. The nose-pokes and diggings they create in search of food helps with soil turnover and nutrient cycling and can increase water infiltration by reducing soil compaction.

Given the benefits these animals can have for soil health we are interested if there might be a role for these animals in our agricultural landscapes — whereby these animals can restore and maintain soil health, and at the same time our farms can provide valuable habitat, improving conservation outcomes for these animals.



We are interested in understanding what your perspectives are of digging animals, if you think there might be a role for these animals on your farms, along with your perspectives on soil health and current farm management practices.

Scan the QR code below to complete the questionnaire



To gather this information, we invite you to complete a short, 10-20-minute survey to help with our research.

A Plain Language Statement is available to read at the start of the survey.

All information you provide is voluntary and anonymous.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

To thank you for your contribution we are offering the chance to win 1 of 10 \$50 visa gift cards

Contact Us

If you have any questions relating to this research, please contact Aviya Naccarella, PhD candidate, on a.naccarella@deakin.edu.au

This study has received Deakin University ethics approval (reference number: SEBE-2023-34).





Up2Us Landcare Alliance and Gecko Clan Landcare Network invite you to

EXTENSION TRAINING WITH LANDCARE

Ideal for young adults who are currently studying or recently graduated from Agriculture or Natural Resource Management (NRM) who would benefit from extension training in drought preparedness and recovery.



JOIN US TO:

- · Expand your knowledge in:
 - Drought preparedness and recovery
 - Extension training
 - Soil health and pasture
 - Farm visits
 - Water budgeting
 - o Biodiversity on farms

TIME & LOCATION

There are two options to register for this training. Week one is based within the Mansfield region and week two in the Swanpool region. Each week delivers similar content.

Where: Mansfield/Swanpool area, Victoria
Location released upon registration

When:

Monday 5th Feb - Friday 9th Feb 2024

Or

Monday 12th Feb - Friday 16th Feb 2024

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Free event
- · Five days extension training
- · Cabin accommodation for four nights
- All meals, catered to dietary requirements
- · Transport provided during the event
- Access to people in industry/mentors

BOOKINGS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

A deposit is required to secure your registration as this event is strictly limited to 16 attendees. This will be refunded upon attendance

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/CKVFQ

For further information please visit our website at www.up2us.org.au/daff or

contact Up2Us on:

projects@up2us.org.au



03 5779 1593









This program/project received funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund.





The Granite News is usually created on the lands of the Taungurung clans - First people of the Rivers and Mountains.

neil.phillips@bigpond.com

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.