

THE GRANITE NEWS



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



26th November 2023 | Volume 17 Issue 40

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

Kia Ora and Harae Mai (hello & welcome) from the Land of the Long White Cloud - Aotearoa or New Zealand - which is where I am right now enjoying the usual Kiwi hospitality and their quirky sense of humour.

Once again this proves that it is possible to send this great weekly newsletter flying through the ether from just about anywhere in the world, providing there is a reliable internet connection for the editor to plug into. So not only does TGN have international readers - hello Laura and Ryan (are there any more out there?) but it also has the ability to be created way outside the HCCC area. Isn't technology wonderful... when it works!

Now for a timely reminder that TGN will be taking its usual summer break of 4 weeks - with **December 10th** being the last issue for 2023, before recommencing on **January 14th 2024**. So if you have any news, ads, diary dates, etc that you need to let TGN readers know about for early next year best email them straight away for inclusion as there are only 2 more issues to go.

And

a HUGE thank you

to those TGN readers who have
completed the HCCC Survey

and have gone into the draw to
WIN a \$100 voucher

from the

Euroa Arboretum



As entries close on **December 1st** this is your last chance to **WIN** so click on the QR Code (see p.5) enter **NOW** and thanks for doing so.

Please read on for another interesting issue, Pauline And Kenny? Was aiming to be less stressed by eating desserts.

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

"Brunch is the most important meal of the weekend."

As seen on the menu board at
the Farriers Hotel in Masterton



Did you know?

Fifty years ago, Australian CSIRO researcher Graeme Pearman travelled the world with six flasks of air to help prove CO2 in the atmosphere was rising.

Like to find out more?
Click on the link below and/or read the Letter to the Editor on p.6

https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2023/nov/20/where-did-i-go-wrong-the-scientist-who-tried-to-raise-the-climate-alarm?CMP=Share_AndroidApp_Other

	NB: Fully vaccinated attendees are appreciated at all events.	What's On - November & December 2023
	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.
	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.
Details? see p.5	Saturday 2nd Dec. 10-12	GLIDERS IN SEYMOUR - Results of the Landcare Project Chittick Park, Seymour Everyone is invited to come along and hear all about these gorgeous little creatures.
Details? see p.5	Saturday 2nd Dec. @ 6pm	ANNUAL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY @ TCC, Ruffy
Details? see p.5	Friday 8th Dec. @ 6.30	HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY END of YEAR BBQ @ Highlands Community Hall
	Sun 10th Dec.	LAST GRANITE NEWS for 2023 - Send any items to the Editor - ASAP or even NOW!
	Tues. 12th Dec. @ 12.30	HIGHLANDS SPINNING CLUB - Christmas Party @ Country Club Hotel, Yea Partners or friends are welcome. Would attendees PLEASE ring Andrea 0417 369 225 as soon as possible so we know how many to book for. Meals to be paid for individually..
	Friday 29th Dec. 6-8pm	HIGHLANDS BOOK CLUB @ Highlands Community Hall All welcome, BYO plate to share & preferred beverage. Gold coin donation. Sam Neill's book of memoirs - Did I ever tell your this? is up for discussion. 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 29th November and 6th & 20th December.
	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 - 6th Dec & 20th Dec. DIGITAL & ON-LINE LEARNING @ TCC, 27 Nolans Rd, Ruffy 6th & 20th Dec. 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

Another successful HCCC AGM

The Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative held their AGM on Saturday 25th November. After a delicious lunch and lots of good humoured chatter the committee for 2024 was elected with very little change.

President: Justus Hagen

Vice President: Feargus Wallis (following in the tradition of his grandfather)

Secretary: Sue Van Buuren

Treasurer non elect: Neville Ford.

Committee members present: Rob & Jan Hayes, Eileen & David Freeman, Sandy McKenzie, Zara Marais.

Facilitators & coordinators: Neil Van Buuren, Vanessa Malandrin and Janet Hagen

NB: The TGN Editor was an apology.

We were delighted that Kerstie Lee, our new Regional Landcare Coordinator, attended the meeting as a special guest.



Are you interested in adding to the **iNaturaliste'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.

FOR SALE

Vintage school desk from
Clifton Hill Primary School.

\$80

Karli

0425 794 838



“Healthy Soils in the Hughes Creek Catchment” Landcare project

Vanessa Malandrin, HCCC Project Coordinator

Dear Granite News readers,

We are pleased to announce (again!) that with the new round of Victorian Landcare Grants, the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority has funded our project “Healthy Soils in the Hughes Creek Catchment”. Our aim is to continue the work started with the Soil Carbon project and to keep learning from the three trial plots that were established as part of that

- grazing management;
- compost and nutrients application;
- multispecies mix sown with Soilkee Renovator).

Here’s a draft plan with a few speakers that we’d like to host in the new year:

- **Dr Judy Earl** is an expert in grassland ecology, soil health and grazing management; she has used Holistic Management and planned grazing to regenerate a degraded 1,100-acre property she purchased in 2011. We are planning to have Judy for a workshop on grazing on the **27th of March**. Follow this link to watch Judy’s webinar [“The most powerful tool to regenerate land”](#) (44 mins).

- **Dr Helen Hayden** (University of Melbourne) is a soil microbial ecologist that will deliver two field days on soil biology and beneficial organisms that live in the soil (hoping we can have a soil pit to look at!). Check out this amazing book that she has co-authored for CSIRO publishing: **“Soil Health, Soil Biology, Soilborne Diseases and Sustainable Agriculture”** (NB: You can loan this book though Seymour library).

- **Grant Sims** is a sixth-generation farmer running the family farm in North central Victoria with his wife Naomi. He is also an excellent communicator that will make you feel his own enthusiasm and passion. With a strong focus on diversity and the use of multispecies cover crops, the Sims perform on-farm trials to learn new methods to solve problems, be more profitable and improve the soil for the next generation. You can read all about their farm, Sims Pastoral (near Echuca) in a case study produced by the North Central Catchment Management Authority.

- **Dung Beetles**: I’m chasing up new species that are suitable for our area.

Before the project kicks off in 2024, we have plenty of time to read, talk, get together and learn more about soil health. If you’d like to host any of these events on your property, please feel free to send an EOI at vanessa@hccclandcare.net.au



Given FERA's plans for a local windfarm the following may be of interest to HCCC area readers...

VicGrid are asking for input to the Victorian Transmission Plan via an online survey and an interactive mapping tool.

Have your say about the development of Renewable Energy Zones and the Victorian Transmission Plan by completing the survey and then mark on the map the places in your local area that you feel are important.

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/victransmissionplan>

See p.7 for more information



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>




JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL COMMUNITY

Christmas PARTY

DECEMBER 2nd AT 6:00 PM

Tablelands Community Centre
 27 Nolans Road Ruffy

SANTA ON THE FIRE TRUCK
JUMPING CASTLE CHILDRENS ACTIVITIES
FREE BBQ & LAMB ON THE SPIT
BYO SALAD OR DESSERT TO SHARE
DROP OFF NAMED PRESENTS FOR SANTA

A WASTE WISE EVENT SPONSORED BY

Strathbogie
 SHIRE COUNCIL

JOIN US FOR A TALK ON GLIDERS IN SEYMOUR

TO HEAR ABOUT ALL THE RESULTS FROM OUR LANDCARE PROJECT



When? Saturday, 2nd December, 10 am - 12 pm
Chittick Park Community room

Presentation followed by lunch and drinks

Please RSVP by 27/11 via email
SeymourUrbanLandcare@gmail.com

Sponsored by Landcare Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative
 Funded by the Victorian State Government through the Environmental Volunteering New Growth Project.
 Project partners: Mitchell Shire, BEAM Mitchell Environment Group and Central Victorian Biolinks Alliance




You are invited to the
Highlands/Caveat
End of Year Family Get Together

Friday 8th of December at 6.30pm
The Highlands/Caveat Community Group
 Highlands Hall



BBQ provided
 BYO drinks, glass, chair, and a salad to share

This is a community break up, so we invite all groups and members to attend

No pets please



Letter to the Editor

"Where did I go wrong?"

The scientist who tried to raise the climate alarm.

Fifty years ago, Australian researcher Graeme Pearman travelled the world with six flasks of air to help prove CO2 in the atmosphere was rising."

This was an interesting article in The Guardian on 20th November (See p.1 for the link - Ed.)

Having spent the best part of 10 years working with universities and research institutes around the world including the CSIRO on sustainability, energy efficiency and carbon foot prints I can relate to the Graeme's frustration in trying to communicate the benefits of reducing carbon emissions and the risks and costs of doing nothing.

There is current and growing trend of either ignoring or worse denigrating scientists and their work and publications. People now take more notice of what's written in the web, especially social media that has little credibility, very little scientific rigour including peer review.

We now pay less attention to scientists with many years of academic training and no self interest in the outcome of their work, and more attention to "influencers" some with little or no training.

I like to conclude with a quote from the end of the article, the last two lines are particularly pertinent and reflects my sentiments. It's now up to the next generation, my time is spent. In sporting terms, I am in my last quarter; it's up to our children's generation to take up the fight.

"Pearman is an instinctively optimistic character, but the country's continued promotion of fossil fuels is causing that optimism to become "overwhelmed by pessimism" about the future. It is part of the human condition to care about other species, he says. But at the same time, "it is us as humans that have created this way of looking at the world – created the importance of wealth generation compared with other values that we might have".

"And we're not going to turn that around very quickly."

What does give Pearman "some sense of security" for the future is that young people are well informed.

"I think they need to have courage – to find courage if they haven't got it – to accept that the world is different and needs to be different into the future and that they should stand up and be part of the transition.

"The older people of the community have had their time. It's their time now.

"Stand up and take responsibility and do what you think is necessary."

Neil van Buuren - Highlands

HIGHLANDS BOOK GROUP

The next meeting of the Highlands Book Group will be at the Highlands Hall on **Friday 29th December** (in that weird week between Christmas and New Year when we've finished celebrating the festive season and are waiting for the next year to arrive).

So why not come along and enjoy some great company and lively discussion about actor and vigneron, Sam Neill's new book -

'Did I ever tell you this?'



The Ruffy Veggie Club

is having an end of year outing to visit The Edible Forest in Dixon's Creek (Yarra Valley) for a guided tour on **Monday December 11th at 1pm**. The Food Forest is a one acre netted garden where everything is planted for a reason be it edible, medicinal, bird attracting, or nitrogen fixing.

The tour is \$15.00 per person (for ten or more) and **afternoon tea can be provided for an additional \$12.50 per person**.

Bookings for the tour and afternoon tea must be **confirmed by December 3rd by contacting Cheryl on 0409 019763**.

Car pooling is encouraged and more information about The Food Forest can be found on their website-

www.edibleforest.co

Developing the first Victorian Transmission Plan

Help us plan Victoria's future reliable, affordable and renewable energy grid.

OPEN FOR FEEDBACK - CLOSING 31 JANUARY 2024

Overview

Victoria is undergoing a transition to renewable energy.



As our ageing and increasingly unreliable coal-fired power stations retire and are replaced by renewables, our electricity grid needs to evolve. New transmission infrastructure will be critical to moving high volumes of energy from the new areas where it is generated, to homes and businesses where it will be used.

The Victorian Government has established VicGrid to plan future major electricity transmission infrastructure and coordinate the state's Renewable Energy Zones (REZs), the areas with the greatest potential for renewable energy development.

VicGrid is leading reforms to how we plan future transmission and Renewable Energy Zones to ensure that cheaper, more reliable renewable energy can be delivered to homes and businesses across the state.

As part of the reforms, VicGrid will develop the first statewide Victorian Transmission Plan by mid-2025.

An important step in building the Victorian Transmission Plan is to identify 'Renewable Energy Zone Priority Areas'. These are geographical areas that could be appropriate for energy generation, storage and transmission. Once we know the Priority Areas for renewable energy generation we will work with communities to investigate where possible transmission could go.

Community needs to be at the heart of our planning process.

As we start, VicGrid is asking Victorians, and particularly those living in regional communities, to share your views towards renewable energy and transmission development, as well as your local knowledge about your region and values important to you.

How to participate

Learn more in the helpful documents section (on Website) or RSVP to attend a webinar on 30 November

Complete the Renewable Energy Planning Survey (on website) so we can understand more about your views towards renewable energy and transmission development.

Use the interactive map to show us important land uses in your area.

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/project/victransmissionplan/survey/4576#sub-nav>

Join us in March 2024 at a workshop or drop-in near you to discuss what we have heard. Register your interest to attend - see Website.

The survey and interactive map will close at 12.01am on Wednesday 31 January 2024. You will still be able to engage with us and provide input at workshops and drop-ins in March 2024.

Note: Consultation is already underway in some parts of Victoria for some critical near-term transmission projects. This Land Assessment is statewide and will be an input to the first Victorian Transmission Plan. Where possible, information recently gathered by VicGrid from community, landholders and Traditional Owners for Offshore Wind transmission in Gippsland and Portland will be reflected in this assessment.

WEBSITE - <https://engage.vic.gov.au/victransmissionplan>

What are grassfires and how do they behave?

Grassfires spread much faster than bushfires and can be extremely dangerous.

Grass can dry out quickly in high temperatures, and long grass can be a fire risk. These fires can spread rapidly, fueled by fine grasses, and can generate intense radiant heat.

The Country Fire Authority (CFA) urges the importance of understanding the characteristics and behaviour of grassfires to help reduce the risk to your family and property. By taking proactive measures to reduce fuel loads, maintain your home and stay vigilant, you could mitigate the risk of grassfires and help protect yourself, your family and your home.

Characteristics of grassfires

Rapid spread

Grassfires are known for their rapid spread, travelling at speeds of up to 25 kilometers per hour. As grass is typically dry and combustible, grassfires are especially prone to spreading faster under windy conditions.

Fuel source

Grass can provide ample fuel for fires, and it ignites easily due to its low moisture content. This makes grassfires highly responsive to ignition sources like lightning strikes or sparks from vehicles.

Grass height

The taller and drier the grass, the more intensely it is likely to burn.

Early start

Grassfires can start earlier in the day than bushfires, as grass dries quickly in extreme heat, adding to its unpredictability.

Radiant heat

Grassfires can generate large amounts of radiant heat. This radiant heat can cause surfaces to catch fire and can be a danger to anyone caught in the open.

Long dry grass field on roadside

The taller and drier the grass, the more intensely it is likely to burn.

Help protect your home

Keep up a regular home and garden maintenance routine by mowing the lawn and removing debris from gutters and pipes.

Seal gaps in windows and doors as best you can.

Remove and store flammable items (including wood piles) well away from your home.

Clearing debris and mulch from your garden could help to prepare your property for bushfire season.

If you live in a bushfire-prone area, take steps to be prepared before the fire season, have an emergency survival kit and create a bushfire plan that details how and where to evacuate to in the event you need to leave.

Credit - Nyasha Jokomo - RACV 3/11/23





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

Know Your Weeds

Serrated Tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*)

Regionally Prohibited Weed

Serrated Tussock is a weed of National Significance as it is invasive, unpalatable to animals and a prolific seeder - approximately 100,000 seeds are produced per plant.

It grows up to 50cm tall and 25cm wide at its base and unfortunately could be confused with native Spear grasses.

An annual plant with tiny, inconspicuous flowers that blossom in summer, the flowers are initially purple before turning to straw coloured. These flower heads are to be found at the ends of 1m long stems that are surrounded by tightly rolled up, serrated leaves that start off green but become bleached as they mature.

It can be spread by vehicles, livestock, fodder and water and the best time to control it is from March to September by hand weeding, spraying or mechanical removal.

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



Take control and master the principles that will:

Sharpen your **LAND** management skills and maximise your pasture production with time-controlled grazing, calculating graze and rest periods, and matching stocking rate to carrying capacity.

Improve your **SOIL** health and build your resilience to seasonal variability and drought by working with nature's ecological systems, increasing biological activity and growing soil carbon levels.

Optimise your **LIVESTOCK** reproduction and nutrition strategy for highest performance.

Empower your **PEOPLE** by developing stronger time management, communication and decision-making skills, and clarifying your visions & goals to help drive your business forward.

Increase your **BUSINESS** profit with financial analysis to identify areas for change and opportunities to grow, so you can make informed decisions and plan for success.



Farming & Grazing for Profit
Hamilton VIC: 28 Feb - 5 Mar 2024

 **RCS** | 1800 356 004
rcsaustralia.com.au

\$500
EARLY BIRD
DISCOUNT
ends 28 Dec

Hamilton Farming & Grazing for Profit - Dates: 28 February - 5 March 2024

Investment: \$5,000pp Early Bird (Standard rate \$5,500pp)
Further discounts for couples, groups, students and repeats

With over 8000 graduates so far, this comprehensive 7-day professional development course is designed to equip producers, and those in related roles, with proven management principles that are the backbone of agricultural business success. Participants will graduate with the knowledge and practical skills to transform their business, make informed decisions, increase profitability, improve soil and plant health, maximise productivity, develop drought resilience, and optimise livestock nutrition and reproduction for highest performance. Learn more about Farming & Grazing for Profit

Online RCS Grazing Clinic - Dates: 6 March – 22 May 2024 (Wednesdays @ 12pm)

Investment: \$1,350pp Early Bird (Standard rate \$1,650pp) \$500 second participant

Wangaratta Grazing Clinic - Dates: 25-27 June 2024

Investment: \$1,350pp Early Bird (Standard rate \$1,650pp)

Maximise your pasture and livestock productivity with this practical workshop that provides the tools to:

- Master the regenerative grazing principles
- Match stocking rate to carrying capacity
- Calculate and assess graze and rest periods
- Use a grazing chart to record, monitor and plan
- Improve soil health, microbiology, and carbon
- Design your property layout, fencing and water
- Manage livestock for greatest production
- Adapt to seasonal and climate variability

Learn more about RCS Grazing Clinic - <https://www.rcsaustralia.com.au/grazing-clinics/>

<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>
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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.