

THE GRANITE NEWS



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



22nd October 2023 | Volume 17 Issue 35

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

As it's been a while since there was an article in TGN highlighting

1. What does HCCC stand for? and
2. What does the HCCC do? so it's probably time for an encore.

The Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative, the publisher of The Granite News, is a Landcare Network combining the Highlands, Whitehead's Creek, Upper Hughes Creek & Hughes Creek Landcare Groups. It is based in the southern Strathbogie Ranges, Central Victoria Upland Slopes and covers the localities of Ruffy, Terip, Caveat, Highlands, Dropmore, Tarcombe, Kobyboyn and Whitehead's Creek.

Formed in 1994, the Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative (HCCC) has evolved from various Rabbit Action Groups and Landcare Groups that started in the 1980s. Landcare enables people to do something practical about protecting & restoring Australia's unique environment.

Landcare members have control in setting the activities and the focus that HCCC wishes to pursue however these activities must be in line with the Landcare ethic - **"A caring attitude & a wish to pass our planet onto the next generation in a healthier state than we find it in today."**

HCCC strives to provide a supportive environment which provides local people with the opportunity to come together, share knowledge and experiences and to do something practical to improve the long-term health of our land. It promotes the sustainable production of high quality food and fibre and supports the maintenance of a farm's productive capacity through the implementation of environmental best practice farming techniques and the apt adoption of sustainable farming technologies. It also aims to support smaller, new and absentee landholders with alternative lifestyle aspirations in the management of their land for better environmental outcomes.

Our Landcare network's activities include pest plant and animal control, biodiversity conservation, waterway management, revegetation, soil health management, protection of endangered species plus community welfare and education. The executive committee consists of two nominated representatives from each Landcare group plus the President and vacancies currently exist.

All landholders who participate in Landcare activities are considered to be ordinary members of the group along with any TGN readers who indicate that they wish to be considered members in support of the HCCC's objectives. (Just send an email to editor@tgn.org.au if that applies to you - if you haven't already) There are no membership fees. **NB: a survey for HCCC communities will soon be available for readers to complete. It will inform the HCCC's future directions.**

Please read on for another interesting issue, Pauline
And Kenny? Was checking out the car fire model at the Yarck Expo .

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 must make up for the time lost to foot dragging, arm twisting and the naked greed of entrenched interests raking in billions from fossil fuels."

United Nations Secretary General
Antonio Guterres
at the UN Climate Action Summit



War on Waste - Recycling

How much do you know about recycling and the waste facts from the fiction?
And now for the final question....

How much food does an average household of four throw out in a year?

- a) 50 kgs
- b) 375 kgs
- c) 150 kgs
- d) 500 kgs

Answer in next week's Granite News.

	NB: Fully vaccinated attendees are appreciated at all events.	What's On - October & November 2023
	Monday 23rd Oct. @ 2pm	RUFFY VEGE PATCH CLUB @ 152 Maggies Lane, Ruffy Sharing ideas, knowledge & produce. New members welcome. Enquiries? 0458 904268
	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.
	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
Details? See p.6	Saturday 28th Oct. @ 3.30pm	HIGH COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL @ Merton Memorial Hall Featuring home-grown artists John Flanagan & Naturally Kerley Enquiries? 0409 955809
	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
Details? See p.6	Saturday 29th Oct. @ 10.30	CREIGHTON'S CREEK DISCOVERY TOUR @ Creighton's Creek Hall All welcome. Fundraising for community projects - Bookings essential! Jim - 0407 973445
	Friday 3rd Nov. 6-8 pm	HIGHLANDS BOOK CLUB @ 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. Robyn 0409 528235
	Friday 3rd Nov. from 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
	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 1st, 15th & 29th November.
	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 - 7th & 21st Nov. DIGITAL & ON-LINE LEARNING @ TCC, 27 Nolans Rd, Ruffy 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

TERIP TERIP CFA - hold a night of Celebrations!

On September 9th we held the Terip Terip CFA awards night and dinner.

- 50 people in attendance, community members and brigade members
- we recognised an astonishing 1154 years of service to the Victorian Community
- District 12 Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO) Rob van Dorsser was presenting awards. In his speech ACFO van Dorsser said:

“With 55 brigade members, including 38 Firefighters, you’ve responded to 85 Fires and other emergencies in the last 5 years. For a Class One, Rural Fire Brigade, that’s a really great effort! By our records, there have been only 10 Captains between 1945 and 2023, a sign of consistency, continuity and true commitment. And that this year, you have elected the brigade’s first female Captain, Shannon Roach, shows Terip Terip is progressive and inclusive which is something to be really proud of”.

- 75th Year Anniversary Certificate presented
- The awards night gave us the opportunity to celebrate ex captain Geoff Penny (Captain for 31 years who stepped down from the position on April 2023) and celebrate a new captain Shannon Roach (Terip Terip's first female captain).

Key awards:

- Max Eddy received a 65 year service medal
- JAN PENNY 30 YEAR CFA LIFE MEMBERSHIP MEDAL
- JOAN PENNY 40 YEAR CFA LIFE MEMBERSHIP MEDAL
- ROSS PENNY 40 YEAR CFA LIFE MEMBERSHIP MEDAL
- GEOFF PENNY 45 YEAR CFA LIFE MEMBERSHIP MEDAL ABD NATIONAL MEDAL & 3 CLASP
- EDWARD GREENWOOD 50 YEAR CFA LIFE MEMBERSHIP MEDAL
- BRUCE MCLENNAN 60 YEAR CFA LIFE MEMBERSHIP MEDAL
- A gift was presented to ex captain Geoff Penny – Painting by brigade member Michelle Pike.

by Shannon Roach - Terip Terip CFA Captain



Expressions of Interest invited for NEW FUTURES Project

'Granite to the Goulburn'

A **BIG thank you** to those landholders who contacted Janet re this potential project. It's great to see so much interest in our local environment.

If you missed the deadline but would still like to chat with about this proposal, contact - **Janet Hagen**
hughescreek2@gmail.com
0458 904268

HCCC, Euroa Arboretum, SRCMN & Longwood Plains CMN are combining to put together a bid for a Victoria Landcare New Futures Project trial to be based in our area.

We are looking for ten landholders or rural businesses interested in the following topics

- Assisting next generation and early adopter farmers to find pathways to new "green" markets.
- Protecting and enhancing spring soaks, perched bogs, farm dams and waterways with perennial native vegetation cover.
- Decreasing the impact of drought, flooding and soil erosion through ecological engineering solutions.
- Building farm soil water holding capacity by increasing fungi, bacteria and microrobe activity.
- Designing wildlife refuge areas and "Glideways" corridors along waterways and away from roadsides.



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.

WOW!! What a response!

Since local environmentalist Sam Strong offered a couple of sessions on how to use the **i-Naturalist app** to record local species of plants and animals it has "taken off like a bomb"!

The **Strathbogie Ranges Nature Atlas Project** now has **over 5,200 entries** on it which is an incredible effort from the surrounding community. It seems that many people are really interested in their local environment, as well as who or what they share their unique patch of bushland with.

More importantly such records form a data base that can be used to locate threatened and/or endangered species and then have measures put in place to stop them from becoming extinct.

The top observations so far, across all species - from birds to reptiles, from mammals/marsupials to monotremes and from butterflies to botanicals are -

Koalas - 118
Echidnas - 74
Wedge-tailed Eagles - 52
Bare-nosed Wombat - 36
Crimson Rosella - 31

It's great to see koalas right up there, given the situation in NSW where global warming is impacting their survival there thanks to either uncontrollable wildfires or dehydration due to less moisture content in gum leaves.

Other species of interest sighted in smaller, but still encouraging, numbers are the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, Gang-gang Cockatoo, Tawny Frogmouth, Brush-tailed Phascogale, Southern Boobook, Sugar Glider, Greater Glider, Sacred Kingfisher, Rakali, Platypus, Spotted and Striated Pardalotes, Chocolate Lily, Murnong (Yam) and Kangaroo Grass to name just a few of the **1,456 species** recorded so far.

Of course it's useful to note that Sambar Deer, Rabbits, St John's Wort, Spear Thistle, Cape Weed and Paterson's Curse share our patch too and need to be eradicated. **(More on p.4 for doing just that to Paterson's Curse)**

However, in the meantime keep loading those sightings onto **i-naturalist**, it's a great resource for our local area.



“Out black spot, out I say.... What, will these hands never be clean?”

But to paraphrase Lady Macbeth

“Begone purple flowers, begone I say...What, will these hills never be clean?”



NOW 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

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 www.dronesprayingaus.com.au

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STILL MISSING from the Highlands area!

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



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TABLE TENNIS

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Please call **Andrew 0418 531 621**

History ~ Environment ~ Community



CREIGHTON'S CREEK DISCOVERY TOUR
Sunday 29th Oct, 2023 Creighton's Creek Hall

Program
10:30 - Welcome & Introduction
Noon - Light lunch provided
12:30 - Bus tour of district
3:00 - Afternoon tea

Sharing of photos & stories encouraged

Creighton's Creek Picnic 1913

Fundraising for Community Projects
Bookings essential (seats limited)
\$55 per head
<https://www.trybooking.com/CLTFB>



Contact: Jim Shovelton
0407 953 445

Brian Kelly
0429 903 262

email:
landcare.cc@gmail.com



HIGH COUNTRY HALLS
MUSIC FESTIVAL 2023
comes to **MERTON**
OCTOBER 28TH
@ Merton Memorial Hall
17 Shaws Road, Merton Victoria

featuring
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Youth 13-18yrs \$25pp
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NOV 11 2023

7PM START! \$10 PER PERSON, INCLUDES MAGNIFICENT
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Beautiful Bambi or Persistent Pest?

"Deer are the worst emerging feral animal threat facing Australia, according to Peter Jacobs from the Invasive Species Council.

A recent report estimated they are running up a national damage bill of \$91 million, mainly to agricultural pastures.

Victoria's latest deer management plan, released in 2022, is based on an "asset protection" approach for much of the state.

"It's called a biosecurity approach. It is about trying to be strategic and put the resources where they really need to be focused on," Mr Jacobs says.

"The problem is that it's been 150 years of deer numbers growing, and we now need a plan to control these feral animals.

"That should have been done a long time ago and while the investment by government is welcomed, it is clearly not enough. It's really just working around the edges."

Deer in Victoria are regulated through conflicting pieces of legislation, as the late Philip Ingamells, a respected park protection officer for Parks Victoria, explained to a Senate inquiry in 2018:

"You have the Wildlife Act, which effectively protects deer as a game species, requiring an authorisation if you are going to control them. Then you have the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act, which lists deer as a potentially threatening process, but that's a fairly toothless act. However, you do have the National Parks Act. The National Parks Act is actually a very strong and very powerful act. It's been around since 1975, and it quite specifically empowers the park agency to control or eradicate exotic species."

Recent data published by the Invasive Species Council shows aerial shooting is the most effective control method for large-scale removal of feral animals, accounting for 88 per cent of the 271,959 pigs, deer, goats, foxes, and cats killed in the past three years.

The council believes the Victorian government urgently needs to remove the protected status of deer.

"This is really important, not just so they can be dealt with like a pest, but at the moment we've got this really confused position in the community where some people see deer as being a pest and an annoyance while the neighbour next door thinks they're cute," Mr Jacobs says."

This extract is from the following ABC link for those readers who would like to read the complete article -

<https://www.msn.com/en-au/news/australia/feral-deer-pigs-populate-victoria-s-otways-with-eradication-a-long-laborious-journey/ar-AA1idErg?ocid=socialshare&cvid=556c9bb2186243bba0df0e3c53bdc86a&ei=43>

Know Your Weeds

Ivy-leaf Sida (Malvella leprosa)

State Prohibited Weed

Ivy-leaf Sida is a perennial, deep-rooted, semi-erect herb that is highly competitive and difficult to kill.

It grows up to 30cm tall with a silver/green appearance due to the fine hairs that cover its leaves.

Flowers appear in summer and have 5 small petals that are creamy yellow in colour and found in clusters at the end of the branches.

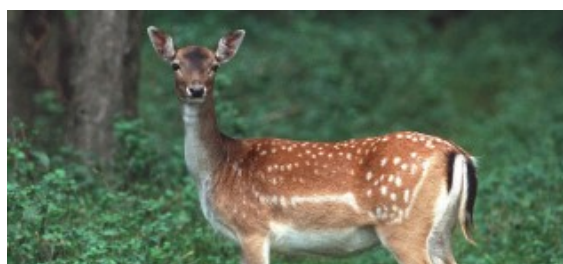
Its leaves have short stalks and are fan shaped with prominent veins on the undersides. The plant's stems are slender and light green can be either erect or prostrate.

The best time to eradicate is from October until April but as a State Prohibited Weed the control is the responsibility of DEECA so if any landholders notice this weed on their properties they need to contact DEECA immediately.

Ivy-leaf Sida can be spread in a variety of ways including - by water, by slashing and mowing, by contaminated soil and by machinery, equipment and vehicles.



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





Yea River Catchment Landcare Group presents

CARBON, EMISSIONS AND AG FORUM

Globally, as countries commit to carbon neutral targets, agriculture is in the spotlight as both a contributor to emissions, and a solution for carbon drawdown.

This forum will present information about the global scene, market pull, opportunities for productivity improvements and practical insights into what local farmers are doing.

JOIN US TO HEAR FROM:



Simon Quilty, Global AgriTrends & Churchill Fellow

Keynote presentation:

Carbon in agriculture - Case studies from around the globe focussed on agricultural emissions reduction schemes.



Chris Taarnby, Elders

Carbon farming inside the farm gate

Greg Ferrier, Agriculture Victoria

On-farm Emissions Action Plan Pilot - how farmers are taking action locally and how you can participate

Plus a farmer discussion panel

THURSDAY 16TH NOV, 2023

9.00AM - 3.30PM

Oliver's Upstairs at Country Club Hotel, 18 High Street, Yea

Morning tea on arrival, proceedings start at 9.30am sharp.

This is a free event but **bookings are essential**. Bookings close 5pm, 9th Nov.

Use this [LINK](#) or the QR code to book:



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

Presented by Yea River Catchment Landcare Group, with support from Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority, and funding from Victorian Landcare Grants



HCCC have a new addition to the War on Weeds.

A small versatile spray unit for small land holding and gardens. It has two spray options - a 2-metre boom or a spot spray gun. The unit can be hired for a small maintenance fee and donation to HCCC Landcare and is available in the Highlands area.

Please contact Neil van Buuren for further details and/or to book the unit.

Further details on the spray unit
<https://youtu.be/1kGzz7NwgBk>

<https://www.rapidspray.net/product-category/sprayers/12v-spot-sprayers-trailers/spot-ranger>



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FESTIVE WREATH WORKSHOP

USING LOCAL
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Join us for a fun morning creating festive wreaths from foliage and flowers collected from the Arboretum grounds, and from local flower growers.

Learn from each other and from our guest floral artist, Josephine Marais.

All materials will be provided, but feel free to bring your own additions! Light refreshments will also be offered. Places are limited.

Cost is \$45 per person, with proceeds donated to the 'Seed for the Future' project.



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**SATURDAY
11TH NOVEMBER**

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

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 <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> 
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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 and grow.
May the current generations of Taungurung, HCCC residents & landowners continue this important custodianship into the future.