

THE GRANITE NEWS



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



28th January 2024 | Volume 18 Issue 3

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

Welcome to a special **BLACKBERRY** issue of Granite News!

Last week's article about the severe blackberry problem along the Buckland Creek at Rocky Passes generated a lot of interest and it's easy to see why. The photos below were taken just on 2 years ago, in February 2022, and the situation has deteriorated markedly over that time - no doubt due to increased spring and summer rainfall as well as the lack of action on the behalf of the landholder/leasees.

If you read last week's article and are concerned about the official response by DEECA to this rather obvious problem, then an email to Mr Olive Goodwin oliver.goodwin@agriculture.vic.gov.au may expedite things. Although yet another letter to the owners may not be the proactive solution that neighbours, the local community and Landcare groups would prefer, but it would be a development....

Of course, we could also talk about glass houses, and if any readers have blackberries on their properties, no matter how big or small the infestation might be, **NOW** (Dec.-April) is the ideal time to start an eradication program! Contact neil@hccclandcare.net.au for details.

Please read on for another interesting issue, Pauline
And Kenny? Was waiting for the next Highlands Book Club meeting .



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

"When we are dead, seek not our tomb in the Earth, but find it in the hearts of man."

Rumi (1207 - 1273)

13th C. Persian poet, Islamic scholar and Sulfi mystic



Aaaaahh it's a human!

Did you know?

Greater Gliders are property tycoons! These little marsupials can maintain up to 20 tree trunk dens at any given time, gliding between each hollow.

A good thing then that harvesting of old growth forests in

Victoria is no longer happening!



	NB: Fully vaccinated attendees are appreciated at all events.	What's On - February 2024
	Thurs. 1st Feb. 6-8pm	HIGHLANDS BOOK CLUB @ Highlands Community Hall All 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
	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
Details? See p.10	Friday 9th Feb. @ 5.30pm	BURNT CREEK LANDCARE'S Screening of Rachel's Farm @ Avenel Hall An excellent film about the regeneration of farmland in NSW. Susie 0409 174041
	Friday 9th Feb. @ 6.30pm	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
Details? See p.10	Sun. 11th Feb. 1 - 2.30pm	SOUL (Save Our Unique Landscape) Community Meeting @ Ruffy Public Hall Come along to this community meeting to discover what has been happening in our local area. Guest speakers and more Enquiries? info@srrcg.com or https://www.srrcg.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 and great tea & coffee will be provided. Enquiries? Jan - 5790 4361
	Thurs. 15th Feb. @ 7.30pm	HCCC MONTHLY MEETING @ TCC, Ruffy Everyone is welcome, put the date in your diary now. Enquiries? Justus 0427 524473
	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 7th & 21st February and 6th & 20th March.
	1st & 3rd Tuesdays 1-3	DIGITAL & ON-LINE LEARNING @ TCC, 27 Nolans Rd, Ruffy 6th & 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 Ingrid at the Tablelands Community Centre \$25 per hour long class BYO mat and blanket Enquiries? Ingrid ingstar.7@gmail.com

HCCC LANDCARE & the Community need YOUR help again!

Thanks to another wet summer the Blackberry menace is out of control again this year.

This problem is not confined to the creeks and the roadside, it is now growing on private land and spreading fast. If you sprayed your Blackberries last year, you should spray them again.

Blackberry control is NOT A ONE OFF, it needs to be done every year!

Management and Control of Blackberry

Prescribed measures for the control of noxious weeds:

- Application of a registered herbicide
- Physical removal
- Mulching.

The timing of action depends on your control method.

- Physical removal can be done 12 months of the year.
- Chemical and spraying - Spring to Autumn before the frost and cold weather sends the plants into dormancy.
- It is vital that as landowners that we get on top of this problem ASAP.



We need your help! Community Action (People Power)

- HCCC Landcare is only as strong as the community that supports it – we need your help.
- If the problem is on your property, please start a program to eradicate the plants. Spraying can be done until the first frost, normally in early May.
- If you see the infestation on neighbouring properties, speak to them in polite and friendly way and suggest that they should help the community and act. Please don't be aggressive.
- Also, please inform HCCC with an address or contact your local shire environment officer, or the bio security officer at the Department of Agriculture.
- The Department of Agriculture claim they don't have the resources to act other than writing a letter.

As cited in last week's TGN -

“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.”

Taken from an email sent by Mr Goodwin Bio-security Officer to Vivian Haley at the Mitchell Shire

It's now time for the community to act by writing to Mr Oliver Goodwin, the more letters we can send the better the outcome might be.

How can the HCCC help?

- HCCC will subsidise the costs of chemicals by 50%, please contact the HCCC before purchasing chemicals to get approval for the subsidy.
- HCCC have spraying equipment to assist.
- We can put you in touch a company that that spray from a helicopter, only suitable for large problems over 15 Ha.
- HCCC also have information on several new companies that spray from Drones, suitable for small areas in difficult to reach areas with a vehicle or tractor.
- Provide a list of commercial spraying companies.

Continued on p.4...



HCCC LANDCARE & the Community need YOUR help again! (cont.)

Impact on ecosystems and waterways

- Blackberry is considered a serious environmental threat and is highly invasive. It can provide harbour and a food source for pest species, as well as serve to outcompete and eliminate other vegetation by excluding light from the soil surface.
- In its early stages of infestation, blackberry will grow over, or occupy gaps in, native vegetation and, in later stages, can severely restrict regeneration in native forests.

Agricultural and economic impacts

- Blackberry is an extremely serious agricultural threat, owing to its rapid growth and ability to reproduce through various methods. It is a highly invasive species that will readily establish on disturbed sites and infest large areas. **Once established it is expensive to manage and can even be a fire hazard due to large amounts of dead canes.**
- The plant's strong prickles make it hazardous and unpalatable to grazing animals (except browsing animals, such as goats and deer) and impenetrable thickets provide harbour and food for pest animals such as rabbits and foxes, starlings and blackbirds. It may also restrict access to watercourses in forestry operations and for grazing animals.
- Blackberry may affect the establishment and growth of both softwood and hardwood seedlings in plantation forestry.

Social value and health impacts

- Blackberry can restrict access to and along watercourses which may affect recreational activities. It also produces strong prickles which make it objectionable to humans and in large infestations, may be a fire hazard due to large amounts of dead canes.

Contact information.

- HCCC - email neil@hccclandcare.net.au;

• Victorian Dept of Agriculture –
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

- Contact the Environment Manager at your local shire



Letter to the Editor

Blackberry Control and why people don't do it. The Carrot & Stick Effect

It's a bit like asking why do people drive on the Hume Freeway at 110 kph. Is it because

- a) They drive an old banger and it won't go any faster?
- b) Their driving is so bad they think they will crash?
- c) They are worried about the fine, the demerit points, loss of licence, and possibly getting their car impounded?

I think we all know the answer! C) The Stick.

So why don't people control their blackberries?

- a) They don't know what a blackberry is
- b) They know what a blackberry is, but don't care anyway
- c) They know they will not get penalized, even if they trash their property. There is NO STICK.

The Carrot Effect does not work.

Even though they can get subsidized chemicals and a Landcare sprayer (not necessarily at the right time) and can even get subsidized earth moving equipment, we still have a major problem. **Continued p.6**

Managing noxious weeds

<https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/protecting-victoria/legislation-policy-and-permits/managing-noxious-weeds>

All landowners have obligations under the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 (CaLP Act) about declared noxious weeds. A noxious weed may be an agricultural or an environmental weed. There are 4 categories of noxious weeds defined under the CaLP Act:

- state prohibited weeds
- regionally prohibited weeds
- **regionally controlled weeds (NB: Blackberries fall into this category)**
- restricted weeds

A Directions Notice or a Land Management Notice (LMN) is the most commonly used regulatory mechanism to ensure noxious weeds are controlled.

Controlling weeds on your property

Controlling state prohibited weeds

State prohibited weeds either:

- don't occur in Victoria
- occur in Victoria but it's reasonable to expect that they can be eradicated from Victoria

It's the responsibility of the Victorian Government to take all reasonable steps to eradicate state prohibited weeds on all land in Victoria.

Where eradication can't be undertaken immediately, an authorised officer can direct a landowner to prevent the growth and spread of state prohibited weeds for a particular time period. It's an offence to fail to comply with any such direction.



Controlling regionally prohibited weeds

Regionally prohibited weeds are:

- are not widely distributed throughout the region
- are capable of spreading further
- can be expected to be eradicated from the region

It's your responsibility to take all reasonable steps to eradicate regionally prohibited weeds on your property.

If you fail to do so, you may be served with a Directions Notice or Land Management Notice (LMN). The Directions Notice or LMN will direct you to take certain actions to control weeds on your property. If you fail to comply with the Directions Notice or LMN you can be liable for a penalty under the CaLP Act.



Controlling regionally controlled weeds **ie: Blackberries, amongst others!**

Regionally controlled weeds:

- occur in particular regions
- are capable of spreading further
- should be prevented from doing so

Continuing control measures are required to prevent their spread.

It's your responsibility to take all reasonable steps to prevent the growth and spread of regionally controlled weeds.

If you fail in your obligations regarding regionally controlled weeds, you may be served with a Directions Notice or LMN. The Directions Notice or LMN will direct you to take certain actions to control weeds on your property. If you fail to comply with the Directions Notice or LMN you may be liable for a penalty under the CaLP Act.

Managing restricted weeds

These plants would pose an unacceptable risk to other states and territories if they were sold or traded in Victoria. Many species, including some species of willows, are declared restricted.

It's an offence to sell or trade any restricted weeds.

Continued on p.6...

Managing noxious weeds (cont.)

Spreading noxious weeds

Unless you have a permit you can't buy, sell, possess for sale, display, propagate, bring into Victoria or transport within Victoria:

- noxious weeds
- seeds of noxious weeds
- any part of a noxious weed capable of growing

Selling invasive weed host materials

Selling soil sand or gravel

Without a permit from us you can't remove or sell any soil, sand or gravel or stone that contains or is likely to contain any part of a noxious weed or that comes from land on which noxious weeds grow.

Selling fodder or grain

Without a permit you can't remove or sell any fodder or grain that contains the seeds or any part of a noxious weed that is capable of growing.

We can restrict the movement of grain, fodder and equipment if it's likely to spread weeds.

Selling machinery

If you wish to sell or hire or offer for hire any machinery for main production, it must be free from:

- noxious weeds
- their seeds
- any part of the weed that is capable of growing

If you need to sell or hire or offer to hire any machinery for main production that contains noxious weeds, you must get a permit.

Selling animals

You can't sell an animal that is carrying the seeds of a noxious weed without a permit from us unless it's a farm animal being sold directly to a meat processing facility within the meaning of the Meat Industry Act 1993.

Depositing noxious weeds

Without a permit you can't deposit on land a noxious weed or a part of a noxious weed that is capable of germinating.

Direction to remove noxious weeds or restrict movement

Authorised Officers can direct you to remove noxious weeds from infested goods (such as hay) or destroy noxious weeds within a specific time frame.

Authorised Officers can also direct you to restrict the movement of grain, fodder, equipment or animals that they consider likely to spread noxious weeds.

It's an offence to not comply with these directions.



Letter to the Editor - continued from p.4

This has been the policy for the best part of thirty years, and the results are there for everyone to see.

The suggestion to write to the council and/or the department is utterly futile as this has been tried numerous times before. At best you will get most landholders to spray the first year, and some may even spray the following year, and then you are back to square one.

As blackberries do not recognise council or Landcare boundaries, the only feasible approach is for all Landcare groups to combine and write letters of complaint to their local state members. This needs to be done on a co-ordinated front requesting the department be made to do their job. I would suggest if the department is not able or capable of doing this, they should be abolished altogether and save tax payers money.

An alternative to this, would be to suggest the department start issuing fines with all money accumulated going direct to the department. Fines to repeat offenders should be doubled on each subsequent occasion. One would think it would not take long before they had enough funds to employ more staff and our environment would be significantly improved as a result of this action.

Oliver Goodwin's comment regarding "legal responsibilities" may be accurate but a short drive around the district shows the effects of the department's lack of interest or enforcement. People only take legal responsibility seriously when there are negative consequences for failing to do so.

Randal Threlfall – Ruffy (Ex-HCCC member).

ADVANCE NOTICE – SAVE THE DATE

Date - 2nd May 2024 at the Seymour Racecourse

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

We have just secured our Keynote speaker - Matthew Evans

Food Writer, Farmer, Television Broadcaster and Chef
Matthew Evans is a food writer, farmer, television broadcaster and chef.



Matthew lives and works on Fat Pig Farm, a mixed holding where he tends a garden, makes cider, fattens the namesake pigs and tries to entice milk from two full cream dairy cows for his onsite restaurant. Matthew's personal farming journey has been the focus of six series of Gourmet Farmer on SBS, and he has presented two documentaries, For The Love of Meat, and What's The Catch.

Matthew is the author of over a dozen books on food, including the authoritative ethical meat manifesto On Eating Meat. He's an advocate for open, fair, accountable food and farming systems, and has pushed for honest labelling so we can all enjoy sustainable seafood.

His most recent book SOIL is a hymn to the remarkable, and underappreciated bit of Earth that gifts us life. It's a swashbuckling tale of soil that arms us all with the knowledge and respect to care about its health, the perfect complement to his latest completely revised cookbook The Real Food Companion. His next book, MILK, due out in July 2024, unpacks the truth and lies behind the original superfood.

Stay tuned for more details and speakers.

**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.



Results of the 2023 HCCC survey

First on behalf of the executive and staff of HCCC, I would take this opportunity to thank all those who took the time to answer the survey, your input is vital to keep our activities relevant to the community needs. We will use the outcomes and suggestions to set priorities and develop strategies for the next 3 to 5 years.

Who responded to survey?

- 85% resided in the Hughes Creek Catchment region.
- 67% claimed the HCCC region was their principal place of residence.
- 33% were parttime and holiday residences.
- Over 95% said their property was in a rural setting.

Activity of people surveyed.

Activity	%
Farmer – Full and Parttime	44%
Lifestyle	41%
Retired	10%
Digital Nomad	5%

Responses to questions about Landcare and the HCCC

- ☐ 97% said they were aware of the work Landcare does.
- ☐ 82% said knew the work of the HCCC Landcare network.
- ☐ 95% were readers of The Granite News.
- ☐ 98% said they would recommend HCCC to others.
- ☐ 84% thought HCCC makes their property more sustainable.
- ☐ 100% of people surveyed said we should continue to run annual community days.

Results to the question, did you find attending events useful?

Comments	%
Very Useful	96
Not Useful	4

If you have engaged or benefited from the work HCCC does, was it effective?

Comments	%
Extremely effective	80%
Very effective	
Somewhat effective	
Not Effective	3%
None of the above	17%

Issues and concerns

Now we look at the people's concerns and what Landcare can do in the future.

First, we asked them about living in the Catchment.

The response to the question, what are your general concerns in relation to living in the HCCC region?

Score	Concern
17	Water quality
16	Urban sprawl
8	Air quality
7	Wind farms
7	Noise

The we asked what their concerns were regarding farming.

These were the top 4 responses and the current HCCC activities.

The next set of questions were around future activities, these were the top 4 ideas.

Importance	Concern	Current HCCC Activity	Future
1	Weeds	Continue to provide Subsidies for chemicals and providing spraying equipment. Working with Mitchell shire on weed control	
2	Pest animals	Limited at this stage	HCCC need new ideas and suggestion from Members.
3	Soil Health	2 major projects, Soil carbon just concluded. New program on Soil health just started Major forum in May with Keynote speaker Matthew Evan	
4	Bogs and spring	New project starting in January	

Importance	Concern	Current HCCC Activity	Future
1	Weeds	Continued work on Subsidies for chemical and providing spraying equipment. Working with Mitchell shire of weed control	
2	Pest animals	Limited at this stage	Needs new ideas and suggestion from Member.
3	Soil Health	2 major projects, Soil carbon just concluded. New program on Soil health just started Major forum in May with Keynote speaker Matthew Evan	
4	Erosion	No current projects	Ideas for next round of grants.

Remaining survey results in
NEXT week's TGN....
stay tuned.

Proposed resolution regarding FERA wind turbines.

In response to the concerns raised in the recent survey, the HCCC committee propose the presentation of a resolution to our members, to give the HCCC committee and staff a clear course of action.

The proposed resolution seeks to address the prevailing concerns by outlining a set of principles that align with the guidelines laid out by DEECA (Department of Environmental, Energy, and Climate Action). This resolution, if endorsed, would guide the stance of the HCCC in relation to the construction of wind turbines and associated infrastructure within the Hughes Creek Catchment zone.

The committee has agreed to put these resolutions to our members to vote in our next meeting at 7:30pm on February 15th at Ruffy TLC. We encourage all members to attend for this meeting. If unable to attend, please send feedback to HCCC or TGN prior to the meeting.

Outlined below are the key points encapsulated within the resolution:

1. Neutrality in Support or Opposition:

In adherence to the guidelines established by DEECA, HCCC will refrain from either supporting or opposing the construction of wind turbines and associated infrastructure in the Hughes Creek Catchment zone. Instead, the committee will actively engage with relevant stakeholders to ensure that environmental studies incorporate the valuable insights within the knowledge base of HCCC members.

2. Collaborative Oversight: If wind turbines receive governmental approval and all legal channels have been explored, HCCC members consent to the committee collaborating with the companies involved. This collaboration will be geared towards ensuring that all activities align with the conditions stipulated in both the works approval and the environmental impact statement, whether explicitly codified or implicitly implied.

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.

3. Utilisation of Funding Opportunities:

Members further agree to empower HCCC to actively seek and apply for any funding opportunities provided by the companies involved. These funds will be directed towards sustaining and advancing the committee's ongoing efforts to enhance the environmental well-being of the region.

By presenting and voting on this resolution, we aim to establish a clear and collective stance that reflects the diverse perspectives within our membership while ensuring a proactive and responsible approach to environmental stewardship in the Hughes Creek Catchment zone.

Your feedback and engagement in this crucial decision-making process are highly encouraged.

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

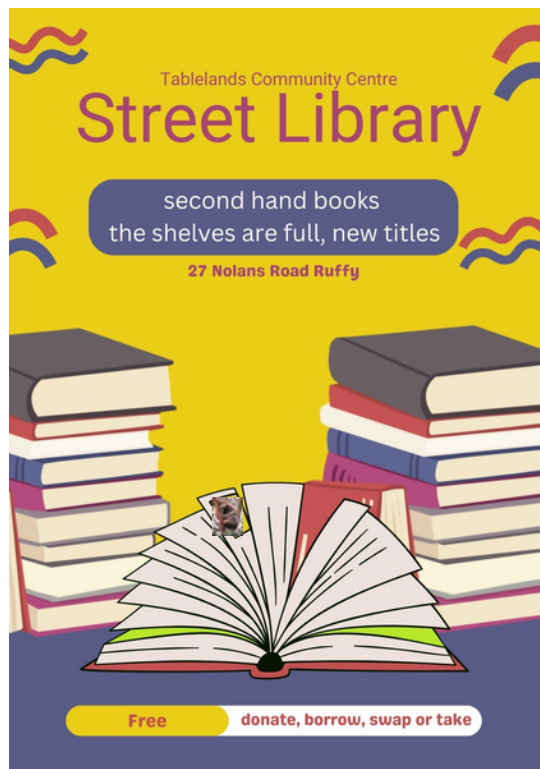
BYO drinks
RSVP essential

(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 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



Save Our Unique Landscape

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

Guest speakers:
Janet Hagen, HCCC Landcare Facilitator
Bert Robert, ecologist
Sam Strong, iNaturalist enthusiast

**RUFFY PUBLIC HALL
NOLANS ROAD
RUFFY**

Sunday 11 February 2024
1-2.30pm

CONTACT AND INFORMATION

EMAIL: info@srccg.com
<https://www.srccg.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

Developing the first Victorian Transmission Plan

Help us plan Victoria's future reliable, affordable and renewable energy grid.



OPEN FOR FEEDBACK - CLOSING 31 JANUARY 2024

LAST CHANCE to Respond !!

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.

WEBSITE - <https://engage.vic.gov.au/victransmissionplan>

<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>@ 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>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>
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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.