

THE GRANITE NEWS



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



12th November 2023 | Volume 17 Issue 38

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

Following on from last week's observations on our local roads it appears that the expletives spray painted on the Yea-Highlands Road have been blacked out, but the rough condition of the road still exists.

Local Councilor for Koriella Ward, John Walsh, has sent a Letter to the Editor explaining the process and the reasons for the delay in commencing/completing the roadworks required as a result of last year's floods. See p.4 for further details. Although this is specifically for Murrindindi Shire, no doubt the same process applies to all Shires across the state.



Occasionally the Editor's email contains an excellent photo and this one from Stuart & Judy Reid is a gem.

Appropriately titled -
Reminding us we need to clean out our gutters...
maybe the CFA could use it in their planning and preparation messages in 2024?

Please read on for another interesting issue, Pauline

And Kenny? Was highlighting yesterday's Festive Wreath Making.

Dates for your Diaries...

SAVE THE DATE

ANNUAL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY
@ TCC Ruffy

Saturday 2nd DECEMBER 2023

STAY TUNED !



SAVE THE DATE

HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY END OF YEAR BBQ

FRIDAY 8TH DECEMBER 2023

DETAILS TO FOLLOW



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

"To drive the Hume Highway is to know true fear."

Germaine Greer - 1939.....

Australian author, intellectual and feminist.







Did you know?

November 13th (today) is World Kindness Day

This year's theme is

'Acts of kindness start a ripple of change that can transform the lives of children, families, and entire communities.'

Why not ripple today?

	NB: Fully vaccinated attendees are appreciated at all events.	What's On - November & December 2023
	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
	Saturday 25th Nov. @ TBC	HCCC AGM - Everyone is invited - more details to come in Euroa
	Monday 27th Nov. @ 2pm	RUFFY VEGE PATCH CLUB @ 375 Gum Rd, Caveat Sharing ideas, knowledge & produce. New members welcome. Enquiries? 0458 904268
	Thursday 30th Nov. @ 5.30	SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS @ Caveat Church All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards BBQ, BYO & chat.
Save the Date!	Saturday 2nd Dec. @ ??	ANNUAL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY @ TCC, Ruffy
	Sat.2nd & Sun. 3rd Dec 10-4	DARREN GILBERT'S OPEN STUDIO @ 5 Giffard St, Yea Open first weekend each month - discover some stunning art work.
Save the Date!	Friday 8th Dec. @ ??	HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY END of YEAR BBQ @ Highlands Community Hall
	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 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 - 21st Nov. & 6th Dec. DIGITAL & ON-LINE LEARNING @ TCC, 27 Nolans Rd, Ruffy 21st Nov. & 6th Dec. 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

Things you need in your Bushfire Survival Kit

Knowing that you have a well-prepared bushfire survival kit can help reduce stress and anxiety during a fire emergency, allowing you to focus on staying safe.

Bushfires can spread rapidly, and if you live in or are travelling to or through bushfire-prone areas you should be prepared by having a bushfire survival kit. Having a well-prepared survival kit means you're in a better position to leave early or respond to evacuation advice, helping reduce the risk of leaving critical supplies behind.

Your survival kit can be customised to meet the specific needs of your family, accounting for any special requirements such as infant supplies, pet needs, or medical conditions.

What to include in your bushfire survival kit

A Bushfire Plan

The Country Fire Authority (CFA) advises you to include a bushfire plan as part of your survival kit. This may help you know when to leave, where you'll go and how you will get there in an emergency as it can be difficult to think clearly in those circumstances.



Essentials

- **Water:** Store at least 3-5 litres of water per person for drinking and other essential use. You can use sealed water bottles or large water containers.
- **Non-perishable food:** Include enough food for several days, such as canned goods, energy bars, and dried fruits.
- **Basic utensils:** If your food items are in cans, ensure you have a manual can opener. Also pack other utensils.
- **Change of clothes:** An overnight bag with a couple of days change of clothes.
- **First aid kit:** Include essential medical supplies, prescription medications, and personal hygiene items (including toiletries).
- **Personal documents:** Important documents like your driver's license, IDs, passports, and a USB with copies of your insurance policies, wills, special photos, and medical records in a waterproof bag.
- **Battery-powered or hand-cranked radio:** Stay informed about the fire's progress and evacuation instructions.
- **Fully charged mobile phone and charger:** Keep your phone charged and carry a portable charger if possible.
- **Important contacts:** Save important phone numbers including your doctor, family and friends, and emergency hotlines such as VicEmergency.
- **Light:** Torch or flashlight with extra batteries.
- **Wool blankets:** Useful for smothering small fires and may help protect from radiant heat.

Important extras

- **Maps:** Include local maps showing evacuation routes and nearby water sources. Map out your main routes and alternatives in case there are road closures or danger on your primary route.
- **Pet supplies:** If you have pets, ensure you have a suitable transport carrier or leash. Pack food, treats, water, and any necessary medications for them. A familiar item like a toy or bed may help to reduce stress on your pets.
- **Disability or special needs:** If you or someone in your family has specific medical needs, ensure you have the necessary supplies, equipment, and prescriptions in the kit.
- **Keep your kit accessible:** Remember to keep your bushfire survival kit in an easily accessible location, so you can quickly grab it in the event of bushfire risk.

Regularly check and refresh your bushfire survival kit, especially before bushfire season, to ensure that items are in good condition and that supplies have not expired. Being proactive and having a well-thought-out survival kit can make a significant difference in your ability to stay safe during a bushfire emergency.

Continued on p.4...

Letter to the Editor

G'day Pauline,

Thanks again for all the work you do in producing the Granite News.

With respect to the problems on the Yea-Highlands Road that you raised in last week's edition, the delay in repairing the road has been due to the process Council is required to go through to receive funding to rectify damage caused by natural disasters, in this case the October 2022 storms and floods.

After a disaster, the Council has to consolidate a list of all damage across the Shire, related to the event and submit it together with before and after pictures for State and Commonwealth preliminary funding approvals. Once the preliminary approvals are received, tenders for the work must be sought and evaluated which are then submitted for final approval. Once that is received then contracts can be finalised and the work commenced. The process is designed to protect public monies and to cater for cost variations up to the finalisation of contracts.

Given the widespread damage caused by the October 2022 floods there have been an enormous number of claims from many Councils to be assessed and this has contributed to the delay.

Throughout the process the Shire undertakes temporary repairs to provide the minimum level of service because any work done outside that which is agreed by the funding bodies, is at the Shire's expense. The delays are regrettable, and I can understand the frustration, but the Shire is not in a financial position to undertake the repairs without external grants.

Finally, if after reporting a concern to Council via the website, calling the Shire Offices or using Snap Send Solve anyone feels that a response has been too slow or inadequate, please call me and I will follow it up. My contact details are in the advertisement on the back page of every issue of The Granite News.

John Walsh
Councillor - Koriella Ward

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
before Nov. 23rd**

Your Bushfire Survival Kit...

continued from p.3

Stay informed

Monitor the bushfire alert levels and Fire Danger Ratings in your area. Always follow the advice and direction of emergency services.

Those who will be in bushfire-prone areas should consider downloading the **VicEmergency app** on their smartphones and save the number to the **VicEmergency Hotline: 1800 226 226**.

If you are in a life-threatening situation, call 000 immediately.

These resources and apps can help you during bushfire season:

VicEmergency - app available to download for iPhone and Android

ABC Listen - app available to download for iPhone and Android

Bureau of Meteorology - app available to download for iPhone and Android

The Country Fire Authority (CFA)

Red Cross: Preparing for Emergencies - app available to download for iPhone and Android

by Nyasha Jokomo - RACV Nov. Newsletter

Letter to the Editor

Hi Pauline,
The High Country Hall Music Festival in Merton on Oct 29 was a great success--everybody appeared to have fun, enjoying themselves and joining in with the community, building connections for now and for the future.

The music festival was well attended with people coming from far and near. It was a lovely evening for outside entertainment and everyone was enjoying the company of their neighbours and the great music from local and Melbourne artists.

Thank you for all your help with getting the information out to our neighbouring communities. We really appreciate your ongoing support for community gatherings in Merton.

Cheers,
Margaret FitzGerald
Chair, Merton Recreation & Memorial Hall Reserves Inc

Know Your Weeds

African Lovegrass (*Eragrostis curvula*)

African Lovegrass is a vigorous tussocky grass that reproduces by seed and grows to 120cm tall.

It flowers in summer and its flowers, the same colour as the plant, are found in clusters at the end of each stem. Each cluster has 3-14 flowers that are 10mm long and 1mm wide.

The stems are slender and erect with leaves that vary from green to blue-green in colour and can be 25-35cm long. The leaves are rough to the touch due to ridges that run the length of each leaf.

This is a highly persistent summer weed that can dominate disturbed or sparsely covered areas. As a perennial weed it can be controlled by either hand weeding or spot spraying from September to April.

It can be spread in a variety of ways - by machinery, equipment and vehicles, as well as by stock, farm produce and movement of contaminated soil.

For further information re eradication

email -
info@hccclandcare.net.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>



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.



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





You are invited to the Goulburn Broken CMA Volunteer Celebration

**Thursday
Nov 30th;
5.00–
8.30pm**

CONNECT, CELEBRATE AND BE INSPIRED

**Join us for this FREE event at
Euroa Arboretum**

- ★ **Great food and conversation in the beautiful surrounds of the Euroa Arboretum**
- ★ **Meet the people behind the projects**
- ★ **Community NRM volunteers welcome**
- ★ **Guest speaker, Alana Johnson OAM, sharing her insights on the importance of communities taking action.**
- ★ **Children's activities available during the 40 min speaker.**



BOOK HERE

For more information

kerstiel@gbcma.vic.gov.au



Victorian
Landcare
Program



Euroa Arboretum
Growing Back the Bush

Mitchell Community Walk against Gender-based Violence

The Mitchell Community Walk Against Gender Based Violence will be held in Seymour on Wednesday 29 November as part of the 16 Days of Activism Campaign.

16 Days of Activism is an international campaign to challenge violence against women and girls that runs from **Friday 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, to Saturday 10 December, Human Rights Day.**

Council partners with local organisations across Mitchell and Murrindindi Shire each year through the Lower Hume Collaborative Group to support the campaign.

The inaugural Mitchell Community Walk to End Violence took place in Kilmore in 2019 and was attended by 200 people and started important conversations about family violence across the Shire.

The 2023 walk begins at 10am from the Loco Street GoTafe Campus in Seymour with a speech by Anj Barker, a victim survivor of family violence and advocate for gender equality and respectful relationships.

The 1km walk will then conclude at Goulburn Park, Seymour where there will be a community event, including local support services and a BBQ.

All are welcome and you're encouraged to bring friends, family and pets. **Participants are also encouraged to wear orange.**

HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF OUR LOCAL ECONOMY

Input from community and business invited on Economic Development Strategy Priority Areas and Outcomes



We are open to business! Council is inviting community and businesses to help shape its Economic Development Strategy to help guide the future of our local economy.

The five-year Strategy will support existing and new businesses, providing employment, goods and services for our community and visitors, which align to our Shire's unique strengths and opportunities.

You can help contribute to this important work by telling us if we're focusing on the right areas.

There are a variety of ways you can provide input:

- Survey - Share your thoughts on the five Priority Areas and Outcomes by completing an online survey
- Focus Group - Register for an online focus group session
- In person - Chat with Council's Economic Development team in person at pop-up events across the Shire
- Online ideas board - Share your ideas on how we can better support local businesses and our economy via an online ideas board

Visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/economicstrategy to get involved!

You can also drop in to our Library and Customer Service Centres in Alexandra, Yea or Kinglake or call Council on 5772 0333 and ask to speak to our Economic Development team.

Feedback closes on Sunday 3 December 2023.



IMPROVING ACCESS TO SPORT AND RECREATION FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

Council is exploring ways to improve opportunities for women, girls and gender diverse people to participate in local community sport and recreation.

We know there are barriers to participation and want to ensure it is welcoming, accessible, and inclusive for everyone. We need your help to find out what is making it difficult to get involved and how we can help make it easier. Your feedback will guide the development of our draft Fair Access Policy and Action Plan.

To get involved, you can complete a survey online or by dropping-in to our Library and Customer Service Centres. Visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/fairaccess

Feedback closes Sunday 19 November.

FREE GREEN WASTE DISPOSAL AND ROADSIDE SLASHING PROGRAM

Clean up your property ahead of fire season! From now until 31 December, you can dispose of your green waste for free at Council's Resource Recovery Centres. This includes domestic quantities of grass clippings, leaves, garden trimming and branches.

For more information on green waste disposal and RRC opening times, visit our website and search 'green waste' or give us a call.

Council's Fire Prevention Roadside Slashing Program is also underway, starting in the north of the Shire, which dries off earlier than the southern parts. The program will run through until the end of December and further slashing will be arranged as required throughout the summer months.

For more information about our Roadside Slashing Program, visit our website and search 'bushfire prevention'.

GRANTS AND SPONSORSHIPS

Are you interested in applying for a grant through Council's Grants and Sponsorships Program? Grant applications are open for round 3. Quick Response Grants are available all year round.

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

BURNING OFF IN MURRINDINDI SHIRE

Planning to burn-off? Make sure you register it! Council has simplified its burning-off laws to make it easier to maintain your properties in preparation for summer fire season.

You can burn off at any time (excluding the Fire Danger Period) without a permit, providing you meet the conditions on our website at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/burningoff

Before burning off, you must notify emergency services. Register your burn-off by calling 1800 668 551 or visit the Fire Permits Victoria website firepermits.vic.gov.au

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

We are open to business! Council is inviting the community to help shape a five-year Economic Development Strategy, which will support existing and new businesses and provide employment, goods and services for our community and visitors.

Get involved and share your thoughts by completing a survey, participating in a focus group session or chatting to us in person at a pop-up event. To learn more, give us a call or visit our engagement platform, The Loop, at theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/economic-strategy

Feedback closes Sunday 3 December.

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM WALK

Murrindindi and Mitchell Shire Councils will be co-hosting and participating in a community walk against family violence.

The event and walk will commence at 10.00 am at GoTafe in Seymour (Loco Street).

A free bus will be departing 28 Perkins Street, Alexandra at 9.00 am 29 November, with the return bus departing from Seymour (back to Alexandra) at approximately 1.00 pm.

For more information and to register for the free bus please visit our website: murrindindi.vic.gov.au/16dayswalk

GET IN TOUCH

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

<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 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>
 <p>nomad art</p> <p>Online & by appointment Avenel, M: 0428 308 793 www.nomadart.com.au Limited edition prints from regional and remote Australia</p>	<p>KOPANICA PASTORAL EXCAVATIONS & CARTAGE</p>  <p>DAMS EARTHWORKS STOCK+WATER CARTAGE & MORE</p> <p>0429 804 235 MICHAEL.KOPANICA@GMAIL.COM</p>	<p>RURAL FENCING SERVICES</p> <p>JARRAD</p> <p>0409 082 257</p> 	
 <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.