

THE GRANITE NEWS



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



25th February 2024 | Volume 18 Issue 7

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

Another crazy week of weather across the state and the HCCC area is fortunate that the late February bushfires, experienced further west in the Grampians and around Beaufort, have not been replicated in our local area.

Whilst last Thursday's forecast was only the second Total Fire Ban Day this summer for the HCCC area the danger rating of High was upgraded to Extreme fairly rapidly when the predicted wind factor was considered.

It appears that next Wednesday is going to see similar weather conditions impact the state with temperatures in the mid to high 30s and another northerly wind to accompany the heat. As we know from past experience this can be a fatal combination, so if you have any fire precautions still needing to be done or fire plans to be finalised now is a good time to consider doing them.

Please read on for another interesting issue, Pauline And Kenny? Was checking out the Goulburn Valley Water logo.

Weeding out Invaders

A collaboration of state and federal organisations and government bodies funded by the National Landcare Program, has resulted in an Australina first - an app that can identify more than 450 priority invasive weeds country-wide, from Afghan melon to Yorkshire fog.

Weedscan harnesses AI (Artificial Intelligence) to identify weeds, then records your findings for you to use or share with the relevant authority.

Some 120,000 images were captured by the CSIRO weed botanists to train the AI algorithm, so that users can take photos of weeds on their phone and identify them from the app. This is a game changer for farmers, community groups or anyone interested in protecting and generating native habitat...and best of all it's **FREE!**



Download the app at weedscan.org.au
(Article from Gardening Australia - March 2024)

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

"Life begins after coffee."







Sign seen at the Penguin Bakery, Tasmania



Like to find out how the volcano eruption in Tonga from 2022 may affect Australia's weather for up to eight years?

Click on the link to discover more

<http://tinyurl.com/3kecvh6x>

	NB: Fully vaccinated attendees are appreciated at all events.	What's On - February & March 2024
	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 MEN'S 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
	Sat 2nd & Sun 3rd Mar. 10-4	DARREN GILBERT'S OPEN STUDIO @ 5 Gifford St, Yea Open the first weekend each month - discover some stunning artwork.
	Fri. 8th March @ 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
	Thurs. 14th March @ 7.30	HCCC MONTHLY MEETING @ Caveat Church Everyone is welcome, put the date in your diary now. Enquiries? Justus 0427 524473
	Thurs. 28th March 6-8pm	HIGHLANDS BOOK CLUB @ Highlands Community Hall All welcome, BYO plate to share & preferred beverage. Gold coin donation. 'Thursday Murder Club' by Richard Osman & 'Food, Sex and Money' by Liz Byski are up for discussion. Enquiries? Robyn 0409 528235
	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 6th & 20th March.
	Mon. 5th Feb @ 7pm	TABLE TENNIS MONDAYS @TCC Ruffy Come along & have some fun! Enquiries? 0427 690970 or tccruffy@gmail.com
	1st & 3rd Tuesdays 1-3	DIGITAL & ON-LINE LEARNING @ TCC, 27 Nolans Rd, Ruffy 5th & 19th March 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

Grazing for Soil Health Workshop "Healthy Soils in the Hughes Creek Catchment" Landcare project

Vanessa Malandrin, HCCC Project Coordinator

Dear Readers,
Bookings have already started to come in for the workshop "Grazing for Soil Health" with Dr Judi Earl, planned for **Wednesday the 27th of March, from 9 am to 4 pm**, in the Hughes Creek Catchment. To make sure this workshop is tailored to the participants' needs, [we kindly invite you to complete a brief online survey at this link](#).

And if you'd like to learn more about Judi's approach to grazing, you'll be able to find several videos and other resources at [this link](#).

Last year I had the chance to attend a presentation given by Judi in Nagambie, and I was impressed by her knowledge and her capacity to engage with the public. On that specific occasion, the focus was on horse health and grazing management, which I found very interesting. Therefore, if you have horses on your property and you didn't think of soil health as an interest or a priority for you, I will invite you to reconsider that!

The subjects covered in the workshop 'Grazing for Soil Health' will include:

- The key biological, physical and chemical characteristics of a healthy soil.
- Why plants (grasses) are so important for soil health.
- How plants respond to defoliation (grazing).
- How grazing management influences plant growth and production.
- Assessing pastures and pasture growth.
- Feed budgeting.
- Introduction to grazing planning and what tools are available out there.

If you live within the Hughes Creek Catchment area and you'd like to host this workshop, please feel free to get in touch with me at vanessa@hccclandcare.net.au

To book your spot at the workshop, please RSVP at the same address. Thank you.



Scoff Gathering 2024 - Strathbogie Rec Ground Sunday 17th March 1:30pm

Please join the Scoff'rs (**Strathbogie Community of Food Finders**) on Sunday 17th March, 1:30pm, for a Meet and Greet at the Strathbogie Rec Ground

Bring your excess jams, chutneys, scobies, jellies, pickles and any other preserves you have kicking around that you would like to trade! Thanks Natasha for the preserve swap inspiration!

Excess produce, seedlings and seeds are also welcome. The Scoff Seed Box will be there.

Recipes are welcome. Nothing to swap - doesn't matter - come along anyway, meet and greet is the main idea.

Bring a small plate of something to share for arvo tea.

Please bring a gold coin donation for use of the Rec Ground.
Contact: Laura Binks 0438 509 833 / laurajpbinks@gmail.com

Letter to the Editor

Indian Mynas are an introduced species which when established have a devastating effect on many native species. They aggressively compete for nesting hollows displacing nesting birds and mammals, kill eggs and chicks of other nesting birds, and predate on small reptiles. Indian mynas can even evict large birds such as magpies and kookaburras from their nests. They spread disease and reduce amenity through raucous and incessant calls and fouling under their roost sites.

For these reasons, they are one of only three birds on the World Conservation Union's list of 100 most invasive species.

Unfortunately, Indian Mynas are now rapidly establishing across the tablelands, with sighting of large flocks of these pest birds becoming a regular occurrence. This places the wonderful diversity of fauna across the region at very significant risk. In areas where these birds spread unchecked, they can rapidly become the dominant bird species and native species may only be rarely seen.

Indian Myna numbers have been successfully reduced in many locations through trapping in a specially designed trap which traps mynas without also trapping native species, and humanely destroying the birds. Key to a trapping program working is coordination and sharing of resources.



I am wondering if there is sufficient interest in the area to establish a coordinated myna trapping program, either by maintaining a trap on your own property or by being willing to host a trap that could be managed for you.

Ideally, we would be focused on trapping throughout the autumn and winter where it can be most effective. This will need to be an ongoing project as it is extremely unlikely that the bird can now be locally eradicated but if enough people get involved, we may be able to reduce their numbers and alleviate some of the pressure on native species.

If you are interested in becoming involved in helping to reduce the presence of this pest species, please let me know by emailing tablelandmynaproject@myyahoo.com and I will arrange a local meeting to get things moving.

Andrew Holloway, Terip Terip.

NB: It appears that Indian Mynas are a serious issue across Australia as a quick scan of the internet brings up the following info/links. It seems that you can either make or buy Indian Myna traps, but for a co-ordinated approach across the HCCC area contact Andrew to register your interest - see above. Ed.

HOW TO BUILD YOUR OWN INDIAN MYNA TRAP

Peter Green from the Canberra Indian Myna Action Group designed the Pee Gee's Myna trap specifically for for Indian (Common) Mynas and Starlings. Clarence Valley Conservation in Action (CVCIA in NSW) has made some modifications mainly for humane reasons, we still exclusively use and recommend this trap design. These traps are to be used for the sole purpose of removing Starlings and Indian Mynas. They must be used in accordance with your local Animal Welfare Act.

Users of these traps must commit to the humane treatment and euthanasia of captured birds.

It is extremely important that correct advice and procedures for trapping be sought and followed as an incorrect technique can lead to trap shyness of birds & may compromise the trapping program for all.

More information about trapping and euthanasia is available on these websites:

www.cvcia.org.au or www.indianmynaaction.org.au

- Click on this link <http://tinyurl.com/5bm56w9f> to make Peter Green's trap design
- It appears that the best bait to use is dry red coloured cat food however dried white bread, pet pellets and leftovers are OK
- What's in a name? Don't confuse the introduced feral Indian Myna with our native Noisy Minor, they are protected and the difference in colouring is obvious.



HIGHLANDS / CAVEAT RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

BRIGADE MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

Please see below for the Brigade Management Structure indicating positions available for nomination at our next AGM.

This will be held at the **Highlands Hall on Thursday 11th April 2024 commencing at 7.30pm.**

Nominations can be made on the night of the meeting, or prior to by phoning David Webb on **0417 150 113**. If there is more than 1 person nominated for a position the decision will be made by a show of hands.

Please note, you must be a CFA member to enable you to vote.

Scott McKay - HCRFB Captain

Captain	VFBV Delegates x 2
1st Lieutenant	Yea Group Delegates x 2
2nd Lieutenant	Brigade Training
3rd Lieutenant	Training Co-ordinator
4th Lieutenant	Asset Maintenance
Communications Officer	Catering
Community Safety Co-ordinator	Brigade Chairperson
Secretary	Brigade Support
Treasurer	

Thanks for your interest and support.

ADVANCE NOTICE – SAVE THE DATE

2nd May 2024 at the Seymour Racecourse

The HCCC 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

Stay tuned for more details and further speakers

On your bike..... see next page for route options and more details

CycleDindi 24 will return for an eighth time in nine years on Saturday 16th March 2024 and will showcase the wonderfully scenic Great Victorian Rail Trail, through the Shires of Murrindindi and Mansfield.

Organised by the Rotary Clubs of Yea and Alexandra with assistance from the Friends of the Great Victorian Rail Trail, CycleDindi 24 is a fully supported, family friendly bicycle ride that starts at either Alexandra, Merton or Yea. You choose where to start and where you ride to, and how long you wish to ride for. Adults are \$50 and seniors \$40, regardless of the ride undertaken. School age children remain \$10 with group discounts available on request.

Lunch (provided) is by the Goulburn River on private property at Cathkin and riders always enjoy this scenic and peaceful location. There will again be a coffee van on site for you to purchase your caffeine fix and delicious hot damper to sample. The shearing shed, is the most popular attraction on the ride with a chance to view sheep dogs at work and enjoy a delicious home-made Devonshire tea (included in the entry price).

For those not riding, but supporting riders, you are welcome to visit Nutfield for morning tea and join in at lunch, both for a modest cost. Directions available at Yea registration desk or email cycledindi24@gmail.com

The trail is a beautiful journey, traversing rolling hills with stunning views and including a ride through the historic Cheviot Tunnel.

CycleDindi 24 is a major fundraiser to support a variety of youth programs in the communities of Yea, Alexandra and Mansfield.

Entry forms are available at Rotary websites www.yearotary.org.au or www.rotaryalexandra.org.au and follow CycleDindi24 updates on Facebook.

Queries to cycledindi24@gmail.com and bookings via direct deposit or through <https://www.trybooking.com/CMRGJ>

Cycle Dindi M

over the hills and not so far away

SATURDAY
16 MARCH 2024

**A charity bicycle event
along the Great
Victorian Rail Trail**

Registrations open January 2024
E: cycledindi24@gmail.com

The event on the Great Victorian Rail Trail will be centred on the lovely townships of Yea and Alexandra. There will be a choice of 3 starting points, all converging on the banks of the Goulburn River at Cathkin for lunch.

This event is a fund raiser for Rotary Youth Projects.

Rotary

Clubs of Alexandra and Yea
and the Friends of the GVRT



What do I get for my money?

- Billy tea, damper and BBQ lunch at Cathkin
- Free admission to Nutfield a working farm, with free Devonshire Tea in the shearing shed, sheep dog demonstration and trailer ride.

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

DISTANCE	
Yea to Merton (return)	93 kms
Merton to Yea (return)	93 kms
Merton to Cathkin (return)	51 kms
Yea to Cathkin (return)	42 kms
Yea to Alexandra (return)	68 kms
Alexandra to Yea (return)	68 kms
Alexandra to Cathkin (return)	26 kms

<https://www.trybooking.com/CMRGJ>

How Much?

Adult \$50
Senior \$40
Student \$10



- Under school age free
- SNR – relevant Seniors' card must be held
- Group discount available on request

Interested?

contact Melinda (Alexandra) **0418 378 806**
Julie (Yea) **0447 762 557**
or Ross (Mansfield) **0439 046 199**
www.rotaryalexandra.org.au
www.yearotary.org.au

Cindy McLEISH MP
State Member for EILDON



HCCC Landcare Facilitators are essential - read on to discover more...

The HCCC's 3 wonderful facilitators - Janet Hagen, Neil van Buuren and Vanessa Malandrin - do a fantastic job of raising our communities' awareness of all things environmental, as well as assisting with individual landholders' queries and concerns about their plans for the future.

Unfortunately, all three positions are subject to the vagaries of ongoing funding and applications for this funding come around with monotonous regularity. Each time there is uncertainty as to the success of these applications and the HCCC Committee can only hope that the funding will continue, in order for the excellent programs offered to continue and develop. So....

If you are interested in having a say on the Vic Landcare Facilitator program, there are a couple of opportunities to get involved – see information below.

Consultation for the Victorian Landcare Facilitator Program review is now [open on Engage Vic](#).

There are opportunities to provide feedback until 20 March 2024.

How to get involved

Online survey – click [here](#) to complete the survey. Available to everyone

Online workshops – visit **Engage Vic** and scroll down for dates, times and to register.

Workshops are being held for:

- Landcare facilitators
- Groups/networks supported by a Landcare facilitator and VLFP funding recipients/ employers of a Landcare facilitator.
- Interviews – A sample of Landcare facilitators, groups/networks and VLFP funding recipients/ employers will be approached for interview.

About the review

The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) is looking towards future planning for the Victorian Landcare Facilitator Program. To ensure the program continues to deliver effective and efficient support for the Landcare and environmental volunteer community, we want to hear from stakeholders about what makes the program great, and what can be improved.

The Victorian Landcare Facilitator Program is an important part of supporting Landcare and environmental volunteers around Victoria. Landcare facilitators are highly valued by the community. Networks and other organisations employing facilitators play a crucial role in enabling community support.

Your input will be vital throughout the review process. We have engaged the consulting company RMCG to undertake an independent stakeholder engagement process. RMCG will analyse and collate everyone's feedback and provide this de-identified feedback back to us for consideration in the review.

To learn more and have your say before 20 March 2024, [visit Engage Vic](#).

If you have any issues or would like a hard copy of the survey, please contact **Kirstie Lee** directly - **0437 310840** or kerstiel@bcma.vic.gov.au and she will organise one to be sent to you.



Highlands Book Club.

The next **THURSDAY night Bookclub at Highlands Hall** is scheduled for **28th March from 6-8pm**

We are reading 'Thursday Murder Club' by Richard Osman & 'Food, Sex and Money' by Liz Byski.

Other books read and suggestions are also shared.
BYO plate to share, refreshments & gold coin donation.

🌸 **ALL WELCOME** 🌸

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

FREE !!

Peugeot 1975 10 speed



Peugeot 1975 Unisex 10 speed



And also 12'x 18' yellow canvas tent.

All free to good homes.

Ring John 0402 071 636

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.



February = Ovarian Cancer Month

Here are some common misconceptions about Ovarian Cancer



1. A pap smear diagnoses ovarian cancer - **FALSE**
2. Ovarian cancer is the most lethal gynaecological cancer - **TRUE**
3. The Human Papilloma Virus Vaccine (HPV) protects against ovarian cancer - **FALSE**
4. There is no early detection test for ovarian cancer - **TRUE**

The signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer are often vague or non-specific in the early stages, such as unexplained weight changes and appetite loss. This is one of the key reasons as to why ovarian cancer is so lethal and is mostly diagnosed in the advanced stages (3 and 4).

The most common symptoms and silent signs of ovarian cancer are:

- ☐ Unexplained weight loss
- ☐ Vague abdominal pain or pressure
- ☐ Feeling of abdominal fullness, gas, nausea, indigestion - different to your normal sensations
- ☐ Sudden abdominal swelling, weight gain or bloating
- ☐ Persistent changes in bowel or bladder patterns
- ☐ Low backache or cramps

If in doubt, check it out! NEVER ignore any symptoms that don't feel right.

LEARN NATURAL SEQUENCE FARMING

A 4-day course to get you reading your landscape, rehydrating your farm and maximising productivity, by implementing Natural Sequence Farming and beginning to work alongside nature. Starting with our five pillars.



SLOW THE FLOW

Learn how the landscape remained hydrated and running at full efficiency. Develop the skills to locate, design and build natural landscape structures.



LET ALL PLANTS GROW

Plants along with water are the builders of our system. Understand the role that plants play in the landscape and how they can be used to their full potential.



CAREFUL WHERE THE ANIMALS GO

Learn to observe the interaction of livestock with the landscape and recognise the role they play as tools within our production systems.



FILTRATION IS A MUST KNOW

Understand the process of filtration and where it occurs within the landscape.



RETURN TO THE TOP TO RECYCLE THE LOT

Learn how to recycle the nutrients back to the top to best reduce losses and how to reconnect your landscape.

Avenel, VIC: 25 - 28 March 2024

Early Bird Price: \$2,700 incl. GST per person

Email info@tarwynparktraining.com.au Visit tarwynparktraining.com.au Follow [@tarwynparktraining](https://www.instagram.com/tarwynparktraining)



<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>
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 <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 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 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.