

THE GRANITE NEWS



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



9th June 2024 | Volume 18 Issue 20

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

Last week's weather has definitely embedded winter 2024 in our consciousness and the timely appearance of this Snow Bunny on the Ghin Ghin cutting is a reminder that the ski season starts this long weekend (albeit with only manufactured snow on the lower slopes).



The sounds of motor sport have echoed around Caveat over the last two days as the annual Mudbash event celebrates its 52nd year. Fortunately for the Rover Scouts this year the rain has held off but the days have been crisp.

Please read on for another interesting issue, Pauline And Kenny? Was enjoying the UFO craft weekend.

SPONSORSHIP and/or BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

From time to time a back page ad space becomes available and readers are offered the opportunity to financially support this great weekly community newsletter.

Currently 3 spaces are available!

One such space is currently available and for an extremely reasonable \$250 you could either promote your business, or altruistically support our iconic local wildlife.

Interested? email the editor - editor@tgn.org.au

RUFFY VEGE GROWERS' CLUB

Next meeting is **Saturday 29th June**
@Sue and Graig's Garden- 230 McLeans Lane Ruffy @ **1:30 pm**

Please park near the Orchard shed.



As always New members welcome,



Ideas, knowledge and produce to share
Enquires Janet 0458 904268

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

"I never aimed very high... I never aimed anywhere, but just wrote the little things I knew about."

A.B. (Banjo) Paterson
(1864 - 1941)
Lawyer, writer, poet.



World Environment Day Quiz

How much do you know about degraded land, deserts and drought?

1. What is the leading cause of land degradation?






- Overgrazing from livestock
- Unsustainable resource extraction
- Rapid urbanisation
- All of the above

Answer in next week's TGN.

What's On - June 2024

Variable Dates & Events

Set Dates & Times

		What's On - June 2024
	Tues. 11th June @ 7pm	TABLELANDS COMMUNITY CENTRE - AGM @ Tablelands Community Centre All welcome to attend. Enquiries? 0427 690970 or tccruffy@gmail.com
	Fri. 14th June @ 6.30pm	DRINKS on the DECK @ Highlands Community Hall 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
	Mon. 17th June @ 11.30	HIGHLANDS SPINNERS @ 450 Caveat-Dropmore Rd Highlands Spinning Club will get together - same place, same time with the same good company. BYO lunch and great tea & coffee will be provided, Enquiries? Jan - 5790 4361
	Thurs 20th June @ 7pm	HCCC MONTHLY MEETING @ Terip Rec Reserve (TBC) Everyone is welcome, put the date in your diary now. Enquiries? Justus 0427 524473
	Thurs. 27th June @ 5.30	SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS @ Caveat Church All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards BBQ, BYO & chat
	Thurs 27th June @ 7pm	TERIP TERIP REC RESERVE AGM @ Terip Rec Reserve
	Sat 29th June @ 1.30pm	RUFFY VEGE GROWERS' CLUB @ 230 McLeans Lane, Ruffy New members are always welcome Enquiries: Janet 0458 904268
Details? See p.5	Sat. 29th June @ 7pm	TERIP'S TANTALISINGLY TERRIFIC TRIVIA NIGHT @ Terip Rec Reserve
	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 12th & 26th June.
	Every Monday @ 7pm	TABLE TENNIS MONDAYS Not happening in winter - too cold! @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 18th June and 3rd & 17th July 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

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Australia's previous Renewable Energy Commissioner Andrew Dyer completed a report to Government on the impact of the rolling out of renewables in the Regions. This was reported by the ABC 2 Feb 2024. The report calls for states and territories to better plan and control who builds those projects. The Federal Government has agreed to accept the recommendations in full.

To quote the ABC re the Dyer report: "Energy companies 'prospecting' for potential wind and solar projects are causing 'distrust uncertainty and anxiety' in many regional communities." Amid growing grassroots resistance, the report makes nine recommendations ensuring that the right projects are built by the right people in the right locations.

Mr Dyer said while communities may benefit from the transition through direct payments to host farmers and the creation of jobs during construction, he said poor engagement had led to a 'material distrust' of developers and suggested that planning and regulation was still catching up.

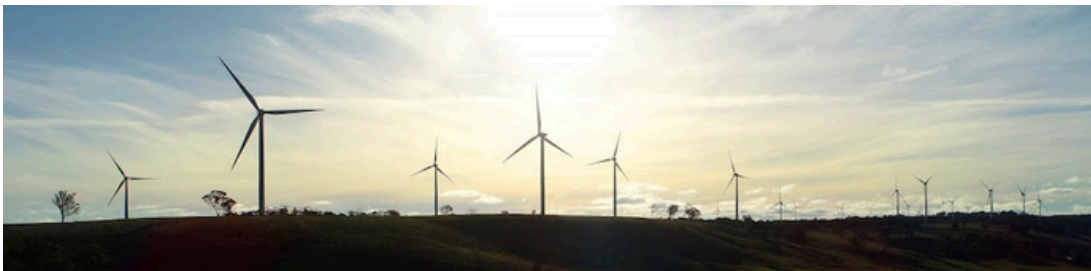
The 42 page report is based on hundreds of submissions, surveys and meetings - including in this region - and gives an insight into the experience of regional communities. He also recommended that developers be more tightly regulated, and a new rating system be established to enable communities to differentiate between legitimate companies seeking to build wind farms on or near their land and the 'cowboys'.

The Federal Minister Bowen has accepted all nine recommendations.

This report from the ABC raises a number of questions for our communities in regard to the proposed wind farm in the Southern Strathbogies

1. Is consultation with the community adequate? In a local survey of the community last year, 83 percent of the respondents did not support the wind farm. (SRRCG survey by email)
2. Are the developers experienced enough to undertake this large project having only implemented small windfarm projects in Italy? (up to 5 turbines)
3. Why are the developers pursuing this project when it is not in a Renewable Energy Zone (REZ)?
4. Are the developers aware of the high value our community places on our SHARED landscape?

John Curtis
Highlands



Ruffy Neighbourhood Watch AGM.

Venue: Ruffy Tablelands Community Centre (TCC)

Date: 1st July, 2024

Time: 7:00 pm

Please come along and support the NHW team. We are low on membership and your support will help strengthen our effectiveness in keeping our community safe.

WANTED

Does anyone have a set of bellows they do not use.

Please contact

Rob 0411 880024.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Who remembers when The Granite News was the Highlands Primary School newsletter, produced weekly in the school's dying stages by the teachers Jo Miller and Miranda Yorston? And the competition for a suitable logo? Then the school closed with almost no prospects of more than 2 or 3 students. How really sad to see those demolished buildings at the Highlands crossroads.

But a few enthusiastic contributors decided to keep the newsletter going. Miranda stayed on as editor until more pressing events (eg: Jono) took place. Don Cook did a fantastic job and then Pauline Roberts volunteered and is keeping up the tradition.

This reminds me of my mother-in-law - Olive Yorston, who lived at Rockcliffe, just north of the Highlands Hall.

As a very small child, she, and her siblings had to WALK to the Kobyboyn School, near where Jenny and Rick Webb now live. She told me of the misery of the homeward journey - up that steep and unforgiving gorge we now call Crow's Nest, and how she felt she'd never make it. But she had just enough energy to notice and admire her surroundings - the bush and its inhabitants.

Much, much later, she married Neill Lade - one of the close neighbours. Neill and his brother, Bill, were the first selectors in the district in 1882 - the stone fireplace, or the remains of it, are still at Glentanner, which was where Neill's first home was built.

My husband, Doug Lade, grandson of Henry, appeared once with two very hard, green cherry plums, which he had picked from a tree near the old fireplace.

Olive told me that she once said to her husband Neill, "You're clearing too many trees, you must leave more." "Oh," he said, "grass doesn't grow under trees." And he chopped down the next one.

Of course, she was right, and he was wrong.

Peg Lade
Yea (formerly of Glentanner, Highlands)

Remember Claude Koala? - he's busted again, evading security to eat shoots & leaves

Claude the leaf thief is back for more and it seems there is no stopping this brazen koala — now stealing his booty in broad daylight. The repeat offender only targets one location, but this animal knows what he wants and nothing deters him from the sweet treat of young eucalyptus seedlings at Eastern Forest Nursery at South Gundurimba on the north coast of NSW.

Claude made international headlines when his night-time derring-do was captured on camera in September last year. The owner of the hard-hit nursery near Lismore said he had now done all he could to stop Claude with fencing and CCTV monitoring. According to Mr Herington - "We've fenced three sides, and we had a fence with a wobbly shade cloth top, the theory being that if he tried to climb up he would fall back outside the fence. Then one day the staff actually saw him. He climbed up the shade cloth and was coming down onto the poles and getting into the nursery. That was three o'clock in the afternoon. That was an interesting visit, coming in for an early feed."



Remember late last year when Claude chomped his way through several thousand seedlings. Since the installation of the fence it is estimated a few thousand more have been eaten! But CCTV footage reveals Claude is not the only culprit. He has told his mates. Some of those pictures show a female with a joey on her back. Originally there was just the one koala, who was in the original pictures, [Claude] clinging to the pole inside the nursery. But now there are up to 12 or more koalas in the trees.

Mr Herington donated the koala-damaged seedlings to the World Wide Fund for Nature Australia which aims to plant 500,000 trees by the end of the year and says, "The answer, which is a long-term solution, is to create some connectivity between areas where there are more trees so there are not a whole lot of islands and the koalas can move between different areas and expand their feeding territory."

The nursery owner said when he looks at Claude's little hungry eyes he cannot help but feel for them. "Even though there's a little bit of an economic cost, Claude's really highlighted a need, and it's created a lot more awareness of habitat loss," he said.

ABC North Coast News - 3/6/24

Terip's Tantalizingly Terrific



at the Terip Community Centre

Saturday, 29 June 2024, 7:00 for 7:30 pm Trivia kick-off

Tickets: Adults \$15, Children \$5

Supper provided

BYO Drinks and Nibbles

Teams of 6-8 can be entered or come long and join a team on the night!

RSVP by Monday, 24th June for catering to teripterip3719@gmail.com, message our Terip Community FB page or phone: Frances 0427 904 262 or Jenny 0448 833 875

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.



Join agroecologist, David Hardwick and highly experienced practitioners in their fields to explore our regenerative ag courses.

REBOOT YOUR GRAZING WITH DR JUDI EARL
ONLINE JULY 18 - SEPTEMBER 26
@8 AM - 9.30 AM

- Want to implement planned, rotational grazing on your property?
- Already doing planned or holistic grazing and looking to make improvements and take it to the next level.
- Deepen your understanding of how plants, animals, landscapes and people can all work together for resilience and productivity.



MAKING BIOFERTILISERS ON FARM
ONLINE JULY 24 - AUGUST 21
@7.30 PM - 9 PM

- Learn to make a range of biofertilisers on farm
- Learn about different biological products
- Learn how to make a range of basic Starter Cultures



WHAT PEOPLE SAY

- *Judi was a great presenter, very knowledgeable*
- *Thank you again for delivering a fantastic session - Bioferts workshop Western VIC April 2023*



MORE INFORMATION
bit.ly/courses-HCCC or



Highlands-Caveat RFB

HUGE Thanks to everyone who turned up to split, chop, stack and sell wood, as well as rattle buckets for donations at Mudbash this year. As the brigade's one and only fundraiser each year your efforts are gratefully appreciated.

Annual General Meeting

Tablelands Community Centre

will be held at the TCC, Ruffy on

Tuesday 11th June at 7.00pm.

Enquiries? please contact Fiona
0427 690970

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Despite what you see speeding along the Hume Freeway, Mitchell Shire has a lot of great natural areas and they are accessible to the public. You just need to do some exploring. We (BEAM Mitchell Environment Group with Mitchell Shire Council) have listed 36 of these Natural Treasures in a revision of a brochure originally produced in 1999 from an idea by Lesley Dalziel. We have also produced 36 Guides to each of the Treasures with notes and maps on access and walking routes and information on the geology, vegetation, wildlife and human history. We will be including more information and species lists later in the year, and any feedback to BEAM will be welcome.

Brochures are (or soon will be) available at local libraries and tourist information centres and the Guides are available for everyone to use at <https://www.beam.org.au/naturaltreasures>.

The Treasures include the lovely gorge on Hughes Creek Road on the boundary of the two Shires and the amazing Mangalore Nature Conservation Reserve that straddles the border between the and is a wonderful place for wildflowers. Fungi and a few orchids are already out, and Spring is only two months away (in August in the lower lands). The challenge is to visit and walk around all 36 of the Treasures. We hope you will enjoy the experience and will record your observations with iNaturalist.

Peter Mitchell



BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT

Our dedicated Maternal and Child Health Nurses offer latch troubleshooting, milk supply guidance, bottle feeding tips and solid food instructions. You can access this service via:

- Telehealth: From the comfort of your home
- Outreach Visits: We'll come to you!
Available every second Tuesday.

For more information or to book a session, call Susan on 0436 659 910.

REFLECTING ON COUNCIL'S PROGRESS

As we approach the end of the current Council Plan, we invite our community to reflect on our key areas of progress and help shape the strategic direction for the next four years.

A Progress Report has been released, showcasing key projects and initiatives we have delivered. It is available to read online and at our Customer Service Centres.

Your feedback is important as prepare our new Council Plan for 2025-2029. We'd like to hear from as many in our community as possible.

You can share your thoughts by filling out an online feedback form, or by completing a paper form at any of our Library and Customer Service Centres.

We will also be hosting "Warm Bowls, Hot Topics" sessions where you can chat with Council officers in person. These sessions will be held in the following locations:

- Kinglake Community Centre, 436 Whittlesea-Kinglake Road
 - 8 July, 6.30 to 8.30 pm
- Yea Council Chambers, 15 The Semi Circle
 - 10 July, 6.00 to 8.00 pm
- Marysville Community Centre, 31 Falls Road
 - 11 July, 12 noon to 2.00 pm
- Alexandra Shire Hall, 55 Grant Street
 - 15 July, 6.00 to 8.00 pm

Enjoy some soup while you chat and share your ideas. We are also offering an online session for those unable to attend in person.

By providing your feedback by 21 July 2024, you will also go in the draw to win one of three \$100 FoodWorks vouchers.

For more information and to get involved, visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/ourprogress

STAND FOR COUNCIL

Want to represent your community? With the next council elections being held in October this year, consider standing for council.

In partnership with Victorian councils, Municipal Association of Victoria is delivering information sessions for the community and prospective candidates. These sessions can be attended either in-person or online. The sessions cover information about the role of a councillor, the electoral process and campaign tips.

Session dates:

- Tuesday 11 June: Session 1
- Wednesday 12 June: Session 2

Visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/standforcouncil or give us a call on 5772 0333 to register.

DRAFT KERBSIDE SERVICES POLICY

Council will be introducing a four-stream waste system from July 2025. We'll be adding a Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) and a Glass recycling service. The FOGO bin (green bin) will be collected weekly and will allow residents to dispose of food scraps and garden waste. The Glass bin (purple bin) will be collected monthly.

Our draft Kerbside Waste and Recycling Services Policy proposes the FOGO service as optional for certain areas.

To learn more, and have your say on the draft Policy, including proposed changes to the collection route, waste charges and more, visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/kerbside

SUBSCRIBE TO 'MURRINDINDI MATTERS'

Council would like to thank everyone who entered our e-newsletter naming competition. The top four name suggestions were Murrindindi Matters, Dindi Digest, wawa Dindi and The Yarn. We received lots of suggestions for both Murrindindi Matters and Dindi Digest, so the winners were selected at random.

To stay up to date with the latest news from Council, subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/enews

GET IN TOUCH

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



REFLECTING ON **COUNCIL'S PROGRESS**

Council is inviting the community to reflect on the progress made to date on our 2021-2025 Council Plan and actively inform the strategic direction for the next four years.

As part of this, Council has prepared a Progress Report, which highlights the key projects and activities we have delivered to support the five main themes in the current Council Plan. We want to know what you think of our progress, if we have focused our efforts in the right areas, and if there are additional or different priorities we should consider for the future.

You can share your thoughts by filling out an online feedback form, or by completing a paper form at our Library and Customer Service Centres in Alexandra, Yea and Kinglake. A copy of the Progress Report is also available to read at our Centres or online.

We also encourage you to register and come along to a "Warm Bowls, Hot Topics" sessions where Council officers will be facilitating discussions with community members and capturing feedback. You can enjoy a bowl of warm soup and exchange ideas at the following locations:

- Kinglake Community Centre: Monday 8 July, 6.30 - 8.30 pm
- Yea Council Chambers: Wednesday 10 July, 6.00 – 8.00 pm
- Marysville Community Centre: Thursday 11 July, 12 noon - 2.00 pm
- Alexandra Shire Hall: Monday 15 July, 6.00 – 8.00 pm

Council officers will also be at different community events across the Shire, so keep an eye out and drop in for a chat to learn more about the project.

Visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/ourprogress or call 5772 0333 for more information and to get involved.

By providing feedback by 21 July 2024, you'll go in the draw to win one of three \$100 FoodWorks Supermarket Vouchers.



<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>Advertising space available</p> <p>for details editor@tgn.org.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>Advertising space available</p> <p>for details editor@tgn.org.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</p>  <p>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>Advertising space available</p> <p>for details editor@tgn.org.au</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><i>Highlands Haulen</i> AND RECOVERY</p> <p>Local and Statewide Transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hay / Silage - Farm Equipment - Machinery / Excavators - Building Supplies - Sheds / Cabins - Trucks / 4X4s - 24/7 Breakdowns <p>Steve 0419 860 484 haulen.com.au</p>
 <p>Murrindindi Shire Council</p> <p>Cr John Walsh Koriella Ward Murrindindi Shire Council jwalsh@murrindindi.vic.gov.au</p> <p>0437 835 586</p>	<p>Tablelands Community Centre</p> <p>Upgraded facilities & playground Ideal for Private or Community gatherings</p> <p>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 Maidample 3723</p> 	<p>Donated by supporters of our local koala population</p> 
<p>Donation from supporters of our local Gang Gangs</p> 	<p>HIGHLANDS GROVE</p> <p>Australian, locally produced premium extra virgin olive oil. Farm gate pick up or delivery available.</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.</p> <p>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.