

THE GRANITE NEWS



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



29th October 2023 | Volume 17 Issue 36

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

As promised last week, a survey for the HCCC communities is now available for readers to complete. (see the flier below)
Your answers will inform the HCCC's future directions so all local readers are encouraged to click on the QR code and complete it.

Many thanks to those TGN readers who have emailed me to indicate that they would like to become members who support 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.

Please read on for another interesting issue, Pauline
And Kenny? Was looking forward to making a festive wreath.

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

"More than 7.7 million hectares of habitat for threatened species (an area larger than Tasmania) were cleared or substantially degraded between 2000 & 2017."

Emma Johnston - Chief author of the 2021 Australian State of the Environment Report.



The flyer features a green and white color scheme with decorative elements of red gum flowers and eucalyptus leaves. At the top is the Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative Landcare logo. The main text reads: 'HCCC LANDCARE STRATEGIC PLANNING SURVEY 2024', 'Tell us what you think. Your input is vital.', 'Complete our online 5 minute survey and go into the draw for a \$100 voucher from Euroa Arboretum', and 'survey and entries close 1st December 2023.' It provides the URL <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HCCCsurvey2024> and a QR code at the bottom.



War on Waste - Recycling

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

500 kgs!

Throwing out food is obviously a huge waste of money and it's also a big contributor to climate change.

That's because when food scraps end up in landfill and are squished underneath tonnes of rubbish, they break down without any oxygen.

When that happens scraps produce methane — one of the worst greenhouse gases.

	NB: Fully vaccinated attendees are appreciated at all events.	What's On - November 2023
	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
	Sat. 4th & Sun. 5th Nov.	DARREN GILBERT'S OPEN STUDIO @ Giffard St, Yea Open first weekend each month - discover some stunning art work
	Friday 10th Nov. @ 6.30	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 551882
Details? See p.5	Saturday 11th Nov. @ 7pm 3.30pm	RUFFY TRIVIA NIGHT @ Ruffy Hall Come along to this GREAT fundraiser for the Ruffy Hall Table bookings Bill - 5790 4264
Details? see p.5	Sun. 12th Nov. from 1-3 pm	THE UNBREAKABLE FARMER @ Blue Tongue Berries, Seymour Come along and listen to Warren Davis' remarkable story of resilience and determination.
	Monday 13th Nov. @ 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 - 5790 4361
	Monday 13th Nov. @ 2pm	RUFFY VEGE PATCH CLUB @ 134 Weibye Track, Ruffy Sharing ideas, knowledge & produce. New members welcome. Enquiries? 0458 904268
	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

HCCC Community engagement day 2023 at Ruffy

On Saturday, 21st October, about 80 people attended the HCCC Community Engagement Day, at the Ruffy Recreation Reserve. Around 60 people from the Shepparton Afghan Hazara community joined about 20 Landcare locals for a day of food and activities showcasing biodiversity of the local area.

Justus Hagen, HCCC president, welcomed everyone to the event, and spoke about our shared desire to preserve our wonderful environment in the area. Jenny Webb also spoke and brought some of her home-grown rhubarb to share. Rhubarb grows wild in the hills of Afghanistan and the people there like to eat it raw, so it was shared around enthusiastically as a treat for everyone and a reminder of their homeland.

Ali Alizadah welcomed everyone and thanked HCCC Landcare for organising the day. Both Ali and Justus acknowledged the traditional owners, the Taungurung people, and thanked them for their continued custodianship of country.

It was great to see so many people come all the way from Shepparton out into the hills for a family fun day. It was a little cloudy and cool, but the rain held off and everyone joined in the fun.

Graham Stockfeld from Turtles Australia brought his turtles and gave a very informative talk, though he was somewhat upstaged by the roaming turtles that brought giggles and screams from the many children in the room. The turtles were a great hit, as were the pondlife viewers, which allowed the kids to see magnified creatures collected from Jenny Webb's dam.

A charcoal BBQ was supplied by the Afghan community, and we were treated to skewered chicken in a spicy marinade and lamb chops, all cooked by the men, while the women had a rest for the day. Breads, salads and desserts, complemented the meats and everyone enjoyed the feast. Thank you to the HCCC community for bringing delicious desserts to share.

The many kids ran around and kicked soccer balls on the oval, played with the turtles and followed Neil with the HCCC drone, all eager to have a turn. It was wonderful to see so many children and young people enjoying the fantastic space at Ruffy. Towards the end of the day we managed to get everyone out onto the oval for a group photo.

Overall, everyone had an enjoyable day and HCCC would like to thank Ali Alizadah and Safar Ibrahimi for helping us organise this amazing event. Thank you to Jenny Webb for her persistence in making this event happen, after several false starts, including last year's floods which impacted both of our communities.

Thank you also to Jill Croome from DEECA (Dept of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, Victoria), who provided funding for this event, without which it would not have been possible.

We look forward to future community engagement days with our new friends from Shepparton.

Sue van Buuren



Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

A propos of the quoted statement by Antonio Guterres featured on the front page of this week's TGN (22.10.23) – "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",

I would suggest that it is worth remembering that things would be no different with renewables (wind and solar) companies. They have shown themselves to be equally driven by naked greed, and of course heavily subsidised by the taxpayer.

However, in addition to this undesirable situation, their enterprises would have the further disastrously negative effect of desecrating the landscape and wildlife we all love – in this case that of the Southern Strathbogies Ranges, incidentally none of which area is, to my knowledge, within an officially listed Victorian Registered Energy Zone (REZ).

Further, a proportion of the area has been proposed by the Mitchell Shire Council to be designated as Significant Landscape Overlay, where any new building would be strictly controlled, and in particular no constructions on ridges.

Lisa Stephens

STILL MISSING from the Highlands area!

LOST have you seen this beautiful dog?

Barron went missing from Brigadoon Rd, Highlands on Friday September 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 or upon his safe return.

Needless to say his owner is devastated.

Any sightings or info please contact

Kerryn 0410 502590 or
Paul 0425 736341



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

DRONE SPRAYING



DRONE
SPRAYING
AUSTRALIA



SPRAY WEEDS LIKE YOU'VE NEVER SPRAYED BEFORE

Our drones spray herbicides or pesticides where it's needed. Affordably priced, call us on 0488788841 now for a quote.

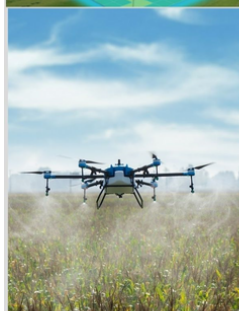
- Blackberries
- Pattersons Curse
- Briar
- St Johns Wort
- Capeweed
- Gorse

✓ Affordably
priced

✓ Precise
application

✓ Less chemicals
for better results

✓ GPS data of your
land



0488 788 841



www.dronesprayingaus.com.au



info@dronesprayingaus.com.au

Warren Davies is also known as 'The Unbreakable Farmer'.

He's one of Australia's leading rural mental health speakers and advocates.

His keynote topics are centred on resilience, persistence, determination, leadership and wellbeing, their moral relevant to all ages and communities. Warren's ability to engage with individuals or organisations is through the journey of him piecing back together his life and the life lessons he learnt along the way. His down to earth approach makes his story and strategies relevant whether you are from the country or the city, school student, farmer or the CEO of a large corporation.

So come along and join us for an afternoon community session to hear the powerful story of Warren Davies, also known as 'The Unbreakable Farmer'.

Please note: This is a farmer only event.

Bookable links:

Nagambie - 5 Nov Buckley Park

https://mitchell-events.bookable.net.au/#!/event-detail/ev_6a50ab0449614f36afecbb71a4394a72

Seymour - 12 Nov - Blue Tongue Berries

https://mitchell-events.bookable.net.au/#!/event-detail/ev_7e2888ff038841798026fd6ccd0e1300

Euroa - 19 Nov - Lions Park BBQ Facility

https://mitchell-events.bookable.net.au/#!/event-detail/ev_2eb23e91cffb42b09de645b0274751e3



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.



THE EUROA ARBORETUM
INVITES YOU TO A

FESTIVE WREATH WORKSHOP

USING LOCAL
FLOWERS AND
FOLIAGE



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.

**SATURDAY
11TH NOVEMBER**

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

**EUROA ARBORETUM
PICNIC SHELTER**

BOOK BEFORE 30th OCTOBER

<https://www.trybooking.com/CMJIP>





Scan to
book >

**RUFFY
TRIVIA NIGHT
HALL FUNDRAISER**



NOV 11 2023

7PM START! \$10 PER PERSON, INCLUDES MAGNIFICENT
RUFFY SUPPER, GAMES & GOOD FUN!

BOOKING ESSENTIAL, BOOK YOUR TABLE WITH BILL 03 57904264

Carbon, Emissions and Ag Forum

Dear Granite News readers,

We'd like to invite you to our Carbon, Emissions and Ag Forum on **16th Nov 2023**, at the Country Club Hotel in Yea.

Join us to hear from these excellent speakers:
Simon Quilty, Global AgriTrends & Churchill Fellow

Keynote presentation: Carbon in agriculture – Case studies from around the globe focused on agricultural emissions reduction schemes.

Chris Taarnby, Elders
Carbon farming inside the farm gate.

Greg Ferrier, AgricultureVictoria
On-farm Emissions Action Plan Pilot: how farmers are taking action locally, and how you can participate.

This is a free event presented by the Yea River Catchment Landcare Group.

Booking is essential and you can register at this link.
For more information see the flyer on page 8.

Rhiannon Sandford
Secretary, Yea River Catchment Landcare Group

SAVE THE DATE

HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY END OF YEAR BBQ

FRIDAY 8TH DECEMBER 2023

DETAILS TO FOLLOW



Did you Know?

11th - 19th November is

Australian Pollinator Week!

Bees are such a vital part of our environment. Does your garden welcome them?

Like to find out more?

<https://www.australianpollinatorweek.org.au/>

Know Your Weeds

Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*)

State Prohibited Weed

Although quite attractive with its bluish/purple flowers, the Water Hyacinth is an extremely invasive and rapidly growing weed that chokes waterways and undermines native ecosystems.

Its leaves are glossy green and vary between long, narrow and erect to almost round and curved upwards.

Stalks are up to 5cm long with a bladder-like swelling that enables the plant to float. Stems can either bear flowers or spread laterally and produce new plants.

Water Hyacinth seeds and leaves can be spread by the water it lives in, or by boats traversing the waterways or be eaten or carried by birds and animals.

It is unlikely to be confused with any native species and as a State Prohibited weed the control of this annual is done by DEECA.

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



The Ruffy Veggie Growers' Group

is delighted that its numbers have been growing and this month has 2 gatherings scheduled at members gardens.

November 13th 2pm @ Chris and Theo's garden
134 Weibye Track Ruffy

November 27th 2pm @ Ray's garden @
375 Gum Road Caveat.

Sharing ideas, knowledge and produce.
New members welcome.

Enquiries?
Janet Hagen 0458 904268.





10AM
to 5PM

Open Gardens

YEA & DISTRICT

**Saturday 11 & Sunday 12
November 2023**

8 unique gardens open

• \$5 town gardens • \$8 country gardens • \$40 per 2-day pass to all 8 gardens



Plus YEA
GARDEN CLUB
Annual
PLANT SALE

TICKETS at <https://www.trybooking.com/CJTWN>
also on the weekend at Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre
and at each open garden gate (cash only)



Information available on Rotary Club of Yea website
or phone 0407 096 128 ~ Email tickslife@bigpond.com

Maps and garden descriptions available on website from September

www.yearotary.org.au

Rotary
Club of Yea





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



AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

**It's only October
yet there are currently
84 active bushfires in
Queensland
where 32 homes and 1
life have already been
lost!**

**NSW has bushfires
raging all along its
narrow coastal strip of
land from the Bega
Valley in the south to
Byron Bay and beyond
in the north.**

**Sadly it's only a matter
of time before Victoria
experiences bushfires
this summer.**

**How prepared are
YOU
and your property?**

**Maybe it's time to
clean up NOW!**

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>



<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</p> <p>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>
<p>The Pond Professor Peter Graf</p> <p>DESIGNS, CREATES & MAINTAINS BEAUTIFUL PONDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pond cleaning • Filtration systems • Fountains and waterfalls • Native fish and plants • Algae control • Water testing • Design and construction • Consulting services <p>Phone: 0429 969 243 Email: info@pondprofessor.com.au http://www.pondprofessor.com.au</p>	 <p>SEYMOUR EQUINE & RURAL</p> <p>Supplying everything you need</p> <p>Products & Expertise in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Animal Production - Pasture/Crop Protection - Fencing & Livestock Handling <p>PH: (03) 5792 1088 HELPING YOU GROW</p>	<p>Little Antechinus living in a hollow near you</p> 	<p>BenCo</p> <p>PLUMBING SERVICES</p> <p>Ben Laycock</p> <p>0438 512299 Licence no. 105134</p> <p>ben@bencoplumbingservices.com.au bencoplumbingservices.com</p>
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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> 
<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</p> <p>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.