

THE GRANITE NEWS



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



12th March 2023 | Volume 17 Issue 9

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

This week's issue of The Granite News is jam-packed with information and a plethora of activities and events for the balmy month of March. Another bumper read of 10 pages this week and it's all for free!

Read on for another excellent issue, Pauline
And Kenny? Was encouraging readers to go see Phil Para in concert.

After a 3 year hiatus - Cricket is Back!!

Wilderness v Riverine Club & a match at Donald Bradman Oval

Two games have been organised in the upcoming weeks and one of them is at the iconic Bradman Oval in Bowral. See p.3 for details.



Know Your Weeds

This week features another Regionally Controlled noxious weed, whose eradication is considered to be a high priority within the Goulburn Broken Catchment.

Gorse - *Ulex europeaus*

Like so many noxious weeds Gorse was introduced to Australia, originally for garden hedging. It is highly invasive and a prolific seeder, a dense stand of gorse can produce 6 million seeds per hectare per year. It is therefore a **Weed of National Significance**.

It has bright yellow pea-like flowers, found in leaf axils and in clusters at the end of branches. The flowers are 2-2.5cm long and appear between July and October and March to May. Gorse is an erect, branched shrub to 4m tall.



Leaves are dark green, narrow and spiny 1-2.5cm and occur in whorled clusters along the branches. The stems are ridged and hairy, green when young, brown and woody when mature. They are also covered in spines.

It is spread by movement of seed or plant pieces in contaminated soil, seeds eaten or carried by birds and animals or by seeds/plants carried by water.

Optimum time to spray or cut & paint with appropriate herbicide or mechanically remove this noxious weed is between March and October.

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

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

"Try to get back to sleep, but my brain is up early and has a lot to do today."

Sir Michael Palin (1943...)
Comedian, actor, writer and TV presenter - ex Python






A PESSIMIST sees a dark tunnel
An OPTIMIST sees light at the end of the tunnel
A REALIST sees a freight train
The TRAIN driver sees 3 idiots standing on the tracks.

Did you know?

Every year in Australia the equivalent weight of over 500 million adult red kangaroos of food is wasted.

(Source: Australian Ethical)



	NB: Fully vaccinated attendees are appreciated at all events.	What's On - March - April 2023
	Saturday 18th March @ 10-12	HIGHLANDS BLACK MARKET @ 94 Old Highlands Rd Bring along your excess produce, buy local and learn from each other. Enquiries? Clare 0428 969366
Details? See p.7	Saturday 18th March 9.30-3	STRATHBOGIE RANGES CONSERVATION NETWORK WALK back again in 2023 Do you like a challenge? Like exploring our wonderful local area? This walk is for YOU!
	Monday 20th March 3-4.30	VEGGIE PATCH CLUB @ 190 Red Gate Lane, Ruffy Sharing garden knowledge and produce Enquiries? Janet 0458 904268
Details? See p.7	Saturday 25th March @ 4pm	PHIL PARA - LIVE in CONCERT!! @ Ruffy Recreation Reserve BYO picnic, \$20 or \$10 concession - ruffartztickets@gmail.com OR 0407 017090
	Sunday 26th March @ 10am	HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS @ Highlands Hall Everyone is welcome to come rambling and discover our local district. Enquiries? Andrew 0437 249038 or Robyn 0409 528235
	Thursday 30th March 5.30pm	SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS @ Caveat Church All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards BBQ, BYO & chat
	Saturday 1st April @ noon	HCCC APRIL FOOL'S PICNIC @ Ruffy Recreation Reserve Everyone is invited to a day of fun, food and frivolity. RSVP by 27th March for catering
Details? See p.7	Friday 7th April @ 12.30	RUFFY CFA - ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL GOOD FRIDAY APPEAL Seafood luncheon and community fundraising event is on again! All welcome.
	Fri 7th - Mon. 10th April 10-4	DARREN GILBERT'S OPEN STUDIO @ YEA BUTTER FACTORY Open in April especially for Easter - 13 Rattray St, Yea - discover some stunning artwork!
	Friday 14th April @ 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
	Every Second Wednesday 10.30-12.30	MURRINDINDI MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE at Highlands Community Hall The Mobile Library visits the TGN area, based at the Highlands Hall every fortnight. Why not pop in? Forthcoming dates are March 22nd and April 5th & 19th.
	Every Monday @ 10am	RUFFY QI GONG has recommenced - EVERY Monday - at 10.00am.
	Every Tuesday 8.30 - 9.30 am	CUSTOM YOGA is BACK with Ingrid at the Tablelands Community Centre \$20 per class BYO mat and blanket Enquiries? Ingrid ingstar.7@gmail.com

Soil Carbon: what is it exactly?

This week we're back on our journey to discover more about soil carbon, introducing a few concepts that will help us to better understand our project "**Assessment and modelling of Soil Carbon profiles in the Hughes Creek catchment in the Hughes Creek Catchment**".

Carbon in the soil comes in both inorganic and organic forms:

- Inorganic carbon is mineral-based, with its most common form being calcium carbonate.
- Soil Organic Carbon (SOC), also called Total Organic Carbon: SOC is the carbon component of all the organic elements in the soil, that form the Soil Organic Matter (SOM) pool.

SOM is a heterogeneous mixture of materials that range in stage of decomposition from fresh plant residues to highly decomposed material, known as humus. The basic components of SOM are carbon (about 58%), water and nutrients, such as nitrogen and potassium. However, due to its heterogeneity SOM is difficult to measure directly; that's why laboratories rather focus on SOC, which is the component that they can more easily and accurately measure.

To avoid confusion between the two, just remember that SOM is the biggest pool of organic materials in the soil, and on average SOC is 58% of SOM.

This also means that $SOM = SOC \text{ multiplied by } 1.72$. Therefore, SOC is directly proportional to SOM: if we have 2% SOC, this equals to 3.44% SOM (2 multiplied by 1.72).

This is all for today and next week we'll talk about how SOC levels vary in our soils, and how we can influence this process.

Science partners

AgriSci Pty Ltd
Dr. Cassandra Scheffe, Soil Scientist
David Hawkey, Agronomist

Local Farm Partners

Callum & Les Lawson, Lawson's Farm – Highlands.
Cameron Stewart and Stephanie Reeves, Looking Glass – Highlands.
Rob and Tim Hayes, Tarcombe Herefords – Tarcombe.

Funding Partners

This project is Funded by the Goulburn Broken CMA, From the Ground up program through funding from Australian Landcare and the Australian Government.

HCCC Project Coordinator, Vanessa Malandrin



After a 3 year hiatus - Cricket is Back!!

Wilderness v Riverine Club & a match at Donald Bradman Oval

If you think that your cricketing skills are better than the current display of talent by the Australian team in India why not consider contacting **Scott McKay on 0427 969259** to be a part of the following matches. Even if you don't think you can outdo Nathan Lyon with his latest wicket haul, this is a once in a lifetime opportunity to play at the iconic Bradman Oval in Bowral and to visit the Museum.

Saturday 25th March

Wilderness v Riverine Club
At Stanley Oval 11.00
Afterwards - Beechworth Brewery
We would like to get the Sunshine Cup back from them.

Wednesday 29th March

The Bradman Oval Bowral 11.00 am
The Richmond Over 60's v Team TBC
There is a bus organised to go up on Tuesday come back Thursday.





Hughes Creek
Catchment
Collaborative
Landcare



April fool's picnic

**Come along and enjoy a day of
fun, food and frivolity**

@Ruffy Recreation reserve

Saturday April 1st at noon.

All welcome

including well behaved pets.



**HCCC will provide a lamb spit roast, bread and salads,
with vegetarian, vegan & gluten free options available.**

Limited drinks will be supplied, welcome to BYO.

**Please bring a cake, fruit or dessert to share and
chairs or picnic rug.**

We are planning the following free activities for all :

- Drone spraying demo & training with Drone Spraying Australia
- Junior science - water bug discovery
- Uncommon marsupials conservation
- Uncommon weeds identification
- Species Recovery - Banksia marginata
- Bush art activity (all ages)
- Beekeeping



RSVP by 27th March for catering purposes -
phone:

Jenny Webb 0408 969 236

Janet Hagen 0458 904 268

Sue van Buuren 0411 010 379

or email neil@hccclandcare.net.au



Letter to the Editor

The Highlands Hall Committee and Highlands Community wish to thank Murrindindi Shire Council for their kind financial contribution to complete much needed works to repair termite damage and ensure our future peace of mind.

Extensive repairs to internal floors, wall panelling, and architraves has been undertaken. Externally, a new gutter and downpipe has been installed to the side entry canopy, roof maintenance was addressed, some external cladding was replaced, and repairs were made to the sub-floor construction.

We would also like to thank Handasyde Builders for their part donated in-kind hours of work.

The Committee's mission to encourage our community to utilise and care for our Hall, while fostering connection and ensuring its longevity for the future generations is assured.

Robyn Lingard - Highlands Community Hall



Next Veggie Club meetings

Sharing garden knowledge and produce.

Monday 20th March at Cheryl & Jo's
190 Red Gate Lane, Ruffy 3pm - 4.30pm

Monday 24th April at Barbara & David's 196
Buntings Hill Road Ruffy 3pm - 4.30pm.



For further details contact **Janet 0458 904268**

Letter to the Editor

G'day Pauline. Thought I would add a little something different to TGN.

In the 1990s, on one of my trips to Tassie to visit my parents we visited long-time friends of theirs. In their back yard was a bush / tree. Remembering it from when I was only young, commented on how large and bushy it had got! I asked if I could take 5 cuttings back to Caveat, which I duly did.

One did not take, thus that left me with four small plants. After carefully nurturing them, I planted them in our small orchard. Alas, they did not come to anything. For four years they survived but did not progress beyond a very anaemic looking stick with a few leaves on it.

Then I remembered, when I was a little tacker, I used to accompany mum to a place next to a creek in an adjoining suburb where one of these trees grew. It looked so large. Of course, when you are just a kid, everything looks BIG. We used to pick the fruit and at home mum used to make jam of it. Heavenly!!! In those days, or so I am led to believe, this was the only other place where this fruit was to be had. Of course, nowadays, it is grown commercially.

Remembering that this plant grew next to a creek, I decided to transplant two of the remaining "sticks" at the edge of our waterway four years ago. The transformation of those "sticks" is nothing short of amazing!

In the late 2021 I managed to pick a couple of handfuls of berries. Last year I got nearly a kilo. THIS year, I picked three kilos, with still about one + kg. to be go.

The amazing thing about this fruit is, the birds etc. won't touch it, unlike our hazel nuts, apples, pears and figs.

This fruit is called ELDERBERRY. It grows on a rosette type of bunch. It is about the size of a small baby pea. To prepare for processing, berries must be de-stalked. This can also be used as a punishment medium for misdemeanors. Try sitting there de-stalking three kilos of elderberries when each stalk holds on an average of sixty or more berries!!! You may well laugh! It took me just on 5 hours for the three kilos. They don't weigh very heavy.

If there is anyone out there in TGN land who has a recipe for elderberry jam (and whatever else) I would love to hear of it.

Unfortunately, I do not have access to my mother's recipe more's the pity as I remember the jam was heavenly.

John Sporry - Caveat





Wednesday **March 15**
& Friday **March 17**



GREATER GLIDER IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The Save Our Strathbogie Forest group invites you to join us in the Strathbogie Forest **7pm 15 or 17 March** to learn about greater gliders with biologist and local expert Bertram Lobert. After a complimentary supper, a guided spotlighting walk will give you a rare glimpse of greater gliders in the wild.

The Southern Greater Glider is the largest gliding mammal in the world! Once common in southern Australian forests, they are now officially endangered because of over-logging and the recent mega-fires which destroyed more than half of their remaining habitat in Victoria. The Strathbogie Forest is one of their last strongholds in Victoria. In Nov 2019, the Victorian government declared the Strathbogie Forest an Immediate Protection Area and logging was stopped.

Bring cameras and torches and binoculars if you have them. Bring a **warm jacket** as the forest can be very cold at night even after a warm day. Bring a **chair** if you wish. Children are very welcome, but please don't bring your dog.

Location: [corner of Barjarg and Lima East Roads, Strathbogie State Forest](#) Please car-pool and follow the parking directions as space is limited. **Start time: 7pm** (sun sets at 7:30pm) Finish time: about 9:30pm

Please RSVP: sallyanchormann@gmail.com to help us with planning.



FOR SALE

3 seater brown leather couch, very heavy. Good condition, some wear on one arm as shown. \$150 ONO.

Call Sue 0411 010 379.



Presented by **RuffArtZ**



PHIL PARA

Saturday 25th March

Twilight Concert from 4 PM
Live at the Ruffy Rec, Reserve

BYO picnic (food, drinks, blanket etc.)
Cost: \$20 per person, \$10 concession
Tickets email ruffartztickets@gmail.com or
Call 0407 017 090
www.ruffartz.com.au




SCAN ME

Supported by Strathbogie Shire Council


**Ruffy Fire Brigade's
Royal Children's Hospital
Good Friday Appeal
Seafood Luncheon and Community
Fundraising Event
is on again!**



**Friday 7 April 2023
@ 12.30pm
All Welcome
Put that date in your diary!**



**Yarck CFA Open Day
March 18th
9:00am till 1:00pm
Yarck Recreation
Reserve**




*Have your photo
taken on a Fire
Truck
Have a go at
Hose Bowling
Feel your way
through a Smoke
House
Jumping Castle
Face Painting
Have a go at CPR*

LOTS TO SEE & DO

Sausage Sizzle
Raffle – Your chance to win a Fire Pump,
Dindi Naturals Gift Pack and more

Meet your local FireFighters for
Information and Advice
Grass Fire Simulations
Fire Extinguisher Demonstrations
Thermal Imaging Camera
Emergency Services Demonstrations



Find us on Facebook and Instagram
Enquiries Maureen
Ph 0448 537 678

**Strathbogie Ranges
Conservation Network present
Adventures in Nature
Polly McQuinns to
Gooram Falls
Saturday 18th March @ 9.30am**



The first Adventure in Nature of 2023 is the same as our very first Riparian Walk back in 2018. This is one of the all time great walks of the Shire of Strathbogie, with stunning granite gorges, thick bush and meandering creeklines to keep walkers entertained.

RSVPs are essential, so please email us at
admin@strathbogie_ranges.org

FOR SALE - Seriously cute puppies

Whippet pups. Both parents very loyal family dogs. **Born 30.11.2023** they are vaccinated, microchipped and vet checked ready to go. One solid male black, two tan and white males.

Baby Hector, named this as he looks exactly like his father, solid black body with white tips on the back of his paws and his chest. He LOVES his food, and is the fattest of the pups, and also enjoys some zoomies, albeit a little slower than his siblings because of his chub!

Sable is the gentlest of the bunch and the biggest. He prefers to quietly play by himself and hang back from the pack. Such a sweet boy who loves a cuddle! Sable is as his name suggests a Sable and White colour.

Stanley, is a bit of an old soul, Stanley is very polite and not to mention handsome! He is one of the smaller puppies. His colour is brown and white with dark patches on his cheeks.

Microchip numbers: 95600001586496, 956000015865654, 956000015866553

Breeder source number: MB108987

Ring or text Kendall 0497 983 982 OR Robyn 0407 358 191



Juvenilia Exhibition launch in Seymour

Mitchell Shire Council is excited to see the Juvenilia exhibition coming to Seymour Library. This exhibition showcases the juvenilia (work produced by an author or artist while they were a child) of Australian children's authors and illustrators and their early attempts at storytelling.

Whether it's handwriting stories on scrap paper or drawing pictures in pencil, some of today's most prominent creators of children's books started when they were children. To celebrate its arrival, Mitchell Shire Libraries are holding a **launch event on Friday 17 March at 4.30pm**. Come and meet the curator and author Aimee Chan and get a book signed by international Star Wars illustrator Chris Kennett.

There will be featured work from Andy Griffiths, Alison Lester, Graeme Base, Ursula Dubosarsky, Danny Katz, Oliver Phommavanh and many more.

For more information or to register your interest, phone Council on 03 5734 6200 or email libraries@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au

The exhibition will be open at the Seymour Library from Friday 17 March until Thursday 27 April during library opening hours.



Rabbit Control Information Morning

Join the Burnt Creek Landcare Group for a morning of rabbit
control information and demonstration

Saturday 1st April | 9.30am - 1pm

Locksley, VIC | Address will be provided upon RSVP
Morning tea & lunch provided

- Learn about:
- Warren ripping and site management
 - Fumigation of warrens
 - Baiting and K5 release
 - Compliance programs for rabbits

To RSVP please contact Susie Bate
Email: benacre49@gmail.com or Phone: 0409 174 041

ALL WELCOME | RSVP ESSENTIAL



<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>@ Yea Butter Factory</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>I'm FREE but I could be all yours in 2023</p> <p>Email Editor to find out more</p> <p>editor@tgn.org.au</p>	<p>Need a website? bluetopbiz.com.au 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.