

THE GRANITE NEWS



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



4th February 2024 | Volume 18 Issue 4

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

Following on from last week's Blackberry issue 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.

And just in case you missed the next BIG thing on HCCC's agenda for 2024 a most important

Date for your Diary

is

Thursday 2nd May at the Seymour Racecourse

for

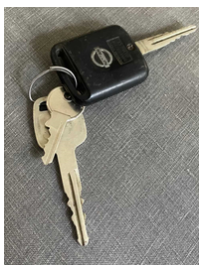
**a Soil Health & Sustainable Farming Workshop
with our Keynote speaker - Matthew Evans**

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

See p.8 for more details, with further details about other excellent speakers still to come...stay tuned!

To paraphrase Roy & HG, when too much sport (actually Landcare information) is never enough, this week's issue also includes the HCCC President - Justus Hagen's AGM Report, reflecting upon 2023's year of amazing achievements (**see p.3**) as well as the final sections of the HCCC survey (**p.4**) that will inform future initiatives and directions for the HCCC and Landcare throughout its area.

Please read on for another interesting issue, Pauline And Kenny? Was looking forward to using the street library in Ruffy



STOP PRESS

Nissan keys found on the road
near Ardroy corner

Contact editor@tgn.org.au

if you recognise them.

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

"Motivation is what gets you started.
Habit is what keeps you going."

Anon.



Month	Highlands	Ruffy	Terip
Jan.	195.4 mm	160 mm	148 mm
2024 Total	195.4 mm	160 mm	148 mm
Rainy Days	8 days	6 days	?? days

NB: Highlands Rainfall was 4x the January average!

	NB: Fully vaccinated attendees are appreciated at all events.	What's On - February 2024
	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 An excellent film about the regeneration of farmland in NSW. @ Avenel Hall 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 Everyone is welcome, put the date in your diary now. @ TCC, Ruffy Enquiries? Justus 0427 524473
Details? See p.10	Mon. 26th Feb. 2-4pm	RUFFY VEGGIE GROWERS CLUB @ 91 Boathole Rd, Ruffy New members are always welcome. Topic - Wicking beds Enquiries Janet 0458 904268
	Thurs. 29th Feb. @ 5.30pm	SECRET MENS' BUSINESS @ Caveat Church All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards BBQ, BYO & chat.
	Fri. 1st March 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
	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

Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative. President's Report: AGM 25/11/2023.

85,000 Hectares!

Let's look at some the things we've done this past year, (not necessarily just the financial year)- it's an impressive list!

Our Soil Carbon Project.-field days and trials, ongoing monitoring, including a Soils Boot camp at Jenny and Rick's place, on a very cold day!

Corridors for Gliders- nest box construction, inspections, spotlight walk (Seymour), tree planting involving St Mary's and Seymour College (Secondary section). Lots more action in Seymour-with much interest in establishing a **Seymour Urban Landcare Group**, along with involvement with BEAM, Biolinks and Mitchell Shire.

Community Lunch/Picnic Days: One on April Fool's Day, (including drone display and spray equipment, weed control talk). This included a delicious spit lamb, superbly cooked by Neil VB. The second was our Afghan Day, with an attendance of over 90 people: This was also a great success. Many thanks to Jenny Webb for all the liaising she had to do to finally make this day happen! We're looking forward to more involvement in the future. (Thanks to Jill Croome from DEECA also, for supplying funds to run this event).

Whiteheads Creek Land: The three blocks of land with historic significance have been handed over to the WHC Landcare group. It's now up to us to manage these small blocks and develop management plans for them.

Whiteheads Creek office upgrade: with Janet and Lesley organising the archives as a start. As an initial Landcare Group, indeed one of the first in the world, there was a lot of archival material to wade through.

Farm Dams Day-at Hagen's place. With ANU, this was a big success, with over 50 attending, on a most unpleasant day!

Financial Planning: over 2 evenings, in order to work out how to fund our projects and manage to stretch our dollars further. A more streamlined accounting system for our treasurer was also adopted.

Deer Control: An information evening with Michelle Hanslow from DEECA at Highlands was very well attended, highlighting the concern around the large increase in deer numbers.

Fungi Day at Avenel, with Alison Poulliot and Janet. A great day with a big attendance, keen to hear the engaging Alison speak.

Grant Applications:

Many thanks to our facilitators for the hard work and research they've carried out in applying for a number of **successful grants, amongst them a still pending Landcare Futures Grant with partnerships with the Euroa Arboretum, Longwood Plains CMN, Strathbogie Ranges Conservation, which could be an exciting new venture. NB: Now Approved!!**

Spray units: We've purchased two smaller spray units for hire by the community, in order to make weed control easier for those on smaller properties, or smaller areas that need spraying.

After many years of faithful service, maintaining, rebuilding and servicing the large spray unit Don Cook has finally retired. Many thanks to Don for his excellent and reliable attention to this job. Our large (2000Litre) spray unit will now be housed at Ruffy, (next to the Landcare Container) and will be maintained by Andy Williams.

Landcare Office: We now have a fast internet service at Ruffy, enabling conference calls, training sessions and speedier communication. It's been a great improvement. Grateful thanks to Neil for getting this up and running.

I-Naturalist: Janet and Samantha Strong have conducted several I Naturalist training sessions in Ruffy and Highlands, encouraging people to put any interesting sightings on the I-Nature App. It's been most successful, with many local postings already.

Granite News: A flagship publication for HCCC, the envy of other Landcare Groups, we've kept going for many, many years. It's part of our community now and we wouldn't dare stop its publication. At the beginning of this year there were 712 subscribers. Many thanks to Pauline for her continuing work as editor, always maintaining a positive and balanced approach.

Wind Farm: The last two years has seen the FERA company put out invitations to landholders to place a number of towers in our area. As a Landcare group we've decided, (indeed, been instructed) to adopt a neutral stance on this issue.

Continued on p.4



Results of the 2023 HCCC survey...continued from last week.

Community days

The next section was regarding the community days the HCCC has been running over the last 3 years.

The overall rating was 4.3.

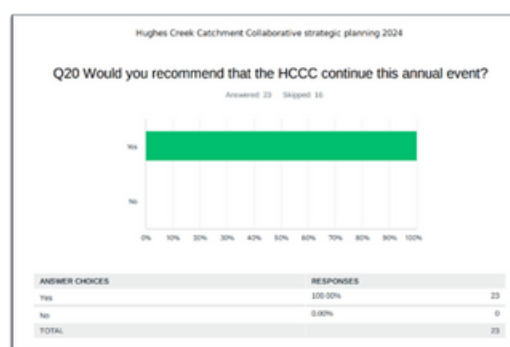


When asked should the HCCC continue this activity, the response was 100% yes?

This was a very clear endorsement by the community on the HCCC initiative.

The following were the suggested topics and themes for future community days.

Importance	Suggested Topic
1	Biodiversity
2	Soil health
3	Pests and weeds
4	Climate change
4	Native species



Summary

This main concern of the survey can be summarised by the adjoining table and the staff and executive will be taking this aboard when setting priorities over the next 3 – 5 years.

Many thanks, once again, to those TGN readers who contributed to the survey. Your input was invaluable and most appreciated.

- Weeds
- Pest animals
- Soil health
- Biodiversity
- Bogs and springs

HCCC President's Report continued from p.3

Wind Farm: However we have always indicated that the HCCC will be a watchdog for the environment, monitoring impacts to our area. It was to this end also that the training sessions for i-Naturalist were commenced, and continued dialogue with FERA conducted with other landcare and environmental groups.

Survey: Neil has organised another Landcare Survey, similar to the last , very successful, and insightful survey he put out and analysed several years ago. We're looking forward to the results of this one.

Lastly, many thanks to our Secretary, Sue and our treasurer Neville. We're grateful for the time spent keeping the books in order and keeping us on track with meeting dates and minutes.

I can't stress how fortunate we are in the HCCC that we have such fabulous facilitators: the hours of planning, field work and liaisons with other groups have placed our group in one of the top Landcare Groups in the state, if not the country. Behind the facilitators are all our members: without the positive backing of our community any achievements would be impossible.

I've probably left out many other items and highlights, and I don't want to make this too long. Many, many thanks to everyone who has helped make all our events happen, either by attending, working behind the scenes or tidying up after events!

Justus Hagen, President. HCCC

Strathbogrie Granite Project

We provide updates on this project from time to time to supplement our community presentations, informal meetings and publications. 2023 was a busy and productive year, and the field and laboratory activities will continue into 2024 with a slightly different focus and new people involved.

The Strathbogrie Granite Project is a collaboration between researchers from Melbourne and Stellenbosch in South Africa. The focus is the Strathbogrie Ranges—the iconic granite hills and plateaus from Tallarook to Mt Samaria in central Victoria. The project has been built around collaboration between Professor John Clemens at the University of Stellenbosch in South Africa, Professor Neil Phillips of the University of Melbourne, and their colleagues and postgraduates.

In 2023 we published our map of the southern boundary of the granite, a long term project covering the ground from Barjarg to Gobur to Yea, right around the Tallarook plateau, Seymour and to Avenel. As an aside, 100 landowners straddle this boundary and gave us access to their land – a big thank you.

Accompanying the scientific paper are a dozen maps, all publicly available, and, we hope, not too technical. We are having discussions with geophysicists at Monash University to see if we can extract a better understanding of the 3-D shape of the granite by combining our forces.

The Avenel Granite Treks have visited several areas in the northwest of the granite and will continue in 2024 with some plans already underway. Even continual rain could not dampen the Seymour Agricultural Society inspired trip around Greenslopes Road and the Goulburn River; and meeting with the enthusiastic Young Hearts on Mt Wombat was an inspiration.

Regional communities have access to the research outcomes through community presentations, informal verbal reports, and geological input during field days and excursions. During the Project, community presentations have been given at Yea, Tallarook, Seymour, Avenel, Euroa, Creighton Creek, Gooram, Mt Wombat, Strathbogrie, Warrenbayne, Swanpool, Benalla, Melbourne and Bendigo (and South Africa and Portugal).

We have had scientific meetings at Stellenbosch in early 2023 and then John Clemens visited Australia late in the year to extend his field work. Dr Arthur Day helped plan field trips last year and continues his interest this year. Professor Alex Kisters from Stellenbosch joins us in the field in March 2024 as we revisit some of our favourite field sites. We also collaborate with the granite researchers in Porto, Portugal in a part of the world with a large industry cutting their granite with diamond wires and abundant water.

Thank you again to the land holders, both on the granite boundary and right across the plateau, who have generously given access to their land for our field work.

Neil Phillips, PO Box 3 Central Park 3145 Victoria.
neil.phillips@bigpond.com &
John Clemens, University of Stellenbosch,
South Africa,
jclemens@sun.ac.za.

January 2024

Interested in further details... contact
Neil Phillips, PO Box 3 Central Park 3145 Victoria,
neil.phillips@bigpond.com



Gang Gangs ~ an Endangered local icon

The HCCC committee and the TGN Editor are exceedingly grateful for the altruistic support of those readers who sponsor either fauna or flora on the back page of The Granite News. Over the last few years this wonderful group of supporters has grown considerably which is seriously appreciated. However, when I commenced as Editor 7 years ago, I think there was just one supporter ad on that page and over the years they have highlighted the following wildlife - Lace Monitor, Sugar Glider, Rakali, Greater Glider, Spotted Pardalote and the Eastern Small-eyed Snake. This year it is the turn of one of our local and endangered birds - the Gang Gang. Read on to find out more about these magnificent birds. **Ed.**

"Unlike its raucous relatives, especially the sulphur-crested cockatoos, corellas and galahs, Gang Gang cockatoos go relatively quietly in the world. Often, the first indication you have of their presence is a soft crunching sound coming from the top of a tree accompanied by a shower of debris from partly eaten eucalyptus or wattle seed capsules. However, when in flight, you may also hear their distinctive, drawling, squeaky call that has been likened to the swinging of a rusty gate or a cork being slowly twisted from a bottle.



The Gang Gang is a fairly small cockatoo, about the size of a galah. In fact, genetic studies have shown that galahs and gang gangs are side-by-side on the cockatoo evolutionary tree. The male has a grey body with a bright orange-red head topped by a wispy, raffish crest. The female is duller in appearance with a grey body and grey crest but with soft red and yellow edges on the rows of her breast feathers. Immature birds look like the adult females although the young males often sport a mottled red and grey crest.

These rather delightful cockatoos are found throughout south-eastern Australia from central NSW through the ACT to Victoria, with a separate, introduced population on Kangaroo Island. Although they were once found on King Island, they have been considered extinct in this location since the mid-1960s.

In the spring and summer, they favour the cooler, wetter mountain forests because this is where they find the tall trees with nest hollows that are so essential for their breeding activities. However, in the autumn and winter, they move down to lower altitudes and can be found in dry, open forests and woodlands, as well as suburban parks and gardens. Here, they like to dine on the bright red berries of introduced species such as hawthorn and cotoneaster bushes as well as the fruits and nuts of exotic and native trees. They also eat insects and are one of the few birds who will tackle the 'spitfire' larvae of sawflies. In suburban locations, it's possible to get quite close to these birds as they are not particularly bothered by human presence.

Gang Gang cockatoos mate for life. The females select a suitable nest hollow and then both sexes prepare the nest for egg-laying by lining it with woodchips which they excavate from the side of the hollow with their strong beaks. Pairs tend to return to the same nest hollow year after year. The female usually lays 2 - 3 eggs and then both sexes work together to incubate the eggs and feed the chicks. Once the chicks have fledged, the parents continue to feed them for a further 4 - 6 weeks. In situations where several pairs of gang gangs have nested close together, the young of all the birds gather in the one tree while their parents are out foraging for food, forming a kind of avian creche. The parents of the birds have also been observed to act co-operatively, sometimes chasing off threats to a neighbouring bird's unattended nest hollow.

Sadly, however, the gorgeous Gang Gang is under threat. Monitoring by BirdLife Australia has shown that the numbers of these birds declined by 69% in the 20 years between 1989 and 2009. It is thought that loss of habitat from land clearing, timber felling and urban and rural development is driving much of this decline. Competition for nesting hollows from species with burgeoning populations, such as the sulphur-crested cockatoo and brush-tail possum could also be a factor.

Continued on p.7

Goulburn Valley Water recruiting for new customer panel

Goulburn Valley Water is calling for customers to provide feedback and help shape future projects and priorities by registering an expression of interest for a new customer panel.

The Customer Accountability Panel will provide a key customer voice to reflect annually on progress across the 2023-28 Price Plan, which sets out GVW's key priorities and projects for the next five years.

GVW Managing Director Steve Capewell said the new panel would be a continuation of the work achieved by customers as part of the previous 2018-23 Price Plan and during consultation and development of the current plan.

"Our customer panels have provided some really important insights and valuable feedback, and we're committed to continuing to have a customer voice as we progress through our current five-year plan," Dr Capewell said.

"We are keen to work with another group of customers who will help us review progress on our commitments, and also contribute their views on future projects over the next couple of years. We genuinely want to engage broadly and deeply and so we encourage any customers with an interest in our water future to register their interest in selection on the panel."

The new panel will be drawn from GVW's 54 towns and will include representation from homeowners, tenants, businesses and future customers. It will also include members of the 2018-23 Annual Performance Forum and Customer Carbon Advisory Group to create a balance of fresh insights and prior experience.

The 2023-28 Price Plan is centred on four promises:

- provide reliable water and wastewater services customers can trust
- lead action and partner with communities to grow the region
- care for the environment and adapt to a future impacted by climate variability
- deliver respectful and responsive customer service, balancing affordability, value for money and fairness.

Investment in renewable energy, supporting customers experiencing financial hardship and renewing existing assets and infrastructure to ensure reliable service into the future are three of the major commitments.

For more information or to submit an expression of interest, visit
<http://gvwater.vic.gov.au/customer-accountability-panel>

The expression of interest deadline is Friday 8 March 2024



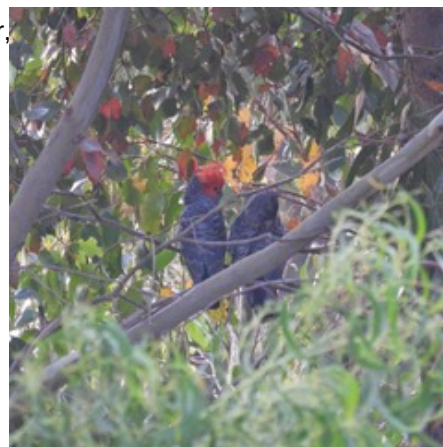
Gang Gangs... continued from p.6

After Victoria's Black Saturday bushfires in 2009, the situation for the Gang Gang became even more dire with 23% of the birds' habitat being burnt - much of it severely - and an estimated 10% of the entire population being killed. The advent of the Black Summer bushfires in Victoria and NSW in 2019 - 2020 was another severe blow to these birds. These fires affected 36% of the gang gang's range and led to another drop in numbers of 21%.

Fortunately, the Gang Gang's dire predicament has now been recognised by the previous Federal Government, as in 2022, the environment minister, Sussan Ley, accepted the recommendation of the threatened species scientific committee that this little cockatoo needs protection under Australia's environmental laws.

The Gang Gang has now been listed as "Endangered" which means that it is at high risk of extinction and a national recovery plan, led by a working group in the ACT, has been developed. Hopefully, this will mean that this bird's iconic 'squeaky gate' call will be heard throughout south-eastern Australia's forests, parks and gardens for decades to come."

Article by Carol Hopkins
Murrindindi Guide - Winter 2022.



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.

And ONE more thing about Gang Gangs....

as well as adding any sightings of Gang Gangs to the i-Natutaliste's environmental knowledge base of the local HCCC area...

You can also download Birdlife Australia's Birddata App and add to that organisation's database about this iconic and severely threatened species.

Long may that treasured sound of 'squeaky gates' be a part of our bush and backyards!

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.

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.



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

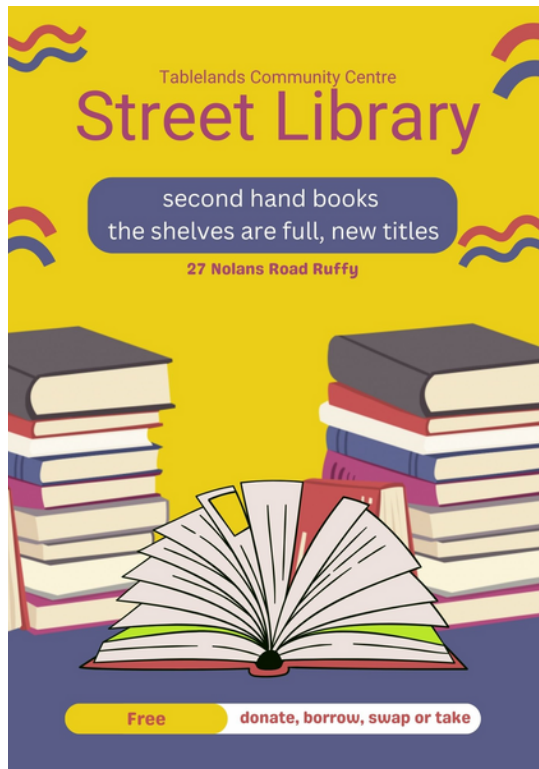
BYO drinks
RSVP essential

(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





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:
Bert Robert, ecologist
Janet Hagen, HCCC Landcare Facilitator
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 Ramblers

will be restarting in March, after all the HOT summer weather (which is yet to arrive) finishes

So the next Date for your Diary is

Sunday 31st March @ 10am

from outside the Highlands Hall



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

FIRE PLANNER AND CAN I OR CAN'T I?

Victoria is one of the most fire prone areas in the world. All Victorians need to know how to plan for, and respond to fire. How you respond depends on your situation but by taking the time to prepare, you can reduce your risk and help keep your loved ones safe.

The online Fire Planner can help you get started in as little as 10 minutes, visit fireplanner.vic.gov.au

To find out what you can and can't do during the declared Fire Danger Period, and on days of Total Fire Ban, when fires in the open air are legally restricted, visit the CFA website cfa.vic.gov.au and search "Can I".

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 COMMUNITY AWARDS OPEN UNTIL 24 MARCH!

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? Nominate them for a Community Award!

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

You can also pick up a paper nomination form from any of our Library and Customer Service Centres and the Mobile Library.

The 2024 Award winners will be announced 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

COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY

Council would like to inform residents that from now until mid-March, your household may receive a call from an independent market research agency, National Field Services.

They are conducting a survey on behalf of Council. Similar surveys will be undertaken across all Victorian councils. It is designed to assess the performance of Murrindindi Shire Council across a range of measures and to identify ways to provide improvement or more effective service delivery to residents.

We appreciate you taking the time to assist us with your valuable feedback. Please be assured that your details and individual responses are confidential and no identifying information is shared with Council.

National Field Services will:

- never ask for people by name
- always identify as National Field Services and introduce themselves by name
- always give an estimate of survey length
- always call from a landline, never a mobile number, usually beginning (03) 9977....

UPDATE ON ANNUAL ROAD PROGRAMS

Works are underway on a number of Council's Annual Road Programs including the Gravel Roads Resheeting and Sealed Roads Major Patching Programs.

For more information and the latest updates, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/projects

RATES REMINDER

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

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, or for more information, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/rates

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

<p>HABBIES HOWE BEEF</p> <p>MATURE, WELL HUNG & AVAILABLE</p> <p>IGA SEYMOUR GARY'S MEATS, PRAHRAN MARKET</p> <p>L&L MEATS, BENTLEIGH</p> <p>SCOTCH AND FILLET ST HELENA, MENTONE & MERNDA</p>	<p>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</p> <p>T: Office - 9785 7339</p> <p>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</p> <p>CRT 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</p> <p>Licence no. 105134</p> <p>ben@bencoplumbingservices.com.au bencoplumbingservices.com</p>
 <p>nomad art</p> <p>Online & by appointment</p> <p>Avenel, M: 0428 308 793 www.nomadart.com.au</p> <p>Limited edition prints from regional and remote Australia</p>	<p>KOPANICA PASTORAL EXCAVATIONS & CARTAGE</p>  <p>DAMS EARTHWORKS STOCK+WATER CARTAGE & MORE</p> <p>0429 804 235</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>Ideal for Private or Community gatherings</p> <p>Meetings, Workshops</p> <p>Very reasonable rates</p> <p>Hosts 1st Friday BBQs</p> <p>Contact tccruffy@gmail.com</p> <p>Ph 0404 833 388</p>	 <p>PATON HELICOPTERS</p> <p>For All your Aerial Spraying or Spreading Needs. Specialising in Blackberries, Broadleaf, Thistles, Spreading lime/fertilizer & More</p> <p>Call 0484108854 48 Magills Lane Maindample 3723</p> 	<p>Donated by supporters of our local koala population</p> 
<p>Donation from supporters of our local Gang Gangs</p> 	<p>HIGHLANDS GROVE</p> <p>Australian, locally produced premium extra virgin olive oil.</p> <p>Farm gate pick up or delivery available.</p> <p>0417 018 070</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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>Strathbogrie Granite Project</p> <p>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.