

THE GRANITE NEWS



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



31st July 2022 | Volume 16 Issue 25

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

Another month ends and we continue to be on the downhill run to daylight saving and summer - bring it on!

Last Sunday a very informative meeting was held in Ruffy to discuss the proposed windfarm. An article about this meeting is on p.4 of this issue highlighting what was discussed and future plans.

Following on from the historical 5th Highlands Bush Meet Flier in TGN #22 the following photo of two attendees at that meeting has come to light. Anyone like to guess who these locals are? No prizes, but feel free to email the Editor with your guesses.



Read on for another great issue... **Pauline**
And Kenny Koala...was hiding in the Foundation Murrindindi montage

Just when you thought it was safe to...

Stop wearing a mask or forget about social distancing or think that two jabs of a vaccine is going to be enough... please think again.

The sobering statistics of 2022 tell us that not only is Covid here to stay but that it keeps morphing and creating either more virulent or more persistent or more easily acquired strains of itself. Science unfortunately can't quite keep up with its many variations at the moment, so it is up to us to do our best to stop it spreading and infecting even more of our friends, neighbours and families.

Current indications are that almost half the Australian population has been infected, but that doesn't mean immunity as the newer strains can reinfect. **Since early 2020 Australia has recorded 9,225,519 cases with 96% of those in 2022! Similarly 80% of the 11,846 deaths have also occurred THIS year.** We had such a good track record and now it appears we have become complacent and the results are, if not fatal, seriously debilitating. So dust off those masks, line up for a 3rd or 4th jab and maybe read this to find out more -

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/health/2022-07-29/covid-19-three-myths-challenge-lies-ahead/101274980>

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

"How lucky I am to have someone that makes saying goodbye so hard."

A.A. Milne - author (1882 - 1956)



Did you know?

Not only does the Strathbogie Ranges Conservation Network offer local walks from time to time BUT it has also produced a range of brochures for DIY walkers. Click on the link below to find out more.

[Free Strathbogie Ranges Local Walking Guides](#)

Can you work out 3 more Victorian towns or suburbs?

A Famous Battle
None
Beach Bacon

	NB: Fully vaccinated attendees are appreciated at all events.	What's On - August 2022
	Friday 5th August @ 6pm	FIRST FRIDAY of the MONTH BBQ at Tablelands Community Centre It's time to put the FUN back into Friday nights! Enquires: 0427 690970 or tccruffy@gmail.com
	Sat 6th & Sun 7th Aug 10-4	DARREN GILBERT's OPEN STUDIO Yea Butter Factory 13 Rattray St, Yea A unique studio experience at the historic Yea Butter Factory. www.monkeytaildesign.com
	Monday 8th Aug @ 11am	HIGHLANDS SPINNING CLUB The Highlands Spinning Club will get together in 2022 at the same place—450 Caveat Dropmore Rd, the same time 11am and with the same good company! BYO lunch and great tea & coffee will be provided. Enquiries? - contact Jan 5790 4361
	Friday 12th August @ 6.30pm	DRINKS ON THE DECK at Highlands Community Hall Starts at 6.30pm bring food to share for a meal together and catch up with friends old and new. All welcome, especially new faces. Gold coin donation to cover power. Contact Paula 0419 551882
See p.5 for more	Saturday 13th August @ 10am	NATIVE BEES & POLLINATORS at Tablelands Community Centre, Ruffy
	Friday 19th August @ 7pm	HUGHES CREEK CATCHMENT COLLABORATIVE MEETING at TCC Ruffy All welcome. Enquiries? - Justus 0427 524473
	Saturday 20th August 12-2pm	HIGHLANDS BLACK MARKET at 94 Old Highlands Rd Bring along your excess produce, buy local and learn from each other. Enquiries? - Clare 0428 969366
	Thursday 25th Aug. @ 5.30pm	SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS at Caveat Church All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards a BBQ, BYO & chat
	Sunday 28th August @ 10am	HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS meeting at Highlands Hall Everyone is welcome to come rambling and discover our local district. Enquires: Andrew Shaw 04372 49038 or Robyn Lingard 0409 528235
	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?? YAY! The Mobile Library will be in Highlands on August 10th and 24th.

FMD webinars

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

Preparing for and responding to an outbreak

Victorian livestock producers and service providers are invited to join one of our upcoming webinars to hear from Agriculture Victoria veterinary specialists, including Victoria's Chief Vet Graeme Cook, about how we are preparing for and will respond to a foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) outbreak.

Good biosecurity is paramount for protecting our economy, environment and community from the negative impacts of pests and diseases.

There are several risk factors that are contributing to an increased threat of a biosecurity incursion in Australia.

All levels of government, livestock producers, industry organisations and other supply chain participants including livestock agents, transporters and contractors all share responsibilities in minimising biosecurity risks and impacts to the industry.

PRESENTERS

Dr Graeme Cooke - Chief Veterinary Officer, Biosecurity Victoria

Dr Megan Scott - Principal Veterinary Officer, Emergency Animal Disease


Dr Jeff Cave - Senior Veterinary Officer, Animal Health and Welfare


TOPICS to be discussed:

- What is FMD and how has the risk profile to Australia changed?
- How is industry and government preparing for a possible outbreak?
- What to expect on Day 1 of an outbreak and what is a livestock standstill?
- What actions and farm biosecurity measures can you do now?



DETAILS

Date:	Monday 1 August 2022
Time:	7.00– 8.00 pm
Register:	Register for the Zoom webinar by clicking here or scan the QR code 

Date:	Thursday 4 August 2022
Time:	7.00– 8.00 pm
Register:	Register for the Zoom webinar by clicking here or scan the QR code 

For further information:	www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/events Lyndon Kubeil 0418 532 085 lyndon.kubeil@agriculture.vic.gov.au
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AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

RUFFY COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP

Ruffy Community Action Group recently held their Annual General Meeting and a new committee has been elected. The executive committee now comprises Darryl Otzen (President), Fiona Steel (Vice President), Barbara Russell (Secretary) and Ann Lahery Hunt (Treasurer). Work is starting on a new Community Development Plan and a public forum will be held in September to provide an opportunity for all community members to take part in the development of this plan. For further information please contact Darryl via email: ruffyaction@gmail.com

STRATHBOGIE TABLELANDS WIND FARM

A second community meeting was held on Sunday 24th July 2022 in Ruffly.

It was no surprise that in excess of 80 district residents took the time to learn more about the project and ask questions and express their concerns.

Areas represented at the meeting include, Terip Terip, Creightons Creek, Highlands, Tarcombe, Yarck, Dropmore, Caveat, Avenel, Upton Hill, Kobyboyn, Longwood and Ruffly. Prior to this meeting, a small group of residents met with representatives of the company proposing the windfarm, FERA. At this meeting FERA shared more details about their proposal, including Project Feasibility late 2022 to early 2023, Planning & Environmental Approval 2023 to 2025, construction and commissioning 2025 to 2027.

In November 2020, the Victorian Government announced a \$1.6 billion clean energy package through the 2020–21 State Budget to invest in renewables, grid infrastructure, energy efficiency and decarbonisation projects, including \$540 million to establish six Renewable Energy Zones (REZs). This project does not align to this announcement. The question from the floor at the meeting was why this project was in consideration when it falls outside the Victorian Government REZ envelope.

Many other important questions raised included

- The killing of protected apex predators like wedge tail eagles, hawks
- Destruction of insects and the disturbance to the ecological balance
- Environmental contamination and toxic waste generated during construction and operation
- The poisonous landfill legacy that releases the degraded by-products of biphenyls from plastics into the soil and waterways
- Loss of habitat
- Destruction of flora and fauna
- Increased fire risk
- Electrical transmission line impacts
- The light shadows, flicker and infrasound that can have a profound effect on some people
- Low frequency noise
- Impact of property values
- To list a few

An outcome of the meeting was the formation of the Seymour Windfarm Task Force (SWTF) to represent the community and address their concerns.

It is important to point out that the community was, in general, understanding of the need to transition to alternative forms of energy generation. We are however strongly questioning the suitability of the location for this very large industrial infrastructure. An area which is culturally significant, environmentally sensitive, ecologically diverse and a pristine location.

The community was clear to emphasise that we are not another NIMBY group (Not In My Back Yard), but rather we are obligated to protect what nature has provided and at the same time, preserve our footprint for future generations both locally and nationally.

Report by Robert Jamieson

Wanted

Kind dog sitter (at your place) for our active and affectionate 2-year-old Jack Russell (Armin) while we are away. **(6 weeks commencing 28th August).**

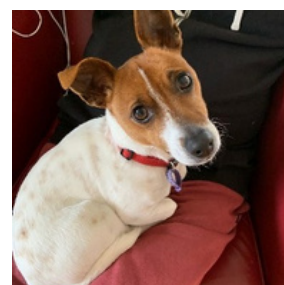
He is accustomed to cuddles and being on the couch, is fully house-trained and vaccinated.

Not very tolerant of cats.

Can get a bit excited at times.

We will provide all food and bedding.

Call Sue on 0411 010 379.



VALE

Zoe - our much-loved RSPCA dog

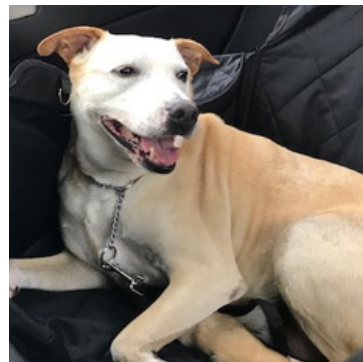
All dogs are special but our sassy little snake bite survivor won us over with her winning grin and stubborn personality.

After a less than ideal start in life her last 9.5 years were full of pats, cuddles, walkies and love.

Anyone who has owned a StaffyX will know what a tour de force they can be. Your life will never be the same.

She will be sadly missed but definitely remembered.

Ed.



PROPOSED SPEED ZONE CHANGE

Following a request made to Council by local residents and community members, who raised concerns about road safety issues, Council is considering a reduction in the speed limit on Ghin Ghin and Highlands Road between Granite Hills Road and Old Saleyards Lane, Highlands.

Community members are concerned the current 100 km per hour speed limit is too high for this 2.1 km section of road, which has school bus collection points, the Highlands Public Hall and the CFA station located along it. In response to these concerns, we are proposing to reduce the speed limit to 80 km per hour.

If you have a view about the proposed speed zone change, we would like to hear from you.

For more information about the review and to provide input, please visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au or post your submission to the Manager Sustainability and Assets, Murrindindi Shire Council, PO Box 138, Alexandra, VIC 3714.

STAY INFORMED

To stay up to date with the latest Council news, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/news or follow us on Facebook.

GET INVOLVED

Visit our online community engagement platform, The Loop, at theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au and have your say on key projects and initiatives. You can also sign-up to receive email updates on projects of interest to you.

JOBS AT COUNCIL

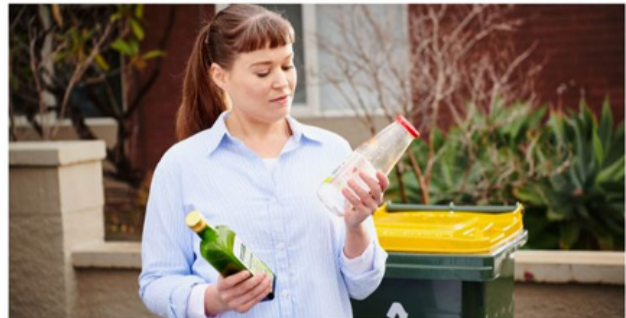
To see current vacancies, and for information about working at Council, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/jobs

TENDERS AND BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

To see current tenders and business opportunities, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/tenders

GET IN TOUCH

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



WASTE WISE WORKSHOP

Join our Waste Wise Workshop from 10.00 - 11.00 am on 17 September at the Eildon Community Centre, where Council's Waste Education Officer will explore all things waste and recycling. Learn about our kerbside bin system, including how it works, where it all ends up and what you can do to help. No bookings required, just turn up on the day! We encourage you to bring along any materials from home that you aren't sure if you can recycle or not. For more information, please give us a call.

OPEN COMMUNITY MEETING IN EILDON

Would you like to speak to Council about topics or issues that affect you and your community? We are hosting an Open Community Meeting in Eildon from 5.00 - 7.00 pm on 31 August at the Eildon Primary School, 45 High Street, Eildon. If you, or your community group, would like to speak to Council, or if you would like to attend the meeting, please email governance@murrindindi.vic.gov.au or give us a call and we will provide you with further registration information.

GOVERNANCE RULES REVIEW

Now is your opportunity to provide feedback on our new set of Governance Rules 2022 and the small, but significant changes we've made to allow us to continue using a virtual and hybrid meeting format.

For more information and to view the draft Governance Rules and provide your feedback, please visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au

Feedback must be received by 7 August 2022.

<p>HABBIES HOWE BEEF</p> <p>MATURE, WELL HUNG & AVAILABLE</p> <p>IGA SEYMOUR GARY'S MEATS, PRAHRAN MARKET</p> <p>L&L MEATS, BENTLEIGH</p> <p>SCOTCH AND FILLET ST HELENA, MENTONE & MERNDA</p>	 <p>LAWSON</p> <p>General earthworks & hole boring Diesel repairs & servicing Metal fabrication & welding Shed construction & removal</p> <p>Callum - 0437 182 223 5796 9265 lawsonbluetop@gmail.com</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>CF & HL HANDASYDE BUILDERS</p> <p>Established 1978 NEW HOMES, EXTENSIONS, RENOVATIONS, DOMESTIC, RURAL ALL YOUR BUILDING REQUIREMENTS. Registered Building Practitioner Call Colin for a quote Telephone: 0419 502 782</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• Aquatic plants and fish• Algae control• Water testing• Design and construction• Consulting services <p>Phone: 0429 969 243 Email: info@pondprofessor.com 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 CRT HELPING YOU GROW</p>	<p>Brought to you by a Yellow Footed Antechinus, living on a roadside near you.</p>  <p>Image kindly donated by Ros Wathen</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>PATON HELICOPTERS</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 SPOTTED PARDALOTE</p> 	<p>2022 - Greater Glider Vulnerable to Endangered</p>  <p>STOP logging old growth forests</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>Advertising space available</p> <p>If interested contact Editor 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>Strathbogrie 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 and play.
May the current generations of Taungurung, landowners and residents continue this important custodianship into the future.