THE GRANITE NEWS



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



8th October 2023 | Volume 17 Issue 33

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

Another week of erratic spring weather and another week closer to a once-in-a-generation referendum. If you haven't already voted in this important democratic process the following locations within the HCCC area, or close by, are all polling places and open from 8am-6pm.

- · Avenel Primary School
- · Longwood Primary School
- Nagambie Senior Citizens Centre
- · Seymour Anglican Church Hall
- · St John's Primary School Euroa
- Strathbogie Memorial Hall
- Tablelands Community Centre, Ruffy
- · Tallarook Primary School
- Yarck Public Hall
- · Yea Primary School

If you can't make it to one of these places NEXT Saturday, the closest pre-poll venue is the Masonic Lodge, Anzac Ave, Seymour (8.30-5.30)

Please read on for another interesting issue, Pauline And Kenny? Was getting up close and personal with the copperhead.

LOST - have you seen this beautiful dog?

Barron went missing from Brigadoon Rd, Highlands on Friday October 29. He has not been sighted since about 8am on that day.

He is a tri colour hound, he is not a hunting dog and has never been away from home for an extended time.

He is 5 yrs old and not wearing a collar at the time of his escape.

He is friendly but timid.

There is a cash reward for/upon his safe return.

Needless to say his owner is devastated.

Any sightings or info please contact

Kerryn 0410 502590 or Paul 0425 736341





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

"We are right to instill national pride in our children. But please let's make our national pride encompass humanity."

John Farnham AO

Australian of the Year 1988 Acceptance speech



Month	Highlands	Ruffy	Terip
Sept.	26 mm	28 mm	36.6 mm
2023 Total	567.9 mm	517 mm	639.4 mm
Rainy Days	5 days	5 days	11 days

NB: Highlands recorded the 7th driest Sept. since 1915. The long-term average is 85.2mm

		NB: Fully vaccinated attendees are appreciated at all events.	What's On - October 2023
		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
CF/		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.3	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.5	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.
	EURA ASOMTUH Ummyr dafa hal	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 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 - 17th Oct, 7th & 21st Nov. DIGITAL & ON-LINE LEARNING TCC, 27 Nolans Rd, Ruffy 0 TCC, 27 Nolans Rd, Ruffy 17th Oct. and 7th & 21st Nov. 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

HCCC Community Engagement BBQ & Environmental Activity Day.

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

Delicious Afghan BBQ and salads will be provided. (Vegetarian and GF options included.) Please bring a dessert to share.

Our special guest will be Graham Stockfield from 'Turtles Australia'. Graham's presentations are exceptional and he brings his wonderful turtles for everyone to enjoy 'a close encounter'!

There will also be additional activities on the day.

RSVP to Justus, 0427 524 473 or Jenny, 0408 969 236 by 16th October.

Everyone is welcome.





Spring... it's 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



RUFFY VEGE PATCH CLUB

Monday 23rd October 2pm @ Barb & Andrews Place 152 Maggie's Lane Ruffy.

Sharing ideas, knowledge and produce.

New members welcome.

Enquiries? Janet Hagen 0458 904268



Now's the time to plan ahead!

> **Saturday 11th** November

Ruffy Hall Fundraiser Trivia Night

Ruffy Hall Restoration Project Progress Report

In December 2023 the oldest surviving public building in Ruffy, the Ruffy Public Hall, will be 130 years old. A remarkable testament to the building skills of a Mr. Sinclair whose tender for the construction of the Ruffy Mechanics Institute was accepted in December 1893.

Now known as the Ruffy Public Hall this building is still the vibrant hub of community life in Ruffy and the Committee of Management is working hard to restore and maintain this valued community asset for future generations.

Stage 1 Exterior

The current Hall Committee has been fundraising over the last two years to refurbish the exterior of the Hall. With your generous support we have raised over \$17,000, you can see our progress on the fundraising thermometer outside the Hall.

As you may have noticed, we have slowly been making progress as funds became available. The north wall has been replaced with Colorbond cladding for fire safety, to minimise maintenance, and prolong longevity.

The outside of the hall has been repainted to match the new cladding with a complimentary dark grey trim, it looks very smart. The committee had already commissioned handmade new front doors in the original style and these look beautiful with their new coat of paint.

A grant from DEECA helped facilitate the restoration of the front window with safety glass and assisted with the labour costs for the wall.

The original roof finials, (130 years old!) were very rotten and these have been replicated and replaced in treated pine, let's hope they last as long as the originals! To complete the project a new hand painted sign in the style of the original Ruffy Public Hall sign will be installed.

A big thank you to everyone for your contributions to our fundraising efforts, generous donations and volunteering skills that have enabled us to complete stage one of this big project.

Stage 2 Interior

Now that the exterior of the Hall is in hand the Committee is turning its attention to the interior.

This project will be tackled in affordable stages, we will do more fundraising and explore funding opportunities with DEECA and FRRR.

Repainting the kitchen, toilets, stage, foyer and meeting room will be a priority. We hope to access grant funding to reline parts of the interior in keeping with heritage values and install insulation and double glazing for those chilly Ruffy nights. This will also reduce heating costs and energy usage. We also plan on upgrading the disabled toilet access to bring it in line with current standards.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

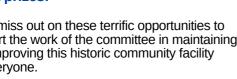
To achieve all this we are continuing to fundraise and will be running the Great Ruffy Trivia Challenge in the Hall on Saturday 11th of November.

Please contact Darryl on 0468 771 024 if you would like to book a table and enter a team. As usual there will be plenty of fun activities and a magnificent Ruffy Supper to be enjoyed at interval.

Also, during October, we will be running a Raffle and tickets will be available from Committee members and outside Burtons on Friday 13th October and Friday 27th October.

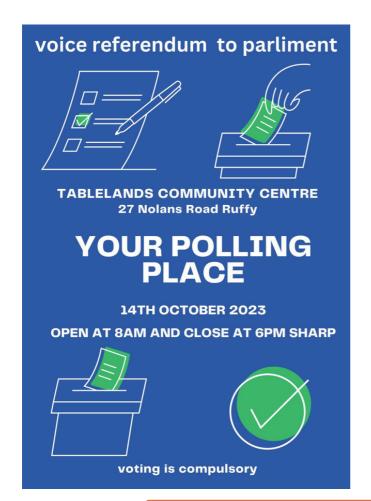
Great prizes!

Don't miss out on these terrific opportunities to support the work of the committee in maintaining and improving this historic community facility for everyone.





Committee President Henry Noye and Committee member Darryl Otzen displaying the new sign outside the freshly painted Ruffy Public Hall



Hollywood comes to the Yarck Emergency Service Expo October 21st

This is how they do it in Hollywood and this is also how we will do it in Yarck.

The incredible Car Fire Module is used to train CFA Firefighters in extinguishing motor vehicle fires.



It will be used in the multi agency scenario at the Emergency Service Expo.

Spectacular demonstrations will be run every hour at the Expo.

See last week's TGN for more details.

Know Your Weeds

Thistle - Spear (Cirsium vulgare)

Spear Thistle is an erect annual or biennial thistle up to 1.2m tall and also known as the Bull, Black Spear, Scotch and Swamp Thistle.

It readily colonises disturbed or overgrazed areas and should be very familiar to all readers with its pinkish purple spiky headed flowers, that are on show between late spring and autumn, clustered at the end of its branches,

Both leaves and stems are rough, hairy and spiky too and it is unlikely to be confused with any native species.

Control options are either by targeted spraying or hand weeding as it can be spread in a multitude of ways - cultivation, waterborne, in farm produce or via vehicles, equipment or machinery.

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

NB: Last week's weed Hoary Cress (Cardaria draba) has been renamed Lepidium draba, just in case any reader looked it up and was confused about the variation.





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

Thanks Bec.

It's the race that stops a nation.

A vote so contested, it has twice been the subject of sophisticated vote-rigging attempts (that ultimately failed). It brings the nation together with pride and also fiercely divides us. That's right, it's time again for the announcement of the Australian Bird of the Year poll, brought to you by The Guardian and Birdlife Australia.

It's time to decide which side you're on: are magpies dive-bombing terrorists or simply too smart for humans? Is the eastern koel a 'devil bird' or a long-distance wonder that trumpets the sounds of summer? Is the Australian white ibis a nasty bin chicken or a survivor who deserves our respect? Is the sulphur-crested cockatoo a majestic Australian icon or the bugger who ruined your deck?

Australia has the most diverse birdlife on the planet, with 1,299 species.

And while this is a popularity contest there is also a serious side. **One in six bird species are now threatened, with nine more uplisted this year.** Climate change and habitat loss via land clearing are having a profound impact on Australian birdlife and the biennial poll is an opportunity to reflect on what we can do to protect our unique avian life, that is so beloved by Australians.

Why not write to your local MP, encouraging them to do more to protect our unique birdlife, and Birdlife Australia has numerous ways to get involved in campaigns around the country. Check out www.birdlife.org.au

But now...drum roll - the Bird of the Year 2023 is the

Swift Parrot

Critically Endangered, the Swift Parrot is mostly bright green, with a dark-blue patch on the crown. It breeds in Tasmania and migrates to the mainland for winter.

The greatest threat to its survival is the continued destruction of its habitat, particularly by native forest logging in Tasmania and clearing of their habitat on the mainland. Modelling by the ANU has indicated that by 2031 there could be less than 100 birds left in the wild.

Conservation of this species is desperately needed. Credit - with thanks to The Guardian and Birdlife Australia

Don't forget....

the annual Aussie Bird Count Week is happening again 16-22 October. Register on the Birdlife website and spend just 20 minutes in your favourite outdoor space and record the birds you see during that period.

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.

Can you tell fact from fiction? Pick the 2 correct statements

Α

Textile production contributes more to climate change than international air travel and shipping combined

В

Most of our clothing is made from natural materials like cotton

C

Australians buy more than 50 new pieces of clothing every year on average

Save the Date - Friday 3rd November from 6-8pm HIGHLANDS BOOKCLUB

@ Highlands Community Hall

All welcome, BYO plate to share & preferred beverage. Gold coin donation. Two books for discussion - The Island of Missing Trees & Confederacy of Dunces and more!

Enquiries? Robyn - 0409 528235





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

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.



Mental Health Awareness Day THIS Tuesday 10th October

Since the COVID lockdowns we have become more aware of the importance of good Mental Health for everyone - young and old.

Here are some stories from the Euroa Arboretum that highlight the value of volunteering at the Arb as well as the positive mental health that results.

"The Euroa Arboretum has helped us to connect to the community as new residents of Euroa. It has also allowed our children to find a sense of belonging to this area and connect with nature. Through volunteering at the Arb we have been able to contribute to the community. Even if it is a small contribution, it further connects us with the community. My deaf son volunteers at the Arboretum. He is growing in confidence and he is learning to become an independent and valuable member of the society and community he lives in." Local mother and volunteer.

"The women's weaving circle at the Euroa Arboretum is a unique and nourishing space for women in our community. Many of the women I met were from smaller neighbouring communities such as Ruffy, Strathbogie and Boho, a few were new to the area. Vic and Isabel were very welcoming and engaging teachers in the art of traditional weaving. I think the combination of weaving with natural materials, yarning about Taungurung country and the welcoming way Cath creates the space with the fire and food is the best well-being activity for women I have ever encountered in the Euroa area. I hope it can continue.' Euroa Arboretum women's

weaving group member.

"The Euroa Arboretum is a truly special place. Since becoming involved as a volunteer I have gained a deep appreciation for the value of balancing thoughtful ecological restoration with a strong focus on community. The team at the Arboretum has expanded my knowledge of land care and management and helped me feel a valued participant alongside others from the local area. Activities here provide purpose while the connections with fellow volunteers is a boon." Euroa Arboretum Volunteer

MURRINDINDI SHIRE COUNCIL NEWS



GRANT OPPORTUNITIES - DON'T MISS OUT!

Are you planning an event over the holiday period or during summer? Have you considered applying for a grant through Council's Grants and Sponsorship Program?

Our Local Events Grants help local groups start new events or grow existing events.

We also have an exciting opportunity to share with tourist accommodation providers. Through our Special Purpose Grants, we are inviting applications for the Electric Vehicle (EV) Charger Subsidy, which provides successful applicants with up to \$2,000 for the purchase and installation of EV chargers for tourist accommodation premises.

Don't miss out on these exciting opportunities! Grant applications are assessed quarterly for these two streams, with Round 2 closing on 31 October 2023.

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

FIRE PREVENTION - FREE GREEN WASTE DISPOSAL

Clean up your property ahead of the fire season! From now until 31 December, you can dispose of your green waste for FREE at Council's Resource Recovery Centres in Alexandra, Yea, Kinglake, Marysville and Eildon. This is a great way to remove fuel loads on your property, without having to burn off.

As part of Council's Fire Prevention Program, we will soon begin our Roadside Slashing Program in the coming weeks. Council officers will also be inspecting properties across the Shire, later this month, to identify fire hazards and help community members prepare for the upcoming fire season by maintaining fuel loads on their property.

It's important for you to start getting ready and thinking about what can be done now, to make sure you are prepared ahead of fire season. Now is a great time to service equipment and ensure it's in working order, in advance of the warmer weather.

For more information, please visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/fireprevention or the CFA website at cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare

DETOX YOUR HOME - YEA & SURROUNDS

Dispose of unwanted household chemicals and paint at the next Detox Your Home event in Yea on 21 October 2023 from 9.00 am - 12 noon at the Yea Saleyards.

You can drop off unwanted household chemicals at our free Detox Your Home event, which is licensed to accept toxic chemicals and staffed by trained specialist chemists.

Acceptable chemicals are household volumes of cleaners, fertilisers, pesticides, herbicides and paint. A full list of materials that can be accepted can be found on our website.

Fore more information and to register visit our website at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/detox



LANDSCAPING IMPROVEMENTS FOR BUSHFIRE MEMORIALS

Landscaping and maintenance works on the Bushfire Memorials in Kinglake, Kinglake West and Flowerdale are currently underway. These works include replacing trees, pressure cleaning, treatment of timber furniture and cleaning of memorial artwork.

Council will also increase its existing maintenance program for these memorials to include pressure washing of hard surfaces and treatment of timber surfaces twice yearly.

These memorials, along with the memorials in Castella, Marysville and Narbethong, were constructed to commemorate the 10-year anniversary of the devastating Black Saturday Bushfires and they are important places for our community to gather and reflect.

GET IN TOUCH

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