# THE GRANITE NEWS



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



#### 21st January 2024 | Volume 18 Issue 2

## Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

#### Welcome back to Issue # 2 for 2024.

At the start of each year I reprint the following guidelines for readers. In order for TGN to continue to be the excellent local, community newsletter that it is, the following important details need to be noted.

1. Thursday evening is the deadline for inclusion of any articles, ads, items in the next issue of TGN

2. Photos and attachments need to be pre-shrunk from MB size to KB size and be in either .jpg or .png format please, not .pdf. Thanks

3. Local contributions are most welcome—who doesn't like reading about Scott's take on local cricket matches or discovering about local achievements?

4. Small ads run for 3 weeks unless sold or the editor is notified

5. Priority will be given to local news (within the TGN Tablelands' area or involving Tablelanders) Landcare/environmental issues and interesting, informative and/or entertaining articles, as well as regular announcements from our 3 local councils that may well be of interest to, or impact upon, our local communities.

6. Articles and/or Letters to the Editor that contain factual and verified information (with reference notes included as to the source of the information) will be published.

7. Articles or Letters to the Editor that offer observations, thoughts and 'facts' without verification of any claims, will not be published.

Many thanks in advance for your great support in 2023, I'm looking forward to the year ahead & bringing you a great read every week.

Please read on for another interesting issue, Pauline And Kenny? Was interested in the nominations for the Individual Landcarer Award.



Summer is still trying to make an impact...

Feedback? <u>editor@tgn.org.au</u> or to subscribe on-line go to <u>www.highlands.org.au</u>

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

"Coal = dead dinosaur dust."

Anon

## Someone take grandma's yarn away



## Did you know?

Koala joeys are only the size of a jellybean when they are born - measuring just 2cm long and weighing less than 1 gram. At that tiny size they climb inside their mother's pouch and will grow for about 6 months. Only then will they emerge and take up riding on their mum's back.

	NB: Fully vaccinated attendees are appreciated at all events.	What's On - January & February 2024
	Thurs. 25th Jan. @ 5.30	SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS @ Caveat Church All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards BBQ, BYO & chat.
Nevel Story coause	Thurs. 1st Feb. 6-8pm	HIGHLANDS BOOK CLUB@ Highlands Community HallAll welcome, BYO plate to share & preferred beverage. Gold coin donation. Prophet Song (Booker winner) and The In-between are up for discussion.Robyn 0409 528235
Ř	Fri. 2nd Feb. 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 3rd & Sun 4th Feb. 10-4	DARREN GILBERT'S OPEN STUDIO @ 5 Gifford St, Yea Open first weekend each month - discover some stunning artwork.
	Mon. 5th Feb @ 7pm	TABLE TENNIS MONDAYS - COMMENCING!! @TCC Ruffy   . Enquiries? 0427 690970 or tccruffy@gmail.com
	Mon. 12th Feb. @ 11am	HIGHLANDS SPINNING CLUB @ 450 Caveat-Dropmore Rd The Highlands Spinning Club will get together in 2024 at the same place and the same time and with the same good company. BYO lunch ad great tea & coffee will be provided. Enquiries? Jan - 5790 4361
Details? See p.5	Friday 9th Feb. @ 5.30pm	BURNT CREEK LANDCARE'S Screening of Rachel's Farm@ Avenel HallAn excellent film about the regeneration of farmland in NSW.Susie 0409 174041
	Friday 9th Feb. @ 6.30pm	DRINKS on the DECK@ Highlands Community HallStarts @ 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@ Highlands Community HallThe Mobile Library visits the TGN area, based at the Highlands Hall every fortnight. Whynot pop in?Forthcoming dates are 24th January and 7th & 21st February.
	1st & 3rd Tuesdays 1-3	DIGITAL & ON-LINE LEARNING@ TCC, 27 Nolans Rd, Ruffy6th & 20th Feb.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. 6.45-7.45pm	CUSTOM YOGA is BACK with Ingridat the Tablelands Community Centre\$25 per hour long class BYO mat and blanketEnquiries? Ingrid ingstar.7@gmail.com

### Blackberry control in the Hughes Creek- Highlands Road Whiteheads Creek

Please find below a copy of the email sent to Viviana Halley, Senior Environment Officer the Mitchell Shire. I had discussed the issue of out-of-control blackberries on the banks of Buckland Creek (at Rocky Passes) along the Highlands - Seymour Road.

This discussion started many years (before Covid) ago which led to the Shire sending letters to all landowners in the area. However, the landowners and licensees of the land have done nothing.

Vivianna contacted Oliver Goodwin the Biosecurity Officer – Invasives Biosecurity and Agriculture Services Branch in an effort to get some action. The email below is the response from Mr Goodwin.

It looks as though DEECA are not going to enforce the law regarding control of Blackberries unless there is a public reaction and complaints to DEECA, and even then it will be a soft approach limited to a letter.

HCCC have already complained to the Mitchell Shire, and I now believe it's up to community to send emails to Mr Oliver to make a more forceful statement to DEECA to get some real action, not just letters. Mr Oliver can be contacted via email - oliver.goodwin@agriculture.vic.gov.au

#### Neil Van Buuren – Facilitator HCCC

## **OFFICIAL: RE: Blackberry at Buckland Creek**

Hi Viviana, Hope you've been well, Yes, that crown land parcel is licensed.

If somebody is making a complaint about that specific parcel, Agriculture Victoria can send out a letter to the land manager reminding them of their legal responsibilities to control Blackberry.

Regarding the greater area, unfortunately we don't currently have the capacity to undertake any extra compliance projects, due to resourcing constraints and our priority being Regionally Prohibited Weeds.

Please let me know if there is a complaint against that particular parcel and I will send a letter to the land manager.

Of course all complaints or information that is provided to us is confidential.

Kind Regards Oliver Goodwin Biosecurity Officer – Invasives Biosecurity and Agriculture Services Branch Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action Po Box 879 | 15 Hume and Hovell Road, Seymour VIC 3660 M: 0427 963 274 E: oliver.goodwin@agriculture.vic.gov.au

**Editor's Note:** According to Agriculture Victoria's website "Blackberry is an invasive shrub. It is a threat to agriculture in Victoria due to its rapid growth and spread."

Blackberries are a Regionally Controlled, not Prohibited, Weed.



## New Futures for Landcare Victoria - exciting news!

Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative (HCCC) are excited to announce that our landscape proposal, Granite2Goulburn, has been accepted into Landcare Victoria Inc's New Futures for Victorian Landcare pilot program.



The Granite2Goulburn landscape encompasses 408,000ha extending from the area covered by the Strathbogie Ranges Conservation Management Network to the Longwood Plains, the Hughes Creek Catchment down to Whiteheads Creek and the Goulburn River in Seymour and Nagambie and the Seven and Castle Creeks in Euroa.

#### The Granite2Goulburn group includes the Longwood Plains Conservation Management Network, Strathbogie Ranges Conservation Management & Network and Euroa Arboretum Inc., as well as the Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative.

Expressions of Interest were received from 12 landholders interested participating in the New Futures Landscape Impact Program, run as part of the pilot. They will be contacted shortly to discuss their involvement in the project.

#### About the Project:

New Futures for Victorian Landcare is an exciting new project that aims to support the Landcare community to undertake landscape scale planning and explore a model that enables Landcare to access other forms of funding to implement their plans, such as emerging green investment markets.

New Futures for Victorian Landcare will pursue solutions to important challenges faced by Landcare including the need to:

• Initiate landscape planning processes that mobilise local knowledge and enable effective on-ground action by volunteer community Landcarers and landholders.

• Develop new pathways for investment beyond grant-based project funding.

• Establish systems for monitoring, evaluation and communication that demonstrate environmental impact and social change.

The project is funded by The Ian Potter Foundation and the Natural Resources Conservation Trust. Project partners include Landcare Victoria Inc, Regen Farmers Mutual, Landscape Finance Lab and ANU Sustainable Farms.

For more information from Landcare Victoria go to landcarevictoria.org.au/newfutures

Thanks to Janet Hagen for her excellent work on the application for this project.

Further details to come, and updates will soon be available on our HCCC website: www.hccclandcare.net.au



The Burnt Creek Landcare Group invites you to a special community movie screening

## **RACHEL'S FARM**

#### Avenel Hall Friday 9th February Doors open at 5.30pm for a 6pm screening

## BYO drinks RSVP essential

(PG) 88 mins. Australia 2023 Dir: Rachel Ward



In this uplifting documentary, actor Rachel Ward sets out to regenerate her northern NSW's beef farm, with the help of experts and neighbours. From ignorance about the ecological impacts of conventional agriculture on her own property which has been besieged by drought and bushfires, to embracing a movement of regeneration.

RSVP: Email Susie Bate benacre49@gmail.com or 0409 174 041

## The Plight of Koalas in 2024

"The plight of koalas today is emblematic of nature in crisis at a global scale.

There are only an estimated 180,000 koalas left in the wild. Pre-colonisation there were millions.

Numbers are still declining, due to ongoing habitat destruction, drought, rising temperatures, bushfires and floods." (World Wide Fund for Nature)

Yet across Australia efforts are being made to stop this dramatic decline of one of our country's iconic creatures.

Remember all those 'koala trees' that were planted during Covid? Thanks for doing your 'bit'.





# COMMUNITY MEETING WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

## JOIN US TO HEAR ABOUT WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING

SRRCG COMMITTEE WORK DURING 2023 LOCAL FAUNA SURVEY RESULTS THE VALUE OF INATURALIST DATA PLANNING PROCESS FOR WINDFARMS

## RUFFY PUBLIC HALL NOLANS ROAD RUFFY

Sunday 11 February 2024 1-2.30pm Guest speakers: Bert Lobert, ecologist, Janet Hagen, HCCC Landcare Facilitator Sam Strong, iNatualist enthusiast

## **CONTACT AND INFORMATION**

EMAIL: info@srrcg.com https://www.srrcg.com/

#### **HIGHLANDS BOOK GROUP**

Our fifth Thursday night BookGROUP in the meeting room is: scheduled for the 1st February 2024, from 6 – 8pm ALL WELCOME

We are discussing Prophet Song by Paul Lynch and The In-Between by Christos Tsiolkas Suggestions & other books read are also up for discussion...

BYO refreshments, a plate to share & gold coin donation.



#### **YOGA in RUFFY**

In 2024 the Custom Yoga Classes in Ruffy have duplicated and are now happening twice a week.

New times, new days and a new price - be there!

Mondays 8.45 - 9.45am Wednesdays 6.45 - 7.45pm

Cost \$25 per class

Enquiries? Ingrid ingstar.7@gmail.com

## The Ruffy Veggie Growers Club

is getting together on Monday 26th of February 2-4pm

At Pip and Stephen's 91 Boathole Road Ruffy. Topic -Wicking beds.



New members always welcome. Enquires to Janet: 0458 904268

## **TGN's Back Page Ads**

Every year 20+ TGN readers decide to either advertise their businesses or altruistically feature one of the HCCC's local fauna or flora.

This financial support is very much appreciated and assists with the production of TGN.

From time to time some of these ad spaces become vacant and other TGN readers/supporters get the chance to highlight their wares, their services or just a favourite creature.

The very reasonable sum of \$250 per year results in very cost effective message getting out to a wide readership for approximately \$5.95 per issue x 42 issues a year.

If any readers would be interested in taking up this advertising opportunity, when it becomes available, please email editor@tgn.org.au Thanks.



## Australian Government Individual Landcarer Award

2023/2024 VICTORIAN LANDCARE AWARDS



Individuals, including Landcare facilitators/coordinators, are encouraged to nominate for the Individual Landcarer Award at the 2023/2024 Victorian Landcare Awards.

Award nominations close: Friday 1 March 2024

Awards ceremony: date TBC June 2024



#### **Rotary Club of Yea Art Show 2024**

The Rotary Club of Yea is pleased to be hosting their Annual Art Show in the iconic Yea Shire Hall from **Thursday 25th January 2024 until Sunday 28th January**.

Opening night is Thursday 25th January at 7.30pm- \$25 per head entry. Prizes this year total more than \$7500, with first prize - \$2500.

The opening night is a fun social evening, and everyone present on Opening Night gets first choice of purchasing some wonderful artwork. This year the theme for Opening Night is Scottish, so wear something tartan.

Come along, enjoy a complimentary drink and some nibbles and make the room of a sea of tartan. Bookings preferred via Try booking. at www.trybooking.com/CMTBS to assist with catering.

Put the dates in your calendar and for just an entry fee of \$5, you will be able to enjoy viewing some excellent artwork. Entry each day is from 10am to 5pm, except for the last day, Sunday 28th January, when the door closes at 3pm. Patrons can purchase tickets at the door.

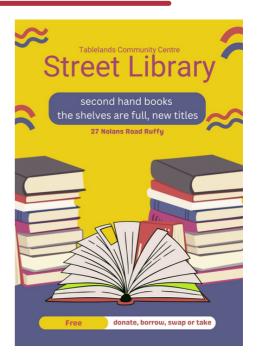
# Given FERA's plans for a local windfarm the following may be of interest to HCCC area readers...

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. 10 for further information.





Are you interested in adding to the iNatutaliste'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.

#### MURRINDINDI SHIRE COUNCIL NEWS

**E-NEWSLETTER OPT-IN AND WIN!** Opt-in to receive the latest Council news direct to your inbox for free, each month.

Help us name our new e-newsletter and you could win one of four \$50 visa gift cards.

To opt-in and enter, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/enews

#### NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL'S 2024 COMMUNITY AWARDS ARE NOW OPEN!

Do you know someone who's made a significant contribution to Murrindindi Shire? Would you like to celebrate the work of a local group or initiative? Why not recognise their efforts and nominate them for a Community Award. Tell us who inspires you, and how they make our Shire a better place.

Our annual awards recognise the outstanding contributions of volunteers who demonstrate exceptional community spirit and a willingness to help others.

Our four Award categories are:

- Volunteer of the Year
- Senior Volunteer of the Year
- · Young Volunteer of the Year
- · Community Group or Initiative of the Year

Criteria and nomination forms are available at theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/2024Awards

You can also pick up a paper nomination form at our Library and Customer Service Centres in Alexandra, Kinglake or Yea, and the Mobile Library.

#### Nominations close on Sunday 24 March.

The 2024 Award winners will be announced and acknowledged at a volunteer appreciation event held during National Volunteer Week (20-26 May 2024).

**GRANTS AND SPONSORSHIPS PROGRAM** Are you interested in applying for a grant through Council's Grants and Sponsorships Program?

Grant applications for Round 4 have just opened, and close 30 April 2024. Quick Response Grants are available all year round.

For more information, call our Grants team on 5772 0333 or visit our website murrindindi.vic.gov.au/grants

#### **RATES REMINDER**

Are you paying your Council rates in full? A friendly reminder that the due date for payment is 15 February 2024. For those who are paying by instalment, the third instalment is due by 29 February 2024.

Council understands the impact rates can have. If you are experiencing financial difficulties that might prevent you from paying your rates on time, please get in touch with our Rates Team as soon as possible on 5772 0333 to discuss your situation.

For more information on rates, visit our website murrindindi.vic.gov.au/rates

#### **2024 COUNCIL MEETING DATES**

Council meetings are a good way for the community to see how local decision-making takes place and to observe Council's democratic processes.

Council Meetings are live-streamed to the public via Facebook and our website.

For a list of Council Meeting dates for 2024 and more information about Council meetings, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/councilmeetings

#### **COVID-19 VACCINATION UPDATE**

Are you aged 75 years or older? If it has been 6 months since your last COVID-19 vaccination or infection, it is recommended that you receive an additional COVID-19 vaccine dose now.

People aged 65-74 years and people aged 18-64 with severe immunocompromise should also consider receiving an additional dose, following discussions with their health care provider.

If you are unsure if you have had a COVID-19 infection in the last 6 months, it is safe to get another dose. If you know a friend, family member or neighbour who may benefit from this information, please share it with them.

Call 1800 022 222 for COVID-19 advice or to book an appointment. Book online at healthdirect.gov.au/australian-health-services

#### **STAY INFORMED**

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

#### **GET IN TOUCH**

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

## Developing the first Victorian Transmission Plan Help us plan Victoria's future reliable, affordable and renewable energy grid.

#### OPEN FOR FEEDBACK - CLOSES 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.





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.