

THE GRANITE NEWS



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



28th April 2024 | Volume 18 Issue 14

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

It's great to see that there are lots of exciting things happening in the local area this week - the Ruffy Vege Growers' Club are meeting, the open garden at Lakithi, Terip is on next weekend, as well as Darren Gilbert's fantastic open studio, not to mention the Highlands Book Club and the First Friday of the Month get together at Ruffy.... **BUT** probably the most important event this week, for anyone who is interested in the basic building block for farm or flower garden or future animal stock, is on this Thursday.

If you haven't as yet booked a seat for this excellent presentation then do so NOW!

Soil, Health and Sustainable Farming

Where: Seymour Racecourse

When: Thursday 2nd May

What time: 9.30 - 2.30

Tickets are **FREE!** but numbers are needed for catering so click on / cut & paste on the link below to register.

<https://events.humanitix.com/healthy-soils-and-low-carbon-farming>

Please read on for another interesting issue, Pauline And Kenny? Was congratulating Jan & John Sporry on their 60th!



Matthew Evans

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

"You can't buy happiness, but you can buy a tent, which is kind of the same thing."

Anon.



HCCC LANDCARE PRESENTS: SOIL HEALTH & SUSTAINABLE FARMING

Keynote speaker:
Matthew Evans

Seymour Racecourse

9:30am Thursday 2nd May 2024



Tickets required - click on link or scan QR code

<https://events.humanitix.com/healthy-soils-and-low-carbon-farming>




FREE


What's On - April & May 2024		
	Monday 29th April @ 1.30	RUFFY VEGE GROWERS' CLUB @ 3 Hills Close, Ruffy We will be joined by members of the Strathbogie Seed Savers. All welcome. Enquiries - Janet 0458 904268
Be there!!	Thurs.2nd May @ 9.30am	SOIL HEALTH & SUSTAINABLE FARMING WORKSHOP @ Seymour Racecourse Come and hear Matthew Evans and other knowledgeable speakers on this vital topic!
	Fri. 3rd May from 6pm	FIRST FRIDAY of the MONTH @ Tablelands Community Centre It's time to put the fun back into Friday nights! Enquiries? 0427 690970 or tccruffy@gmail.com
	Sat.4th - Sun. 5th May 10-4	DARREN GILBERT'S OPEN STUDIO @ 5 Gifford St, Yea Open the first weekend of each month - discover some stunning artwork.
Details? See p.6	Sat. 4th - Sun. 5th May	OPEN GARDENS VICTORIA - LAKITHI @ 948 Top Rd, Terip Terip Aside from being a stunning autumnal garden this is also a fundraiser for Terip CFA.
	Sat. 4th May 6-8pm	HIGHLANDS BOOK CLUB @ Highlands Community Hall All welcome, BYO plate to share & preferred beverage. Gold coin donation. 'There are several options to choose from 'The Leopard', 'The Spy & the Traitor' and 'Unearthing'. Enquiries? Robyn 0409 528235
	Mon. 13th May @ 11am	HIGHLANDS SPINNERS @ 450 Caveat-Dropmore Rd The Highlands Spinning Club will get together at the same place and the same time with the same good company. BYO lunch and great tea & coffee will be provided. Enquiries? Jan - 5790 4361
	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 1st, 15th & 29th May.
	Every Monday @ 7pm	TABLE TENNIS MONDAYS @TCC Ruffy Come along & have some fun! Enquiries? 0427 690970 or tccruffy@gmail.com
	Every Tuesday - 6pm	MAT PILATES with ANASTASIA @ Highlands Community Hall BYO own mat and water bottle - Cost \$15 cash Enquiries? 0436 428065
	1st & 3rd Tuesdays 1-3	DIGITAL & ON-LINE LEARNING @ TCC, 27 Nolans Rd, Ruffy 7th and 21st May 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
NEW times!	Mon 8.45-9.45am Wed. 6.15-7.15pm	CUSTOM YOGA is BACK with Ingrid at the Tablelands Community Centre \$25 per hour long class BYO mat and blanket Enquiries? Ingrid ingstar.7@gmail.com



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Tickets required - click on link or scan QR code

<https://events.humanitix.com/healthy-soils-and-low-carbon-farming>



FREE

The Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative presents a workshop on Soil Health and Sustainable Farming.

Our Keynote speaker will be Matthew Evans - Food Writer, Farmer, Television Broadcaster and Chef
Matthew Evans is a food writer, farmer, television broadcaster and chef.

Additional speakers:

Dr Cassandra Schefe - Soil Scientist

Cassie has authored 16 scientific journal papers and numerous conference proceedings and is accredited as a Certified Professional Soil Scientist (CPSS) by Soil Science Australia.

Matt Shanahan - Principal RMCG consulting

Matt has been working extensively in the field of recycled water and organics management.

Dr Helen Hayden - Soil microbial ecologist - Melbourne University

Dr Helen Hayden's research interests include soil biology, soil health soil plant microbe interactions and plant pathology.

Declan McDonald - Certified Professional Soil Scientist & Agricultural and Horticultural Scientist - Regen soils

Declan has over 30 years' experience in soil and agricultural management.

This is a free event – tickets required.

Click on the link -<https://events.humanitix.com/healthy-soils-and-low-carbon-farming>

A light lunch will also be served.



Matthew Evans

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.

Summary of Community Meeting held at Yea on 20th April 2024

It was standing room only at the Yea Country Club Hotel with over 200 people coming to hear about FERA's proposed wind farm and high voltage transmission line project in the region.

Members of the Yea and surrounding districts have only recently become aware of FERA's industrial scale wind farm proposal which includes a 330kv transmission line connecting the proposed wind turbines in the southern Strathbogie ranges to the main Melbourne – Sydney transmission line somewhere between Glenburn and Alexandra, potentially impacting a very large number of landholders in this area.

To fill the vacuum of information left by FERA who have not consulted with the community beyond a small number of individual landholder conversations, the Strathbogies Responsible Renewables Community Group (SRRCG) was asked to present an information session to the Yea and districts community.

SRRCG Secretary, Darryl Otzen provided a detailed overview of FERA's proposal from the understanding of the SRRCG, including the ways in which the project has been modified since investigations began in 2019. Darryl's presentation can be viewed on the SRRCG website (Yea Presentation April 20)

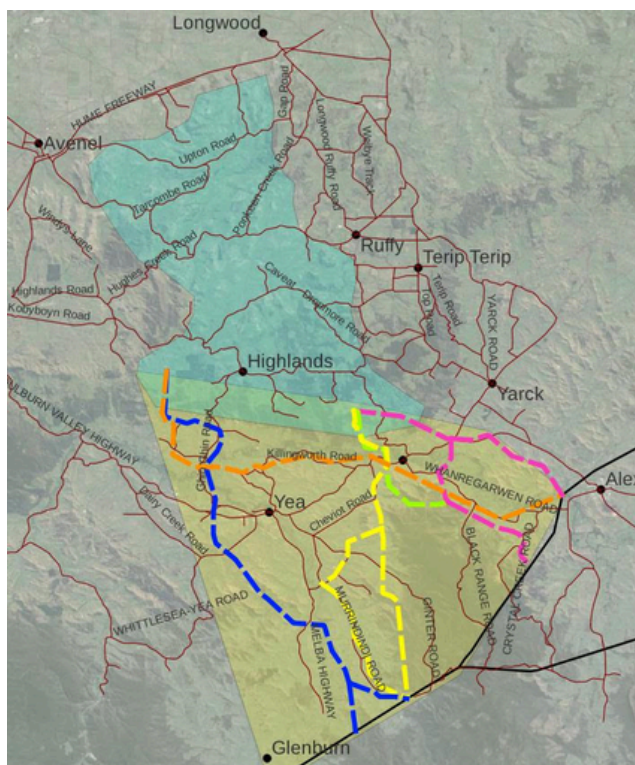
There were a number of questions and concerns raised after the presentation covering technical issues related to the transmission lines and associated infrastructure and other issues including:

- Bushfire safety and concerns about the potential for aerial firefighting to be impacted by the turbines and transmission lines. Aerial firefighting in the hilly and inaccessible Strathbogies is increasingly becoming the first line of attack and the community is rightly concerned about their safety should this development reduce aerial firefighting access.
- The Victorian Government's recently announced Development Facilitation Program which is an accelerated assessment and approval process for government priority projects including renewable energy developments. In effect, this process removes any right for the community to object to a proposal and projects get signed off directly by the Planning Minister bypassing many of the current assessment processes.
- Murrindindi Council's role – although it is not formally involved in the approval process, Council will be consulted by Planning authorities and the audience felt strongly that it should be advocating for the impacted community. A key role that Council does have is to recognise the significant value of the landscape including its environmental, cultural heritage and agricultural and tourism values in its planning scheme. This would protect it from inappropriate development such as FERA's proposal.
- An audience member called for a show of hands from those who were opposed to the project, and it was clear that there was unanimous opposition. This is supported by results from a community survey run by the SRRCG in July/August 2023 which showed only 6% of 201 respondents supporting the project. This survey has been re-opened until May 6 for the Yea and district communities to have their say - Community Survey April 2024

- FERA has been claiming widespread community support for the project but does not provide the data or methodology to support these claims. At the recent Seymour Alternative Farming Expo, the question they used was "Do you support renewable energy?" which is clearly a very different question from that used by the SRRCG – "How do you feel about the project in the Southern Strathbogie Ranges?" (with a description of the project before the question).

There was interest from the audience in forming a group of community members from Yea and surrounding districts to work together with the SRRCG.

Darryl Otzen
Secretary SRRCG



Map shows the several options FERA is exploring for the transmission line routes

Greater Gliders anyone?

BEAM are heading back into the Tallarook Forest looking for the wonderful, nationally endangered, Southern Greater Glider and will be hosting night walks in April, May and June.

Over 150 were found in the forest during our surveys during 2020-2022 which makes Tallarook Forest one of the Greater Glider hotspots of Victoria. This helped to stop native forest logging in the Forest, and we achieved a Special Protection Zone for them from the state government.

But we were only looking in the 600 hectares proposed for logging. We are now heading to the 2,000 hectare southern half of the Forest, to see how far their range extends. We'd love to be able to create a biolink between the Tallarook Forest and the Mt Disappointment Forest, to enable the Greater Gliders to expand southwards to Mt Disappointment forest area, where their numbers are depleted.

Knowing where the Gliders are in the southern part of the forest will help with planning the biolink corridor.

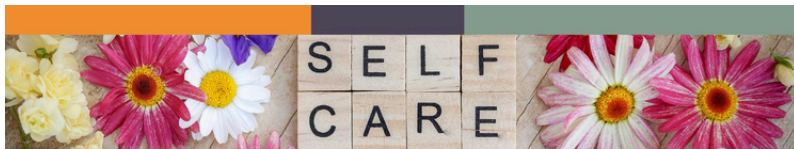
Join BEAM for a Tallarook Forest Night walk and see if you can spot some Gliders too!

Find details via the links, and please RSVP so we can stay in touch about plans:

🔗 [Saturday May 25, 6pm-8.30pm](#)

🔗 [Saturday June 22, 6pm-8.30pm](#)

NB: If these links don't work ring Peter 0407 935400 to register your interest.



Author Workshop at Yea Library Katrina Wurm

Award-winning author Katrina Wurm will be sharing her tips and techniques for busy Mum's at a free workshop at Yea Library.

Learn about getting organised and prioritising self-care.
Book now to reserve your spot.



Tuesday 7 May from 6.30 pm

Please register online at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/libraryevents

You can also give us a call on 5772 0333 or drop in and let us know you'll be coming along.



@murrindindilibraryservice
murrindindi.vic.gov.au/libraries
5772 0333



Libraries
Change Lives

At Yea Library, we are hosting an award-winning author, **Katrina Wurm**.

Her book is "Wear Your Warrior, the evolution of the stress-free Super Mum".

Katrina will be sharing her tips and techniques for busy Mums at this free workshop.

Learn to prioritise self-care and overcome adversity with resilience and compassion.

The workshop will be held at Yea Library.

On **Tuesday 7 May at 6.30pm.**

Time for busy Mums to be able to come along to Yea Library to share an evening with other Mums.

Bookings are essential as this event is catered for.

The Soilkee Renovator is returning to the HCCC area!

Readers may remember that the Soilkee Renovator visited Highlands last year as part of the Soil Carbon project. If readers are interested in having the Soilkee assist with their land care management it's coming back to our area during the last week of April.

Why not give Nevin a call **0474 243299** to arrange a visit to YOUR place.

Thinking of putting in a multi-species Covercrop?
Think SOILKEE



How does the Soilkee renovator work?

- A diverse mix of seeds from clover seed to faba bean size can be applied from the seed box during operation with seeds dropping in kee's. The Kee's are mechanically made by rotating blades, leaving around 80% of the pasture undisturbed
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- Creating the seed bed the Soilkee Renovator provides additional benefits of aeration and a green manure crop within the worked up portion, providing aerobic conditions and a food source that activates the soil fungi, bacteria and earthworm populations and the natural soil processes they perform.



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0474 243 299
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Victorian Landcare Grants 2024 Applications Open

The Victorian Government has opened the 2024 VLG with project grants with up to \$20,000 available for on-ground works and community education projects focused on enhancing the natural environment, including native vegetation and wildlife, waterways and soils.

Grants are available for any not-for-profit groups.

Applications close on 30th April 2024

<https://www.vic.gov.au/2024-victorian-landcare-grants>



DON'T FORGET...

The magnificent autumnal garden 'LAKITHI' will be open to the public on

Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th May 2024

Located in Terip Terip - 948 Top Road.

This opening is in conjunction with Open Gardens Victoria and is a fundraising event.

Our share will be donated to the CFA.

Why not visit LAKITHI & support our local CFA.

There will also be a plant stall & the local Terip Terip Tennis Club will be serving Devonshire Teas in the garden.

Enquiries? Contact Gail (van Rooyen) 0439 904 254

or email...
gailvanrooyen@yahoo.com.au



RUFFY VEGE GROWERS' GROUP

NEXT MEETING

is on 29th April at 1:30pm at
3 Hill Close - Pam's Place

We will be joined by members of the Strathbogie Seed Savers.

All welcome.

Enquiries? Janet 0458 904268



The best things in life are FREE - Building Winter Champions - Choose Tap

Junior sporting clubs, primary schools and youth-based community groups are being invited to apply for a supply of water bottles from Goulburn Valley Water - to coincide with the change of season,

Building Winter Champions through Choose Tap will provide young participants in sporting and community activities with a drink bottle to launch their winter on a positive note. Applications are now open and will be accepted until June 1, when winter officially descends.

All such groups need to do is follow the link at the bottom of this article and complete the form. Just tell us your group's name, how many water bottles you need and provide contact details – we'll take it from there.

Managing Director Steve Capewell says, "By providing some water bottles hopefully it will encourage younger generations to remember the importance of staying hydrated while playing sport, and to choose tap water as their drink of choice."

Sporting teams, schools and community groups like Girl Guides and Scouts are among those who could take advantage of the sponsorship offer. In fact, any primary school or youth based organisation is encouraged to apply for the Winter Champions through Choose Tap support.

Groups just need to follow this link [Sponsorship | Goulburn Valley Water \(gvwater.vic.gov.au\)](https://www.gvwater.vic.gov.au) and complete an application form.

We made it to the next round

TABLELANDS COMMUNITY CENTRE

PITCH MY PROJECT

It's time to have your say on your favorite community projects 2024/2025 with Strathbogie Shire Pitch My Projects



VOTE 1

Voting closes 5pm
Friday 24th May 2024



www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au - click on Pitch My Project link
or
you can complete a hard copy at the Tablelands Community Centre
tccruffy@gmail.com 0427 690 970

Veranda on the Shelter Shed

Help us make things more comfortable for you

Dry area for BBQs Dry area for Street Library Dry area to Shelter

**YOUR
COMM
UNITY
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VOICE**

STAND FOR COUNCIL 2024
Scan now for candidate information and upcoming sessions



www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au



Yea River Catchment Landcare presents:



Carbon Calculator for Beef and Sheep

with Cam Nicholson

This workshop will explain how carbon and farm emissions accounting could impact your future business. You will also use an online carbon calculator to determine your on-farm emissions.

When: Thursday 9th May, 2024, 9.30am-3pm

Where: Council Chambers, The Semi-Circle, Yea

Cost: FREE, morning tea and lunch provided

Bring: laptop/tablet

Registration required:

<https://forms.office.com/r/qeUayMem8w>

More info Rhiannon 0429 964 609

rhiannons@gbcma.vic.gov.au

This event is supported by the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority through funding from Landcare Victoria



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**Strathbogie Granite
 Project**
neil.phillips@bigpond.com



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.