

# THE GRANITE NEWS



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



24th March 2024 | Volume 18 Issue 11

## Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

Another term has rapidly disappeared and The Granite News will now be taking its usual 2 week break, returning to an email near you on **Sunday 14th April**. If any readers have articles or ads or letters to the editor they wish to have included in TGN #12 best to send them in sooner rather than later. Thanks.

It's now a scientific given that the world is not only warming way too rapidly but that our energy demands are impacting this scenario. However, it is still within the power of us humans to do something about it, not only by lowering our energy consumption, but also by considering other creative solutions as to where our **individual** power supply can come from. And the key word in that last sentence is individual.

A couple of decades ago when Peter and I were building our own little castle we discovered that it was going to cost as much to connect to the grid as it was to set up a stand-alone solar power system. Aside from the environmental aspect of such a decision it was pretty much a no brainer to decide to ditch regular power bills.

With the exception of the dryer and the dishwasher all our lights and other electrical appliances happily run on solar power and no we don't have reverse cycle air-con, but we do have fans and a wood fired heater. And less impact on the environment as a result.

We are aware of our power consumption and don't leave lights on unnecessarily, but that should apply to any mains powered house. We also adjust our usage of appliances accordingly. At the time we made this decision we were regarded by friends and family as being seriously alternative and just a bit weird. Why? seemed to be a common question. Moving on 20+ years, as another inflated power bill comes in, or another chunk of ice calves off an Antarctic glacier, I think they can now understand the Why and are maybe thinking of doing something similar.

Are any other readers also considering going "off-grid"? It's no longer such a radical, hippy idea, so if you want to find out what options are available then the **Off-Grid Festival - April 6th & 7th** is definitely the place to be. Like to find out more go to - <https://www.offgridevent.com.au/about-event>

Wishing all readers a happy and safe Easter.



Please read on for another interesting issue, Pauline And Kenny? Was enjoying the Old Highlands Rd street party.

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

"The wonder is not that the field of stars is so vast, but that man has measured it."

Anatole France  
(1844 - 1924)  
French poet, journalist & novelist  
1921 Nobel Laureate - Literature



Variable Dates & Events

Set Dates & Times

What's On - March & April 2024		
<p>Details? See p.4</p>	<p><b>Mon. 25th March 1.30pm</b></p>	<p><b>RUFFY VEGE GROWERS' CLUB</b> @ Murrnong, 4446 Murchison-Violet Town Rd All welcome! Bookings essential by Mon. 18th March <b>Enquiries? Cheryl - 0409 019763</b></p>
<p>Details? See p.3</p>	<p><b>Friday 29th March @ noon</b></p>	<p><b>GOOD FRIDAY APPEAL &amp; CFA FUNDRAISER</b> @ Ruffy It's on again -come along and enjoy the fun!  <b>Enquiries? Felicity - 0413 483450</b></p>
	<p><b>Thurs. 28th March @ 5.30</b></p>	<p><b>SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS</b> @ Caveat Church All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards BBQ, BYO &amp; chat.</p>
	<p><b>Thurs. 28th March 6-8pm</b></p>	<p><b>HIGHLANDS BOOK CLUB</b> @ Highlands Community Hall All welcome, BYO plate to share &amp; preferred beverage. Gold coin donation. 'Thursday Murder Club' by Richard Oscan &amp; 'Food, Sex and Money' by Liz Byski are up for discussion. <b>Enquiries? Robyn 0409 528235</b></p>
<p><b>Easter Sunday - no ramble!</b></p>		
	<p><b>Sunday 31st March @ 10am</b></p>	<p><b>HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS</b> starting @ Highlands Community Hall Everyone is welcome. <b>Enquiries? Andrew 0437 249038 or Robyn 0409 528235</b></p>
	<p><b>Sun 31st Mar. &amp; Sun 7th Apr.</b></p>	<p><b>NO TGN - EASTER BREAK - GET YOUR ADS/ARTICLES ORGANISED IN ADVANCE!</b></p>
	<p><b>Fri. 5th April from 6pm</b></p>	<p><b>FIRST FRIDAY of the MONTH</b> @ Tablelands Community Centre It's time to put the fun back into Friday nights! <b>Enquiries? 0427 690970 or tccruffy@gmail.com</b></p>
	<p><b>Every Second Wednesday 10-30-12.30</b></p>	<p><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 3rd and 17th April &amp; 1st, 15th &amp; 29th May.</b></p>
	<p><b>Every Monday @ 7pm</b></p>	<p><b>TABLE TENNIS MONDAYS</b> @TCC Ruffy Come along &amp; have some fun! <b>Enquiries? 0427 690970 or tccruffy@gmail.com</b></p>
	<p><b>Every Tuesday - 6pm</b></p>	<p><b>MAT PILATES with ANASTASIA</b> @ Highlands Community Hall BYO own mat and water bottle - Cost \$15 cash <b>Enquiries? 0436 428065</b></p>
	<p><b>1st &amp; 3rd Tuesdays 1-3</b></p>	<p><b>DIGITAL &amp; ON-LINE LEARNING</b> @ TCC, 27 Nolans Rd, Ruffy 2nd and 16th April &amp; 7th and 21st May <b>Enquiries? Bob - 0480 348788</b></p>
	<p><b>2nd &amp; 4th Sundays</b></p>	<p><b>ST DAVID'S UNITING CHURCH - TERIP RUFFY</b> 2nd Sunday 11.15am Pastor Scott Leslie / 4th Sunday 11am Morning tea &amp; Study group</p>
<p><b>NEW times!</b></p>	<p><b>Mon 8.45-9.45am Wed. 6.15-7.15pm</b></p>	<p><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 ingstar.7@gmail.com</b></p>
<p><b>Date for Diaries!</b></p>	<p><b>Thurs. 2nd May - all day!</b></p>	<p><b>SOIL HEALTH &amp; SUSTAINABLE FARMING WORKSHOP</b> @ Seymour Racecourse Come and hear Matthew Evans and other knowledgeable speakers on this vital topic!</p>

**Ruffy Rural Fire Brigade's  
RCH Good Friday Appeal  
Fish 'n Chips Lunch  
& CFA Fundraiser**

**Friday 29th March,  
2024**

**Come & join us for lunch, easter  
egg hunt & super slide fun!**



**We are auctioning trailer loads of split firewood & rolls of hay.**

**STARTS 12 md**

**Delivery of firewood  
is free to the  
Ruffy/Highlands  
Tablelands District**



**All Welcome  
Adults: \$20  
Kids: \$5**



## A few more upcoming dates that couldn't fit into the Calendar on p.2

### HIGHLANDS SPINNING GROUP

Monday 8/4 - 450 Caveat-Dropmore Rd @11am



### Highlands-Caveat RFB AGM

Thursday 11/4 - Highlands Hall @ 7.30pm



### HCCC NEXT MEETING

Thursday 18/4 - Highlands Hall @ 7pm



### SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS

Thursday 25/4 - Caveat Church @ 5.30pm

### HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS

Sunday 28/4 - departing at 10am from Highlands Hall



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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.



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## RUFFY VEGE GROWERS' CLUB Monday 25th March

Trip to Murrnong Permaculture Property at 4446 Murchison -Violet Town Rd Violet Town.

\$20.00 for a tour of the productive veggie garden, extensive orchard and closed loop system including goats.

Tour led by David Arnold owner and Permaculture designer and educator.

Please bring a plate to share.

**Bookings essential please RSVP by 18/3 - Cheryl 0409 019763.**



## Calculating the cost of running appliances (cont. from p.6)

### 2. Calculate the cost

You first need to work out the kilowatt hours (kWh) consumed for that period. So multiply your kW by the length of time, in hours, that the appliance is being used for.

Then multiply this by \$0.22 (retailers' tariffs will differ so just use this as a guide)

**This will give you the running cost.**

For example, you used a 3kW air conditioner for four hours.

That's three multiplied by four, which works out to be 12kWh.

Now multiply that number by 0.22 and you'll get 2.64.

That means it costs \$2.64 to run, or \$0.66 an hour.

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## LOOK - this is NEW!!

### Mat Pilates with Anastasia

every Tuesday at 6pm at the Highlands Hall

Bring your own mat and water bottle.

Cost - \$15 cash

Enquiries? 0436 428065



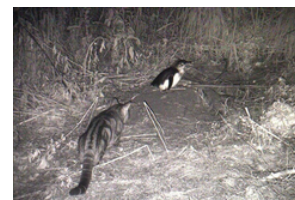
## Do you own a cat? Do you have feral cats around?

Then you may be interested in completing the survey below

<https://tinyurl.com/346re59x>

and have a say in shaping Victoria's first Cat Management Strategy.

Our unique wildlife will thank you.



## Talk to the Administrator sessions

Strathbogie Shire Council is running a series of sessions throughout the municipality giving residents the chance to book in a timeslot to meet with the Administrator Peter Stephenson.



Bookings for these sessions are essential to ensure you secure your one-on-one 15-minute timeslot.

Sessions have already been held in Avenel Euroa and Nagambie.

Bookings for next sessions can be made via the following links:

**Ruffy residents, Tuesday April 9, 4.30-6.30pm at Tablelands Community Centre:**  
<https://events.humanitix.com/ruffy-talk-to-the-administrator>

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## Why quolls have spots, and other ways animals use camouflage to survive Story by Petria Ladgrove and Ann Jones for What the Duck?!

Imagine you don't want to be seen you could take a lesson from nature and blend in, like a proverbial spotty quoll into the bush.

When it comes to camouflage and animal markings, there's a lot we can learn from the animal kingdom. And while there are many reasons animals do camouflage, they all come back to survival.

### Break up your shape

Quolls are small cat-like marsupials with dexterous paws — and one of the only Australian mammals to sport white spots. Exactly why they're spotty remains a mystery, but Australian National University conservation biologist and quoll expert Belinda Wilson can provide an educated guess. It all comes down to hunting ... and being hunted.

First up, a hungry quoll doesn't want to be seen by its prey, which can range from insects to possums (depending on the size of the quoll species). Quolls are nocturnal, and while being covered in bright white spots seems like a great way to be more easily seen in the dark, the pattern helps break up the quoll's shape.

It's called "disruptive colouration", Dr Wilson says, "being able to mottle their own outline using their spots is very handy in making sure they get themselves a meal. Not only does disruptive colouration outwit prey, it also helps quolls melt into the background if a predator is hunting nearby."

Quolls can live amongst trees and grass, so they need camouflage that lets them blend into multiple environments. Disruptive colouration such as spots allows this, Dr Wilson says. "Quolls need to be able to be essentially camouflaged across those environments so no particular strategy or no particular mimicry of any one environment would have worked."



Photo Credit: Belinda Wilson Nature Photography

### Blend in and keep warm

Giraffes may be one of the world's most recognisable spotted animals, but scientists are still discovering the reasons for their large patches.

Quentin Fogg from the University of Melbourne was part of a study published last year that looked into giraffe thermoregulation — their ability to maintain a stable body temperature. He and Melbourne plastic surgeon Ian Taylor found giraffe patches correspond with networks of blood vessels that branch out from a spot's centre.

Dr Fogg says dark patches on a giraffe can be likened to hot water bottles, and "each dark spot can be filled with blood and becomes warm". Just as pumping blood to the patches warms the skin, shutting it away again can help a giraffe cool off.

"There is a clean vascular mechanism to allow all that blood to be flushed out of those patches very quick and very efficiently," Dr Fogg says, "the thermal window concept is the idea that you can choose ... to be warm by pushing the blood into one area or reduce heat by evacuating the blood."

So giraffe spots may be much more intentional than just blending in with a savannah environment.

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## 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 ... Part 3 concluded

Last week we looked at Hot Water & Electronic gadgets around the home, this week it's the kitchen & laundry.

### Fridge and freezers — 8 per cent

The fridge is one of those appliances that unfortunately, you have no choice but to run 24/7.

This is why choosing the right size and efficiency for your requirements can make all the difference to your energy bill.

Here are some simple ways to reduce fridge costs according to Mr Barnes from CHOICE:

- Check the temperature: Adjust your fridge to 3C and freezer to -18C for the best balance between coolness, food safety, and energy efficiency
- Check the placement: Fridges placed in warm areas use more energy to stay cool. Make sure it's in a well-ventilated space and that there are sufficient gaps around the unit
- Maintenance: Is food going off faster than it used to? Is it noisy? It could be worth checking the door seals are clean and brushing off any dusty coils on the back of the fridge
- Contents: A full fridge is a happy fridge because the thermal mass of its contents help maintain temperature and reduce running costs

### Cooking appliances — 5 per cent

From the refrigerator and freezer to the dishwasher, coffee machine and oven, all of these appliances use energy to run.

For those of you wondering about gas appliances, here are the hourly running costs:

- Oven — \$0.48
- Cooktop (per burner) — \$0.48
- Griller — \$0.24 - \$0.48

CHOICE notes that small kitchen appliances are generally cheaper to run than ovens and cooktops.

So for small one or two-person households, it may be more cost effective to use benchtop appliances such as an air fryer or microwave rather than an oven or cooktop

For example, a sandwich press will grill a toasted sandwich

faster than the oven grill and use less energy, and if you've got one, only run a dishwasher when it's full!!

**NB: This is essential if using tank water - Ed.**

Electric appliance	Typical watts	Hourly running cost
Oven	1800-3800	\$0.63 - \$1.33
Cooktop (per element)	1200-2400	\$0.42 - \$0.84
Range hood	80-140	\$0.03 - \$0.05
Kettle	1800-2400	\$0.63 - \$0.84
Microwave	800-1500	\$0.28 - \$0.53
Toaster	600-1000	\$0.21 - \$0.35

### Laundry — 4 per cent

As with fridges, how much energy it will cost to run a washing machine and dryer will come down to the size and type.

When it comes to washing, the simplest tip is to choose a cold wash as the cleaning power is much the same in most cases, and the electricity costs are lower.

The Department of Energy says washing clothes with cold water "can save up to 10 times more energy" than a warm wash.

Here are some other energy saving behaviours the SA Department of Energy recommends:

- Wash a full load
- Adjust the wash cycle to match the load
- Pre-soak or pre-treat soiled items
- Select the economy or energy saving cycles on your machine

The best clothes dryer is the sun and it costs nothing to run, so dry your clothes on a washing line whenever you can. If that's not an option, try not to overfill the clothes dryer as this can slow down the drying process and lead to greater energy usage.

**How do I calculate the running cost of an appliance? Follow these handy instructions from the CSIRO.**

#### 1. Find the wattage

The wattage is usually printed on the actual appliance or on the packaging. To turn your wattage into kilowatts just divide by 1,000. So if your air conditioner is 3,000 watts, then the kW would be 3kW. A 50 watt light bulb would be 0.05 kW.

#### 2. Calculate the cost - See p.4 for how to do this.....

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



**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)

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## **ADVANCE NOTICE - Another Date for your Diaries**

The magnificent autumnal garden 'LAKITHI' will be open to the public on

**Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th May 2024**

Located in Terip Terip - 948 Top Road.

**This opening is in conjunction with Open Gardens Victoria and is a fundraising event.**

**Our share will be donated to the CFA.**

**Why not 'Save the Date' NOW to visit LAKITHI & support our local CFA.**

**There will also be a plant stall & the local Terip Terip Tennis Club will be serving Devonshire Teas in the garden.**

**Enquiries? Contact Gail (van Rooyen)  
0439 904 254**

**or email.... [gailvanrooyen@yahoo.com.au](mailto:gailvanrooyen@yahoo.com.au)**



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## Yea neighbourhood battery Q and A

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**Wednesday April 10 2024**

**at the Yea Wetlands Discovery  
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**Free event but you must register by  
April 5 via the QR code or this [link](#)**

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**Strathbogie Granite  
 Project**  
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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.