

# THE GRANITE NEWS



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



5th November 2023 | Volume 17 Issue 37

## Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

It's a bit of an issue across the entire state of Victoria at the moment (and Tasmania too for that matter) that the condition of roads, rural ones in particular, leaves a lot to be desired.

Since the floods in October 2022 so many of our local roads, be they highways (under the auspices of Vicroads or RRV) or byways (Shire maintained roads) both dirt and bitumen, have been in incredibly poor shape and in desperate need of repairs, due to those flooding rains.

No doubt most, if not all readers, know of stretches of local roads that need attention 13 months on from the original damage being done.

It appears that one regular traveler along the Yea-Highlands Rd has decided that a bit of graffiti, at the two most damaged locations, might expedite the repair process. Unfortunately, I can't show you what that graffiti looks like - in this G rated publication - due to the use of expletives. However, suffice to say that although an F word has been used it wasn't Frustration - although it is obvious that is what the author is feeling....along with the rest of us who travel this route almost daily.



Possibly the delay in repairing these particular roads may be due to the fact that the parts of Murrindindi, Mitchell and Strathbogie Shires, that fall within the HCCC area, are at the very extremities of these local government areas and council staff and councilors don't get to visit the boundaries very often and are therefore unaware of any problems.

With this in mind TGN readers might find this very handy App - **Snap, Send, Solve** - quite useful in informing their local councils, and other companies like Telstra, of issues that need attention. Why not put it on your mobile phones and make use of its simplicity and effectiveness.

Please read on for another interesting issue, Pauline And Kenny? Was highlighting the Ruffy Vege Patch Club's 2 meetings.

Feedback? [editor@tgn.org.au](mailto:editor@tgn.org.au)  
or to subscribe on-line go to  
[www.highlands.org.au](http://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

"If any question why we died  
Tell them, because our fathers  
lied."

Rudyard Kipling (1865 - 1936)







Kipling used his influence to gain an army commission for his only son, despite his previous rejection for poor eyesight. John was killed at the Battle of Loos 27/9/1915. He was just 18.

Remembrance Day - 11th Nov.



Month	Highlands	Ruffy	Terip
Oct.	128.5 mm	115.5 mm	127 mm
2023 Total	696.4 mm	632.5 mm	766.4 mm
Rainy Days	10 days	8 days	11 days



	NB: Fully vaccinated attendees are appreciated at all events.	What's On - November 2023
Details? See p.4	Thursday 9th Nov. @ 7pm	<b>TERIP TERIP FIRE SAFETY COMMUNITY MEETING</b> @ Terip Rec Reserve Spend an hour with the CFA & find out how you can keep your family safe this summer.
	Friday 10th Nov. @ 6.30	<b>DRINKS on the DECK</b> @ 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. <b>Contact Paula 0419 551882</b>
Details? See p.7	Saturday 11th Nov. @ 7pm	<b>RUFFY TRIVIA NIGHT</b> @ Ruffy Hall Come along to this <b>GREAT</b> fundraiser for the Ruffy Hall <b>Table bookings Bill - 5790 4264</b>
See last TGN	Sun. 12th Nov. from 1-3 pm	<b>THE UNBREAKABLE FARMER</b> @ Blue Tongue Berries, Seymour Come along and listen to Warren Davis' remarkable story of resilience and determination.
	Monday 13th Nov. @ 11am	<b>HIGHLANDS SPINNING CLUB</b> 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. <b>Enquiries? Jan - 5790 4361</b>
	Monday 13th Nov. @ 2pm	<b>RUFFY VEGE PATCH CLUB</b> @ 134 Weibye Track, Ruffy Sharing ideas, knowledge & produce. New members welcome. <b>Enquiries? 0458 904268</b>
	Saturday 25th Nov. @ TBC	<b>HCCC AGM - Everyone is invited - more details to come</b> in Euroa
	Monday 27th Nov. @ 2pm	<b>RUFFY VEGE PATCH CLUB</b> @ 375 Gum Rd, Caveat Sharing ideas, knowledge & produce. New members welcome. <b>Enquiries? 0458 904268</b>
	Every Second Wednesday 10-30-12.30	<b>MURRINDINDI MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE</b> @ Highlands Community Hall The Mobile Library visits the TGN area, based at the Highlands Hall every fortnight. Why not pop in? <b>Forthcoming dates are 15th &amp; 29th November.</b>
	1st & 3rd Tuesdays 10-12 and 1-3	<b>TABLELANDS KIDS' PLAY GROUP</b> @ TCC, 27 Nolans Rd, Ruffy All ages welcome - Nature play - Playground - Toys - Friends - <b>7th &amp; 21st Nov.</b> <b>DIGITAL &amp; ON-LINE LEARNING</b> @ TCC, 27 Nolans Rd, Ruffy 7th & 21st Nov. <b>Enquiries? Bob - 0480 348788</b>
	2nd & 4th Sundays	<b>ST DAVID'S UNITING CHURCH - TERIP RUFFY</b> 2nd Sunday 11.15am Pastor Scott Leslie / 4th Sunday 11am Morning tea & Study group
	Every Tues. & Fri. 8.45-9.45	<b>CUSTOM YOGA is BACK with Ingrid</b> at the Tablelands Community Centre \$20 per hour long class BYO mat and blanket <b>Enquiries? Ingrid ingstar.7@gmail.com</b>

## With Summer approaching it's time to think about fire safety

With El Nino now official across Australia and the influence of a positive Indian dipole climate driver underway - Queensland, the Northern Territory and Western Australia have already experienced severe bushfires, property loss and fatalities. And Summer here is still 25 days away!

A high-risk fire season has been predicted to commence shortly for south and eastern Australia.

For some readers who are still pondering what needs to be done in advance of the fire season, during the fire season and on the day of any bushfire in our local area, the following facts and reflections (Credit: ABC news article by Catherine Hanrahan 27-12-18) might assist.

### "What can we learn about saving lives from studying more than a century of bushfires?"

A lot — but experts warn too many Australians still do not properly understand the risks and new research suggests nine in 10 Victorians in high-risk areas (the HCCC) would not follow the prevailing advice to leave early on days of high fire danger.

Most lives have been lost on a few horror days — and in one state - our state, Victoria.

Between 1901 and 2011, 825 people lost their lives in more than 260 bushfires. Of those killed, 92 were firefighters.

More than 80% of the deaths were in January and February, and 61% happened in Victoria. (A total of 506 with the next closest state being NSW with 139 deaths)

Even more strikingly, 65 per cent of all the people killed in bushfires across that 110-year period died on just nine days, including Black Saturday in 2009 when 173 people died in Australia's worst natural disaster.



### Civilian fatalities on nine major fire days

<b>Victoria</b> (Gippsland)	14 February 1926	31 deaths
<b>Victoria</b> (Rubicon)	10 January 1939	19 deaths
<b>Victoria</b> (Matlock, Tanjil)	13 January 1939	47 deaths (Black Friday)
<b>Victoria</b> (Linton)	14 January 1944	35 deaths
<b>Victoria</b> (Morwell)	14 February 1944	13 deaths
<b>Tasmania</b> (Hobart)	7 February 1967	64 deaths
<b>Victoria</b> (Lara)	8 January 1969	20 deaths
<b>South Aust.</b> (Adelaide)	16 February 1983	27 deaths (Ash Wednesday)
<b>Victoria</b> (Beaconsfield)	16 February 1983	46 deaths (Ash Wednesday)
<b>Victoria</b> (Kilmore East)	7 February 2009	173 deaths (Black Saturday)

The Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission looked at the circumstances of how 173 people died on Black Saturday. Its analysis found that while most people were aware they were at risk, 24 per cent did not even have a basic awareness they were in danger of bushfires."

Having a plan and implementing it is the most important thing you can do. Fire plans can include pre-season preparation, season preparation, actions on high fire danger days, when to leave, etc.

There is a good website called **Bush Fire Resilience** <https://bushfireresilience.org.au/> that has a 2023 series of very informative home webinars.

The CFA outlines how to prepare a plan at <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/before-and-during-a-fire/your-bushfire-plan>.



# FIRE SAFETY COMMUNITY MEETING

## Terip Terip



**FIRE  
SAFETY**  
Essentials



Cnr Caveat Rd & Top Rd  
Terip Terip

7:00pm | Thursday 9th November 2023

## Bushfires happen every year!

**Bring a chair**, spend 1 hour with CFA learning how you can keep you, your family and your friends safe from fire this season.

### OUR FIRE SAFETY ESSENTIALS SESSION COVERS:

- Local fire risk
- What to expect from fire
- Preparing for fire
- Fire Danger Ratings
- How to stay informed
- Seasonal Update

### CONTACT US



03 5735 3114



d12commed@cfa.vic.gov.au



cfa.vic.gov.au



For further information on how to prepare your property for fire scan QR code or visit [cfa.vic.gov.au](https://cfa.vic.gov.au)



## Know Your Weeds

### South African Orchid (*Disa Bracteata*)

Watch out for this highly invasive weed orchid!

**On TGN reader found 16 plants in one paddock alone.**

**Now** is the time to hunt the fleshy basal leaf form and flower heads **before they dry off.**

Avoid picking the flowerheads when dry as this can disperse the seed. Follow the instructions in these two links- bag and dispose of in your hard rubbish and NOT in your compost or green waste.

This weed is spreading throughout our hills. It can be spread via wind, cars, feet, stock.

Please put any records you find on **iNaturalist** so we can map where it's spreading through the area.



[https://cdn.mitchellshire.vic.gov.au/general-downloads/South-African-Weed-Orchid-Weed-Alert-Fact-Sheet\\_2022-11-29-022408\\_cmpf.pdf](https://cdn.mitchellshire.vic.gov.au/general-downloads/South-African-Weed-Orchid-Weed-Alert-Fact-Sheet_2022-11-29-022408_cmpf.pdf)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M3v4vCP1vL8>

This clip is from Nillumbik Council - but is a handy how to guide for those who like to watch a video.

For further information re eradication email - [info@hccclandcare.net.au](mailto:info@hccclandcare.net.au)

## Highlands Ramblers

The last Highland Ramblers for 2023 was on 29th October. **It will resume again in March 2024.**

The last Sunday ramble for 2023 was a corker. The weather was warm as we walked through some new territory (even for Andrew!) and came across enormous granite boulders, views across to Yea and the Switzerland Range. We also came across a very friendly draft horse who seemed happy to see us.

**Rambles will resume in March 2024.**

Thank you Andrew from us all for these wonderful walks.



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## WANTED

The Highlands Hall Committee is seeking photos of the Highlands Hall and its surrounds to incorporate into a visual presentation at the End of Year festivities on Friday 8th December.

Community events, working bees, birthday celebrations, annual activities...whatever you might have in the bottom drawer or on a USB. **Send to Robyn - [lindgardglass@ozemail.com.au](mailto:lindgardglass@ozemail.com.au)** before Nov. 23rd

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## Summer Holidays @ the Beach

If you've been meaning to plan a few days stay at the beach this summer but haven't quite got around to organising it, then the delightful

### Sunnyside Cottage at Apollo Bay

might be just fit the bill.

Due to extenuating circumstances a vacancy exists from **January 13th - 29th**

Reasonable tariff, with a minimum stay of 5 days or longer.

For further information/bookings - **0427 529551** or view

[www.sunnyside-apollobay.com.au](http://www.sunnyside-apollobay.com.au)





## 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**

survey and entries close 1st December 2023.

Go to the link below or use your phone camera to access via the QR code.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HCCCsurvey2024>



## 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](mailto:neil@hccclandcare.net.au)



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.



## 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>





**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

### 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/>

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.tnybooking.com/CMJIP>

*Euroa Arboretum  
Growing Back the Bush*

Scan to book >



### SAVE THE DATE

**ANNUAL COMMUNITY  
CHRISTMAS PARTY  
@ TCC Ruffy**

**Saturday 2nd DECEMBER 2023**

**STAY TUNED !**

### 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](mailto:tickslife@bigpond.com)

Maps and garden descriptions available on website from September

[www.yearotary.org.au](http://www.yearotary.org.au)

Rotary  
Club of Yea





<p><b>HABBIES HOWE BEEF</b></p> <p>MATURE, WELL HUNG &amp; AVAILABLE</p> <p>IGA SEYMOUR GARY'S MEATS, PRAHRAN MARKET L&amp;L MEATS, BENTLEIGH</p> <p>SCOTCH AND FILLET ST HELENA, MENTONE &amp; MERNDA</p>	<p>Donated by supporters of the endangered Hairy Hop bush</p> 	<p><b>Chris Sharman</b></p> <p>Energy Efficiency &amp; Solar Energy Specialist</p> <p>Acme – Air Conditioning   Electrical   Solar</p> <p>M: 0418 551 301 T: Office - 9785 7339 E: <a href="mailto:chris@acmeair.com.au">chris@acmeair.com.au</a></p>	 <p><b>Darren Gilbert</b> open studio</p> <p>@ 5 Giffard Street Yea</p> <p>Open every first weekend of the month Up to date Open Studio days &amp; times on <a href="http://www.monkeytaildesign.com">www.monkeytaildesign.com</a></p>
<p><b>The Pond Professor</b> Peter Graf</p> <p>DESIGNS, CREATES &amp; MAINTAINS BEAUTIFUL PONDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pond cleaning</li> <li>• Filtration systems</li> <li>• Fountains and waterfalls</li> <li>• Native fish and plants</li> <li>• Algae control</li> <li>• Water testing</li> <li>• Design and construction</li> <li>• Consulting services</li> </ul> <p>Phone: 0429 969 243 Email: <a href="mailto:info@pondprofessor.com.au">info@pondprofessor.com.au</a> <a href="http://www.pondprofessor.com.au">http://www.pondprofessor.com.au</a></p>	 <p><b>SEYMOUR EQUINE &amp; RURAL</b></p> <p>Supplying everything you need</p> <p>Products &amp; Expertise in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Animal Production</li> <li>- Pasture/Crop Protection</li> <li>- Fencing &amp; Livestock Handling</li> </ul> <p>PH: (03) 5792 1088 HELPING YOU GROW</p>	<p>Little Antechinus living in a hollow near you</p> 	<p><b>BenCo</b></p> <p>PLUMBING SERVICES</p> <p><b>Ben Laycock</b></p> <p>0438 512299 Licence no. 105134</p> <p><a href="mailto:ben@bencoplumbingservices.com.au">ben@bencoplumbingservices.com.au</a> <a href="http://bencoplumbingservices.com">bencoplumbingservices.com</a></p>
 <p><b>nomad art</b></p> <p>Online &amp; by appointment Avenel, M: 0428 308 793 <a href="http://www.nomadart.com.au">www.nomadart.com.au</a> Limited edition prints from regional and remote Australia</p>	<p><b>KOPANICA PASTORAL EXCAVATIONS &amp; CARTAGE</b></p>  <p>DAMS EARTHWORKS STOCK+WATER CARTAGE &amp; MORE</p> <p><b>0429 804 235</b> <a href="mailto:MICHAEL.KOPANICA@GMAIL.COM">MICHAEL.KOPANICA@GMAIL.COM</a></p>	<p>RURAL FENCING SERVICES</p> <p><b>JARRAD</b></p> <p>0409 082 257</p> 	
 <p><b>Murrindindi</b> Shire Council</p> <p><b>Cr John Walsh</b> Koriella Ward Murrindindi Shire Council <a href="mailto:jwalsh@murrindindi.vic.gov.au">jwalsh@murrindindi.vic.gov.au</a> 0437 835 586</p>	<p><b>Tablelands Community Centre</b></p> <p>Upgraded facilities &amp; playground Ideal for Private or Community gatherings Meetings, Workshops Very reasonable rates Hosts 1<sup>st</sup> Friday BBQs Contact <a href="mailto:tccruffy@gmail.com">tccruffy@gmail.com</a> Ph 0404 833 388</p>	 <p>For All your Aerial Spraying or Spreading Needs. Specialising in Blackberries, Broadleaf, Thistles, Spreading lime/fertilizer &amp; 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><b>HIGHLANDS GROVE</b></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 <a href="mailto:enquiries@highlandsgrove.com.au">enquiries@highlandsgrove.com.au</a> <a href="http://highlandsgrove.com.au">highlandsgrove.com.au</a></p>	 <p><b>HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY HALL</b></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><b>Echidnas</b> take care of their habitat</p> 	<p><b>Granite Hills Community Nursery</b></p>  <p><a href="http://www.granitehillsnursery.com.au">www.granitehillsnursery.com.au</a></p>	<p>Need a website? <a href="http://bluetopbiz.com.au">bluetopbiz.com.au</a></p> <p>Affordable web design &amp; maintenance. Presentations, marketing copy. Grant applications, project management. Call</p> <p>Sue 0411 010 379 Neil 0417 503 472</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:sue@bluetopbiz.com.au">sue@bluetopbiz.com.au</a></p>	 <p><b>Strathbogie Granite Project</b> <a href="mailto:neil.phillips@bigpond.com">neil.phillips@bigpond.com</a></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.