

# THE GRANITE NEWS



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



10th March 2024 | Volume 18 Issue 9

## Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

Thank you so much to those TGN readers who have recently decided to add themselves to the HCCC Membership list. This brings our members up to 198 which is soooooo close to the aspirational goal of 200. To quote Lleyton Hewitt "C'mon!" because I'm really hoping that we can get over that line in the coming week with just 2 more readers. C'mon!

Whenever the HCCC facilitators go to Landcare meetings and workshops they find themselves being congratulated on, not only the amazing regenerative work and the generation of land care awareness that the HCCC undertakes, but this little weekly epistle as well. If you are reading this then you are obviously interested in this excellent environmental stewardship, so why not take one more step and officially support it by becoming a member?

Please note that the **NEXT HCCC - Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative meeting** has moved on a week from Thursday 14/3 to the following **Thursday 21/3**. Still at the Caveat Church and still at 7.30pm. Why not come along and meet the facilitators and find out what environmental plans are in store for our communities.

Don't forget that Easter is really early this year - Good Friday 29th March which means that there are only 2 more issues of TGN until its 2 week break, returning on Sunday 14th April. So, if you have an event that needs publicising or something for sale then get organised and send the information to the Editor ASAP. Thanks.

Please read on for another interesting issue, Pauline And Kenny? Was trying to give away Judy's couch... and he did!

## Cricket is BACK!!



The Richmond Over 60's are playing The Wilderness at Ruffy on Saturday 16th March - 11.00am start.

Anyone who wishes to play please contact Scott McKay 0427 969259.

Feedback? [editor@tgn.org.au](mailto:editor@tgn.org.au)  
or to subscribe on-line go to  
[www.highlands.org.au](http://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

"Women should be someone and not something."

Mary Cassett (1844 - 1926)

American painter & printmaker who exhibited her work with the French Impressionists



And did anyone guess why you need to check your shoes at the end of summer?

Because there's a very comfortable snake in the left shoe!

	NB: Fully vaccinated attendees are appreciated at all events.	What's On - March & April 2024
 <b>NB: Date change</b>	<b>Monday 18th March @ 11am</b>	<b>HIGHLANDS SPINNERS</b> @ 450 Caveat-Dropmore Rd The highland Spinning Club will get together at the same place and the same time with the same good company. BYO lunch and great tea & coffee will be provided. <b>Enquiries? Jan - 5790 4361</b>
<b>NB: Date change</b>	<b>Thurs. 21st March @ 7.30</b>	<b>HCCC MONTHLY MEETING</b> @ Caveat Church Everyone is welcome, put the date in your diary now. <b>Enquiries? Justus 0427 524473</b>
<b>It's back in 2024</b>	<b>Sat. 23rd March @ 7pm</b>	<b>THE GREAT TERIP TRIVIA NIGHT</b> - see p.4 for more details - @ Terip Rec Reserve
<b>Details? See p.3</b>	<b>Wed. 27th March 9-4</b>	<b>FREE GRAZING WORKSHOP</b> @ HCCC VENUE TBC All welcome! <b>Enquiries? Vanessa - <a href="mailto:vanessa@hccclandcare.net.au">vanessa@hccclandcare.net.au</a></b>
	<b>Thurs. 28th March @ 5.30</b>	<b>SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS</b> @ Caveat Church All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards BBQ, BYO & chat.
	<b>Thurs. 28th March 6-8pm</b>	<b>HIGHLANDS BOOK CLUB</b> @ Highlands Community Hall All welcome, BYO plate to share & preferred beverage. Gold coin donation. 'Thursday Murder Club' by Richard Oscan & 'Food, Sex and Money' by Liz Byski are up for discussion. <b>Enquiries? Robyn 0409 528235</b>
	<b>Sunday 31st March @ 10am</b>	<b>HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS</b> starting @ Highlands Community Hall Everyone is welcome. <b>Enquiries? Andrew 0437 249038 or Robyn 0409 528235</b>
	<b>Every Second Wednesday 10-30-12.30</b>	<b>MURRINDINDI MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE</b> @ Highlands Community Hall The Mobile Library visits the TGN area, based at the Highlands Hall every fortnight. Why not pop in? <b>Forthcoming dates are 20th March &amp; 3rd and 17th April.</b>
	<b>Mon. 5th Feb @ 7pm</b>	<b>TABLE TENNIS MONDAYS</b> @TCC Ruffy Come along & have some fun! <b>Enquiries? 0427 690970 or <a href="mailto:tccruffy@gmail.com">tccruffy@gmail.com</a></b>
	<b>1st &amp; 3rd Tuesdays 1-3</b>	<b>DIGITAL &amp; ON-LINE LEARNING</b> @ TCC, 27 Nolans Rd, Ruffy 19th March & 2nd and 16th April <b>Enquiries? Bob - 0480 348788</b>
	<b>2nd &amp; 4th Sundays</b>	<b>ST DAVID'S UNITING CHURCH - TERIP RUFFY</b> 2nd Sunday 11.15am Pastor Scott Leslie / 4th Sunday 11am Morning tea & Study group
<b>NEW times!</b>	<b>Mon 8.45-9.45am Wed. 6.15-7.15pm</b>	<b>CUSTOM YOGA is BACK with Ingrid</b> at the Tablelands Community Centre \$25 per hour long class BYO mat and blanket <b>Enquiries? Ingrid <a href="mailto:ingstar.7@gmail.com">ingstar.7@gmail.com</a></b>
<b>Date for Diaries!</b>	<b>Thurs. 2nd May - all day!</b>	<b>SOIL HEALTH &amp; SUSTAINABLE FARMING WORKSHOP</b> @ Seymour Racecourse Come and hear Matthew Evans and other knowledgeable speakers on this vital topic!

## That Bird Guy is back....

Chris Tzaros, bird expert, ecologist and photographer, will be doing another round of bird surveys this month to check on how our changing climate is affecting local bird populations.

Many of us will have noticed new bird species arriving in the Strathbogies during the recent warmer and wetter seasons. Rainbow lorikeets, azure kingfishers and satin bower birds for example.

If you spot this friendly fellow doing his rounds, have a quick chat about any unusual birds you have seen. He started this week at the Whiteheads Creek end of the catchment.

Janet Hagen



**HEALTHY SOILS**  
in the Hughes Creek Catchment  
**Landcare project**

**FREE  
GRAZING WORKSHOP**  
WITH JUDI EARL

Wednesday, March 27th  
Location to be confirmed

**Bookings now  
open**

Please RSVP by email at  
[vanessa@hccclandcare.net.au](mailto:vanessa@hccclandcare.net.au)

This project is funded by the  
Victorian State Government and the  
Goulburn Broken CMA through the  
Victorian Landcare Grants

  

## KOALAS - they're cute and furry - like to collect their poo?

March is the key month for collecting koala scats from the Strathbogie Ranges for research by Federation University in Ballarat. Many sightings have been recorded on iNaturalist and now we need samples of their droppings.

Do you have a resident koala on your farm? Have you heard recent koalas calling nearby?

Kelly is doing research into Victoria's koala genetics & she needs us to send her fresh samples of local koala poo.

Please read the attached instructions (in the TGN email NOT in the actual Granite News) and contact Janet Hagen from Landcare if you have a sample to submit. [hughescreek2@gmail.com](mailto:hughescreek2@gmail.com) or text 0458 904268.

## FREE!!

What a great response our kitchen cabinets & benches now have a new home and the gas fridge is now FREE. Interested?  
**Message Pauline - 0407 684834**





**Terip's  
Tantalizingly  
Terrific  
TRIVIA  
night  
FUNDRAISER**

at the Terip Community Centre

Saturday, 23 March 2024, 7:00 for 7:30 pm Trivia kick-off

Tickets: Adults \$15, Children \$5

*Supper provided*

BYO Drinks and Nibbles

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

RSVP by Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> March for catering to [terip3719@gmail.com](mailto:terip3719@gmail.com), message our  
Terip Community FB page or phone: Frances 0427 904 262 or Jenny 0448 833 875

Hi Everyone....

Our Trivia night is back by popular demand! After a great night last year, it's time to gather your friends for a fun and challenging night. A team from Ruffy are still the reigning champions! Will they have what it takes to be the champions again!

If you have any new neighbours in Terip that may not be on our email list, please pass this on to them.

More details on the flyer. Hoping to see you there!

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**Are you interested in adding to the  
iNaturaliste's environmental  
knowledge base of the local HCCC area?**

If **YES** then download the App now, follow the instructions for use in **TGN 30/7/23**, and start recording our unique natural wonders of both fauna and flora. It's an incredibly valuable resource.

 **iNaturalist**

## Letter to the Editor

Hi All

Thanks for responding to my letter to the Granite News regarding Indian Mynas spreading across our region.

Unfortunately, we've noticed that at our place on Top Road at Terip Terip their numbers seem to have increased rapidly over the past couple of weeks. We now seem to have a resident flock of 100-150 birds following the cattle around the adjacent paddocks. Apparently this is something they do at this time of the year before dispersing to colonise new areas. All very dispiriting!

You may have noticed another mention of the project in last week's Granite News (thanks Pauline!) but I thought I would wait another week or so before suggesting to all those who have responded & we could gather for a very quick meeting to plan next steps.

An agenda for a meeting could be:

1. Introductions and scale of the problem where you live.
2. Traps - bulk purchase and distribution. Strathbogie Shire have them for free hire as well. Not sure about Murrindindi Shire, but I will find out.
3. Communications - probably regular articles in the Granite News, in particular to raise awareness that one of the most effective things people across the area can be doing is destroying nests and blocking entry points in sheds and outbuildings come breeding season next spring. This is likely to have a much greater effect than trapping. I'd also like to see a running tally of our catches - hopefully it will inspire others to join.
4. Connecting with other like-minded groups. There is Stop Mynas Strathbogie (about-us) and a group in Benalla (Benalla-Indian-myna-action-group) that I am aware of but there may be more. If you know of any nearby, please let me know. It will be useful to connect with groups already engaged with trapping so we can learn techniques from them.
5. Sharing calling birds. It's been shown that keeping a myna in a cage alongside a trap can significantly enhance trapping efforts as the captive bird calls other mynas in the area to the trap. This can be especially effective if the bird has been trapped in a different area to where it will be used as a calling bird. If you are operating a trap and catch a bird don't destroy it, but keep it (with shelter, food and water) and please let me know ASAP.

Maybe the most important thing any of us can do right now is talk to our neighbours and raise awareness of the threat these birds create and encourage widespread trapping. Please give it a go! Don't hesitate to forward this email too...

In the meantime if you have any queries or other information please let me know.

[tablelandmynaproject@myyahoo.com](mailto:tablelandmynaproject@myyahoo.com)

All the best, Andy.





# 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.**

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## 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**

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## Euroa Arboretum News - update

Quite a few TGN readers will be familiar with the Euroa Arboretum. It's one of the best community and environment organizations in our region.

'The Arb' produces an occasional newsletter as well as all the seedlings for our annual Landcare tree planting program. If this sort of thing interests you, you can subscribe on their website.

<http://euroaarboretum.com.au/>



## The Retail Nursery at the Euroa Arboretum

The nursery team of Fearghus, Kirsten and Jenna have been hard at work and the plants are looking strong and healthy this year. Thanks once again to all of our volunteers who join the nursery staff on Mondays and Thursdays. We couldn't do it without you!

The retail area is currently getting a whole new rebuild and the opening date has been announced....

**Monday 25th March from 12-4 is the Grand Reopening**

You can also order tube stock plants for your large scale revegetation projects, but get in fast!

Download the up-to-date plant order form from the website.



## The Highlands Hall Committee and Highlands Community

wish to thank FRRR for their kind financial contribution to undertake installation of Acoustic Panelling to our hall's main ceiling.

We believe this addition enhances the spaces comfort and makes it more attractive for hire and community use.

The Committee's mission to encourage our community to utilise and care for our Hall, while fostering connections and ensuring its longevity for the future generations is enhanced and assured.

For bookings & enquiries to hire, ring  
**Paula 0419 551882** or go to [highlands.org.au](https://highlands.org.au) to check rates and availability.



### 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



### 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 Oscan & 'Food, Sex and Money' by Liz Byski.

Other books read and suggestions are also shared.

BYO plate to share, refestments & gold coin donation.

 **ALL WELCOME** 



**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](mailto: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

**Interested?**  
contact Melinda (Alexandra) 0418 378 806  
Julie (Yea) 0447 762 557  
or Ross (Mansfield) 0439 046 199  
[www.rotaryalexandra.org.au](http://www.rotaryalexandra.org.au)  
[www.yearotary.org.au](http://www.yearotary.org.au)

**How Much?**

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

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

**Cindy McLEISH MP**  
State Member for EILDON



**130KM | 85KM | 30KM**



**Ride the Ranges**

*Euroa*

**SUNDAY 21 APRIL 2024**

Seven Creeks Park, Kirkland Avenue, Euroa



**START TIME** – 8am (130km) | 8.15am (85km)  
| 8.30am (30km)

**LEVEL** – Hard & Recreational

**SURFACE** – Road

**FULLY SUPPORTED RIDE - FREE BBQ AT THE FINISH**

**COST -**

**BEFORE APRIL 7** – \$85 (130km & 85km) | \$35 (30km)

**AFTER APRIL 7** – \$100 (130km & 85km) | \$45 (30km)

**FUNDS RAISED WILL GO TOWARDS THE  
DEVELOPMENT OF AMENITIES IN EUROA AND DISTRICT**

**DISCOUNT AVAILABLE  
FOR GROUP BOOKINGS**

REFER TO TRY BOOKING WEBSITE

**CONTACT**

Neil Tubb 0428 574 165

tubbcox@bigpond.com

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**Register Online**  
**[ridetherangeseuroa.org.au](http://ridetherangeseuroa.org.au)**



## What household appliances use the most energy? Here's a breakdown, plus tips on how to save money by Hanan Dervisevic - ABC News 3rd March 2024

With no relief on the cards from high electricity prices, it could be time to identify where you could be saving on your energy use. While you may know some of the main energy-suckers (we're looking at you, aircon), you might not know just how much power they use. Here are some of the top household appliances that may be eating up your power bill, and how to use them efficiently to help cut down on costs.

### What's the average electricity bill in Australia?

A survey of more than 4,100 households by financial comparison site Canstar Blue identified the average quarterly electricity bills across the states and territories. But keep in mind the cost of electricity in Australia can vary significantly depending on location, consumption, and energy providers. **In Victoria it's \$320 per quarter.**

### So what appliances are sucking up all that energy?

Here's which parts of your home use the most power so you can see where you may be able to make some savings.

*The data was obtained from the Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water, and the SA Department of Energy and Mining.*

### Heating/cooling — 40 per cent

It's no surprise heating and cooling tops the list — we're suckers for turning the air conditioner on when it's too hot, and the heater on when it's freezing.

- In the summertime, try using a fan before switching on the air conditioner. They are cheap to run at only around 2 cents per hour.
- But if you find it's so hot and humid that an air conditioner is desperately needed, try to set the temperature between 23 and 26 degrees Celsius.
- The Energy Efficiency Council says each degree below this can increase your electricity bill by as much as 15 per cent.
- If you're looking to use the heating, set it between 18C and 20C.
- But if you're trying to keep cool, you could also combine your air conditioner with a fan.
- Instead of having the air conditioner on a low temperature, set it a bit higher & move the air around with a fan.
- This could save you 70 per cent of your electricity usage, according to research by Ollie Jay, a professor of heat and health at the University of Sydney.

"If you move air more in an indoor environment, the temperature at which you [feel like you're too hot] is hotter," Professor Jay says. "So you feel the same at 23 degrees with still air as you will at 27 degrees with air moving, because we're cooling the person, instead of cooling the air."

- Remember, if you're heating or cooling a room, close off the areas that you're not using.

Choice product category manager Chris Barnes has a few other cost-saving tips:

- Stop draughts and seal air leaks
- Clean the aircon regularly to help it run efficiently
- Use reverse-cycle aircons rather than gas heaters or portable electric heaters

**NB: After the last few days of heat in our local area some of these tips may come in handy.**

**Next week we'll look at more energy users in our homes and how we can lower our power bills. Ed.**



#### **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 our website  
[murrindindi.vic.gov.au/enews](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/enews)

#### **AFRICAN DRUMMING WORKSHOPS**

Beat to the sound of your own drum. Join our drumming workshops and find your groove!

There are two sessions on Thursday 9 May:

- Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre: 10.45 - 11.15 am
- Alexandra Shire Hall: 5.30 - 6.00 pm

There are 100 spots available for each session. Both sessions will be followed by a meal, please register for catering purposes at [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/africandrumming](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/africandrumming)

Funding for this event was provided by the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments under the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

#### **COMMUNITY AWARDS 2024**

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](http://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).

#### **CIRCULAR ECONOMY BUSINESS WORKSHOP**

Council is hosting a workshop for local business owners and operators to learn more about the circular economy and opportunities for managing waste differently.

- Tuesday 19 March 2024, 3.00 - 6.00 pm.

To register for this event, visit  
[murrindindi.vic.gov.au/ceworkshop](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/ceworkshop)

#### **FAIR ACCESS IN SPORT POLICY**

Council is inviting community members to provide feedback on its draft Fair Access in Sport Policy, which is set to address known barriers experienced by women and girls in accessing community sport.

To provide feedback, community members and sports clubs can complete a short survey online, call 5772 0333, or visit on of our Library and Customer Service Centres.

To complete the survey, visit  
[theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/fairaccess](http://theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/fairaccess)

Please submit your feedback by 5 April 2024.

#### **EXHIBITION @ ALEXANDRA LIBRARY THE LIFE STORY OF ANNE FRANK**

From 1 May to 29 June this year, the "Let Me Be Myself - The Life Story of Anne Frank" exhibition will be held at Alexandra Library.

Entry will be free, and we're planning a special opening event on 27 April, so mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information.

#### **COUNCIL SERVICES OVER EASTER**

Kerbside waste collection will operate as usual over the Easter long weekend. Resource Recovery Centres are open as usual, with the exception of Good Friday on 29 March, when they are all closed. The Alexandra Landfill will be closed on Good Friday and Easter Monday. For more details of opening hours, visit [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/RRC](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/RRC)

Council's Library and Customer Service Centres in Alexandra, Yea and Kinglake and our Mobile Service will be closed over the Easter long weekend and will resume usual hours on Tuesday 2 April.

For urgent matters such as stock on roads, dog attacks or unsafe road conditions, including fallen trees over roads, please call 5772 0333 at any time.

For non-urgent requests, we'll be back from Tuesday 2 April. You can always lodge a customer request at [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/request](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/request)

#### **GET IN TOUCH**

[customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au](mailto:customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au)  
[murrindindi.vic.gov.au/request](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/request)  
5772 0333



<p><b>HABBIES HOWE BEEF</b></p> <p>MATURE, WELL HUNG &amp; AVAILABLE</p> <p>IGA SEYMOUR GARY'S MEATS, PRAHRAN MARKET L&amp;L MEATS, BENTLEIGH</p> <p>SCOTCH AND FILLET ST HELENA, MENTONE &amp; MERNDA</p>	<p>Donated by supporters of the endangered Hairy Hop bush</p> 	<p><b>Chris Sharman</b> Energy Efficiency &amp; Solar Energy Specialist</p> <p>Acme – Air Conditioning   Electrical   Solar</p> <p>M: 0418 551 301 T: Office - 9785 7339 E: <a href="mailto:chris@acmeair.com.au">chris@acmeair.com.au</a></p>	 <p><b>Darren Gilbert</b> open studio</p> <p>@ 5 Giffard Street Yea</p> <p>Open every first weekend of the month Up to date Open Studio days &amp; times on <a href="http://www.monkeytaildesign.com">www.monkeytaildesign.com</a></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.