

THE GRANITE NEWS



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



21st April 2024 | Volume 18 Issue 13

Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

I'm currently trying to renovate a garden bed that basically has a clay base - in fact I'm digging up lumps of clay that could happily be used to throw ceramic pots on a wheel, such is the density of the layer below the very thin topsoil.

So, it's a bit depressing when one tunes into the odd TV gardening show and sees the presenters run their fingers through the soil, so fresh and friable, that seed drills part like the waters of the Red Sea and just two fingers can delicately scoop out a hole, in this moist, crumbly mix, to plant bulb after bulb after bulb.

Meanwhile I'm still chiseling away, with pick and shovel, at what I hope will be transformed into a cottage garden - sometime in the next decade - once I've tamed the clay and turned it into soil!!

Because it doesn't matter whether it's a small garden bed or massive acreage, if we want something to thrive, pretty flowers or good quality stock feed, it all begins with the soil, good quality soil.

Isn't it fortunate then that the HCCC is holding an all day workshop about this most important resource - SOIL - and it's free! Why not come along and find out more because, "All that's learnt is never wasted." Maybe I'll see you there.

Please read on for another interesting issue, Pauline
And Kenny? Was checking out Matthew Evans' book - SOIL .

Feedback? editor@tgn.org.au
or to subscribe on-line go to
www.highlands.org.au

The Granite News is an open but moderated community forum. Readers are encouraged to contribute articles and we also encourage you to air your views on things that interest or concern you within our community. We certainly welcome feedback from you, positive or otherwise on anything that is published in The Granite News

"When you know who you are and are confident, pronouns don't matter."

Big Freeda (music superstar)



HCCC LANDCARE PRESENTS: SOIL HEALTH & SUSTAINABLE FARMING

Keynote speaker: Matthew Evans

Seymour Racecourse

9:30am Thursday 2nd May 2024

Tickets required - click on link or scan QR code
<https://events.humanitix.com/healthy-soils-and-low-carbon-farming>

FREE

Variable Dates & Events Set Dates & Times

What's On - April & May 2024		
	<p style="color: red; text-align: center;"> Cancelled - it's ANZAC Day Thurs. 25th April @ 9.30 </p>	<p> SECRET MEN'S BUSINESS @ Caveat Church All people in the district are welcome, pink note (\$5) donation towards BBQ, BYO & chat. </p>
	<p> Sunday 28th April @ 10am </p>	<p> HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS starting @ Highlands Community Hall Everyone is welcome. Enquiries? Andrew 0437 249038 or Robyn 0409 528235 </p>
	<p> Monday 29th April @ 1.30 </p>	<p> RUFFY VEGE GROWERS' CLUB @ 3 Hills Close, Ruffy We will be joined by members of the Strathbogie Seed Savers. All welcome. Enquiries - Janet 0458 904268 </p>
<p>Be there!!</p>	<p> Thurs.2nd May @ 9.30am </p>	<p> SOIL HEALTH & SUSTAINABLE FARMING WORKSHOP @ Seymour Racecourse Come and hear Matthew Evans and other knowledgeable speakers on this vital topic! </p>
	<p> Fri. 3rd May from 6pm </p>	<p> 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 </p>
	<p> Sat.4th - Sun. 5th May 10-4 </p>	<p> DARREN GILBERT'S OPEN STUDIO @ 5 Gifford St, Yea Open the first weekend of each month - discover some stunning artwork. </p>
<p>Details? See p.6</p>	<p> Sat. 4th - Sun. 5th May </p>	<p> OPEN GARDENS VICTORIA - LAKITHI @ 948 Top Rd, Terip Terip Aside from being a stunning autumnal garden this is also a fundraiser for Terip CFA. </p>
	<p> Sat. 4th May 6-8pm </p>	<p> HIGHLANDS BOOK CLUB @ Highlands Community Hall All welcome, BYO plate to share & preferred beverage. Gold coin donation. 'There are several options to choose from 'The Leopard', 'The Spy & the Traitor' and 'Unearthing'. Enquiries? Robyn 0409 528235 </p>
	<p> Every Second Wednesday 10-30-12.30 </p>	<p> 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 1st, 15th & 29th May. </p>
	<p> Every Monday @ 7pm </p>	<p> TABLE TENNIS MONDAYS @TCC Ruffy Come along & have some fun! Enquiries? 0427 690970 or tccruffy@gmail.com </p>
	<p> Every Tuesday - 6pm </p>	<p> MAT PILATES with ANASTASIA @ Highlands Community Hall BYO own mat and water bottle - Cost \$15 cash Enquiries? 0436 428065 </p>
	<p> 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 1-3 </p>	<p> DIGITAL & ON-LINE LEARNING @ TCC, 27 Nolans Rd, Ruffy 7th and 21st May Enquiries? Bob - 0480 348788 </p>
	<p> 2nd & 4th Sundays </p>	<p> ST DAVID'S UNITING CHURCH - TERIP RUFFY 2nd Sunday 11.15am Pastor Scott Leslie / 4th Sunday 11am Morning tea & Study group </p>
<p>NEW times!</p>	<p> Mon 8.45-9.45am Wed. 6.15-7.15pm </p>	<p> 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 </p>



WOW!

Doesn't this look great...

At the last Landcare meeting Sue & Neil unfurled the HCCC's new banner promoting the Landcare Futures development -

Connecting the Granite Hills to the Goulburn Valley

It will be displayed at all HCCC's future events and occasions.

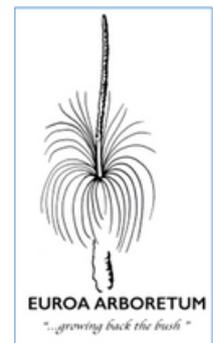
This project is a partnership between HCCC, Euroa Arboretum, Longwood Plains CMN and Strathbogrie Ranges Conservation

Stay tuned to find out more...

And speaking of **WOW** the next Gardening Australia program (Friday 26th April @ 7.30 on ABC) will feature the Euroa Arboretum as one of its stories.

We all love the Arb, so why not tune in and see if you can spot some local people?

If you're out and about on the Friday night, there are several other options for viewing - Sunday 28th April @ 1.30 or on iView from 7am on Friday morning or it can be streamed on the HCCC's website after its broadcast.
Happy viewing.



Biochar anyone?

The Carbon Journey of One Tree



When a tree grows, it absorbs/sequesters carbon dioxide from the atmosphere via the process of photosynthesis. If the tree is allowed to stand indefinitely, it continues to sequester CO₂ and store carbon in the tree, such that 25% of the weight of the living tree is carbon. As the tree ages, however, the rate of sequestration declines, until it reaches an equilibrium state, where it has net zero sequestration, but continues to store sequestered carbon in the tree.

If the tree is harvested, half the dry weight of the tree is carbon. If the tree is chipped and used in short-lived products (e.g. paper or mulch), most of the carbon has returned to the atmosphere as CO₂ within a few years. If the tree is milled and partly converted to building timber, the carbon in that timber product may remain sequestered for 50-100 years.

However, if the wood in the tree is pyrolyzed (i.e. "burnt" in an oxygen-free environment), half the carbon in the tree is converted to BioChar, a stable form of carbon with a half-life of up to a thousand years.

Tony will be giving a talk on biochar that will tell the story of the Carbon Journey of One Tree, and highlight the environmental and economic benefits of Pyrolysis, BioChar and associated products.

Set aside **Monday 22 April at 6.00 pm at the Flood Recovery Hub, 4 Guild Street, Seymour** (Presbyterian Church hall) to find out more.



18th April
1964

Guess who
celebrated
their 60th
Wedding
Anniversary
last week?

See p.7 to
find out more

**YOUR
COMM
UNITY
YOUR
VOICE**

STAND FOR COUNCIL 2024
Scan now for candidate information and upcoming sessions

Strathbogie
SHIRE COUNCIL

www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au





HCCC LANDCARE PRESENTS: SOIL HEALTH & SUSTAINABLE FARMING

Keynote speaker:
Matthew Evans

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Tickets required - click on link or scan QR code

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

Our Keynote speaker will be Matthew Evans - Food Writer, Farmer, Television Broadcaster and Chef
Matthew Evans is a food writer, farmer, television broadcaster and chef.

Additional speakers:

Dr Cassandra Scheffe - Soil Scientist

Cassie has authored 16 scientific journal papers and numerous conference proceedings and is accredited as a Certified Professional Soil Scientist (CPSS) by Soil Science Australia.

Matt Shanahan - Principal RMCG consulting

Matt has been working extensively in the field of recycled water and organics management.

Dr Helen Hayden - Soil microbial ecologist - Melbourne University

Dr Helen Hayden's research interests include soil biology, soil health soil plant microbe interactions and plant pathology.

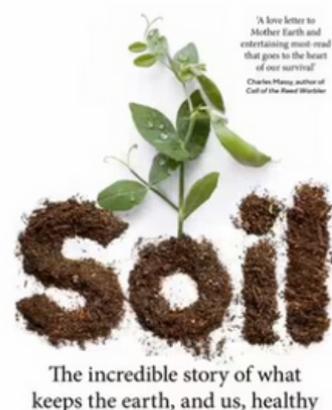
Declan McDonald - Certified Professional Soil Scientist & Agricultural and Horticultural Scientist - Regen soils

Declan has over 30 years' experience in soil and agricultural management.

This is a free event – tickets required.

Click on the link -<https://events.humanitix.com/healthy-soils-and-low-carbon-farming>

A light lunch will also be served.



Matthew Evans

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 Soilkee Renovator is returning to the HCCC area!

Readers may remember that the Soilkee Renovator visited Highlands last year as part of the Soil Carbon project. If readers are interested in having the Soilkee assist with their land care management it's coming back to our area during the last week of April.

Why not give Nevin a call **0474 243299** to arrange a visit to YOUR place.

Thinking of putting in a multi-species Covercrop?
Think SOILKEE



How does the Soilkee renovator work?

- A diverse mix of seeds from clover seed to faba bean size can be applied from the seed box during operation with seeds dropping in kee's. The Kee's are mechanically made by rotating blades, leaving around 80% of the pasture undisturbed
- The undisturbed portion acts as a cover crop protecting the soil from the elements, reducing erosion and keeping around 80% of soil life habitat intact.
- Creating the seed bed the Soilkee Renovator provides additional benefits of aeration and a green manure crop within the worked up portion, providing aerobic conditions and a food source that activates the soil fungi, bacteria and earthworm populations and the natural soil processes they perform.



Learn more today and contact Nevin Farm-
Your Soilkee contracting specialists at:
admin@nevinfarm.com.au or
0474 243 299
www.nevinfarm.com.au



Victorian Landcare Grants 2024 Applications Open

The Victorian Government has opened the 2024 VLG with project grants with up to \$20,000 available for on-ground works and community education projects focused on enhancing the natural environment, including native vegetation and wildlife, waterways and soils.

Grants are available for any not-for-profit groups.

Applications close on 30th April 2024

<https://www.vic.gov.au/2024-victorian-landcare-grants>



DON'T FORGET...

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 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



RUFFY VEGE GROWERS' GROUP

NEXT MEETING

is on 29th April at 1:30pm at
3 Hill Close - Pam's Place

We will be joined by members of the Strathbogie Seed Savers.

All welcome.

Enquiries? Janet 0458 904268





Happy 60th Wedding Anniversary Jan and John Sporry of Caveat

It was difficult to pick just one special photo out of all those wonderful years to choose from that sums up your time together, with lots of crazy fun ones, many birthday celebrations, friends, family and grey nomad adventures!!!

So, this is probably most appropriate since the dogs and your amazing garden have always been very special to you both!!!

Thanks Mel. Ed.

We made it to the next round

TABLELANDS COMMUNITY CENTRE

PITCH MY PROJECT

It's time to have your say on your favorite community projects 2024/2025 with Strathbogie Shire Pitch My Projects

Veranda on the Shelter Shed

VOTE 1

Voting closes 5pm
Friday 24th May 2024

www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au - click on Pitch My Project link
or
you can complete a hard copy at the Tablelands Community Centre
tccruffy@gmail.com 0427 690 970

Help us make things more comfortable for you

Dry area for BBQs Dry area for Street Library Dry area to Shelter

Celebrating volunteers in Mitchell Shire

Every week hundreds of generous volunteers give up their time to support Mitchell Shire's community groups and programs. That's why Mitchell Shire Council is celebrating National Volunteer Week (20-24 May 2024) by supporting local volunteers.

Community groups can apply for a grant of up to \$500. Funds can support volunteer thank you events or activities, training and development or transport.

To apply for the grant, visit mitchellshire.vic.gov.au/volunteer-grant Applications close Tues. 30 April.

To see volunteer opportunities near you, visit the Volunteering Mitchell website.

For groups wanting to be featured on the website or for those who would like some help applying for the grant, please call **5734 6200**.

ANZAC DAY 2024 and the AUSTRALIAN LIGHTHORSE REGIMENTS

As one heads into Seymour from the east, along the Goulburn Valley Hwy, there is an impressive rock gateway on the left-hand side that is the entrance to the Australian Lighthorse Memorial Park.

Although this grand structure entices one to explore further most, if not all, cars just whiz past at 80kms and miss out on discovering one of Australia's iconic military sites - because this is where the first Australian Light Horse Regiments were trained prior to embarking for the Great War in Europe.

After Federation, the success of Victorian Mounted Rifles (VMR), and other Colonial mounted troops during the South African War (Boer War) led to a rapid growth in the number of mounted militia regiments in Australia. It was the officers and men from the old VMR who would form the nucleus of many of the Australian Light Horse Regiments which would later go on to gain fame in the Great War (1914 - 1918).



In 1910, Lord Kitchener then Commander in Chief of the British Army, visited Seymour as part of his review of Australia's military capabilities. He was provided with an impressive parade of 4,000 men, 2,000 horses and artillery and viewed them on manoeuvres where they performed with dash and élan. When the Great War broke out in the latter part of 1914, Kitchener was appointed Secretary of State for War and, largely as a result of his favourable views of Seymour as a training area, the Seymour Camp was established as a major Army base.

The camp was used throughout the course of the Great War for the forming and reinforcing of both Infantry Battalions, and Light Horse Regiments. Men of the 8th Light Horse Regiment became soldiers at Seymour before sacrificing themselves in the disastrous Attack on "The Nek" at Gallipoli.

The Nek is the fatal charge depicted in Peter Weir's film 'Gallipoli' (1981) where the men of the 8th Light Horse from Victoria and the 10th Light Horse from Western Australia were slaughtered for no gain whatsoever.

Noted author and journalist, Les Carlyon, has an intimate and effective way of drawing vivid pictures with his prose and the following is taken from his article 'Gallipoli: on Sacred Ground. (From the book 'A Life in Words'.) Just imagine...



"You're standing near The Nek, high above ANZAC Cove, and snowflakes are spinning and dancing out of a sky the colour of wood smoke. Behind you, the Aegean Sea is blacky-blue and speckled with whitecaps. Beneath you, somewhere, are six rows of Australian bones. The bodies weren't buried until 1919, so no-one knows for sure who lies where, just that there are 300 Australian dead here, all under this scrubby ridge that couldn't be more than 40 metres wide...

What were these Australians doing here? There's a simple and reasonable answer, of course, and you know it. In 1915 Britain's war was ours too.... But as you stand on this carrion field called The Nek, that answer doesn't seem quite enough. Not when you think of the madness that went on for 45 minutes here. Before dawn on 7th August 1915, the men of the 8th Light Horse Regiment from Victoria and the 10th Light Horse Regiment from Western Australia, their chests warmed by a double ration of rum, stood in dog legging trenches behind you on Russell's Top.

Many of them had volunteered because they thought the war was going to be a fine romance. The world always looked better from the back of a horse; besides you got to wear leather leggings and a slouch hat with emu plumes. But the romance had begun to fade. They'd left their horses behind in Egypt and were wearing pith helmets, shorts and puttees. They were probably lousy - everyone on Gallipoli was. And they had probably battled with dysentery - just about everyone had a touch of that too. In 11 weeks on the Peninsula, they'd mostly been carting water and digging trenches. Sometimes their picks had thudded into the decomposing bodies of Turks and Australians. Some romance.

But this dawn they were going to do something grand, just like the New South Welshmen of the 1st Infantry Brigade who late yesterday had taken Lone Pine on a bayonet charge that was to produce 7 Victoria Crosses.

The ridge ahead of Russell's Top is so narrow that the Australians would have to go in four waves of 150. Forty metres or so ahead were the Turkish trenches at The Nek. Behind them, rising up a scrubby hill called Baby 700, lay another seven lines of Turkish trenches. The Nek was a way out of the ANZAC stalemate, a way to the heights of Chunuk Bair and on to Hill 971, the highest point in the Sari Bair Range. If you didn't control the heights here, you couldn't move, which is why, after the first day, the ANZAC landing had become a siege.

The light horsemen carried unloaded rifles with bayonets fixed, a field dressing pinned inside their shirts, six biscuits, two empty sandbags and wire cutters. Some were so keen they had left hospital for this one.... >> p.9

ANZAC Day & the Australian Light Horse Regiments (continued)

“The plan (and here we use the noun rather loosely) called for the Nek to be pulverised by an artillery barrage. At the same time the New Zealanders would take Chunuk Bair, behind Baby 700, and put pressure on the other side (in fact the New Zealanders couldn't take Chunuk Bair until the following day and held it only briefly)...

The artillery barrage, which stopped seven minutes early, left yellow clouds over the Turkish trenches. Around 4.30am, Lt Col. White shouted 'Go' and the Australians surged over the parapet.... The Australians were shot to pieces... Most of the line lay dead within six metres of the parapet... The line had been wiped out within half a minute. The attack should have been called off then. At roughly the same time, a similar charge at Quinn's Post had been abandoned after the 50 men in the first wave had, with one exception, been killed or wounded.

At The Nek, however, the second wave went two minutes after the first.

Another slaughter. The Turkish machine guns chewed up the low rhododendron bushes and turned them to chaff. In two and a half minutes, a regiment had been wiped out for not one Turkish casualty.

The Western Australians of the third and fourth lines knew they were doomed. They shook hands and said goodbye. Trooper Harold Rush turned to his mate and said, 'Goodbye, cobber. God bless you.' Those words are on his headstone in Walker's Ridge Cemetary.... In the words of the war historian Charles Bean.. 'the 10th went forward to meet death instantly...with that regiment went the flower of the youth of Western Australia.' A second regiment gone.... Again not a Turkish casualty.....

Of the 300 in the 8th Light Horse, 156 were dead and 80 wounded. In the 10th, 80 were dead and 58 were wounded....

When Australians returned to Gallipoli in 1919, they could see a white patch, like snow, on the ground just below The Nek. It was the bleached bones of two regiments of light horse.

For Australia there would be worse slaughters. The battle of Lone Pine, which would go on for several more days, would leave 2,200 Australians dead. In France, the following year, an Australian division would take 5,000 casualties in a day at Fromelles.....

So here we are, on a miserable strip of yellow dirt not much bigger than a suburban block, forlorn and silent. And, as it so often does, Gallipoli charges the imagination. You have to let this one sink in.

Where you stand, life ended for several accountants, a Perth architect, a bunch of farm kids from Victoria's western district, a schoolmaster from Geelong, a vigneron from Rutherglen, several barristers, an ironmonger, a grocer, a Rhodes scholar (a second Rhodes scholar survived) old boys from Scotch and Melbourne Grammar - and four sets of brothers....

The Australians were all volunteers. It may be on Gallipoli and in France we lost the most generous spirits of a generation.”

LEST WE FORGET



Maybe next time you pass by those impressive memorial gates take some time to drive in and to think about and explore the scattered relics of this important birthplace of Australia's military history. Ed.

FREE GREEN WASTE DISPOSAL IN APRIL

From 1 - 30 April, you can dispose of your green waste for FREE at Council's Resource Recovery Centres.

This includes domestic quantities of garden waste. For green waste to be accepted, it must:

- not be mixed up with other materials
- be no longer than 1.5 m in length and less than 25 cm in diameter (branches/stumps larger than this will incur a fee)

For more information on green waste disposal, give us a call on 5772 0333 or visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/greenwaste

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Council's draft Economic Development Strategy is now ready for you to review and provide feedback. Visit our online engagement platform, The Loop, and search 'economic strategy': theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au

Feedback closes Sunday 12 May.

SLEEP & SETTLING INFO SESSIONS

Join our FREE Sleep and Settling Information Sessions, facilitated by our dedicated Maternal and Child Health experts.

Topics will include frequent overnight waking, bottle dependency, bedtime or nap refusal, cot to bed transition and catnapping.

The next session is in Yea, Tuesday 16 April.

Scan the QR code to book, or visit our website to view more information and other Maternal and Child Health Programs and Activities murrindindi.vic.gov.au/mch



RAPID ANTIGEN TESTS NO LONGER FREE

RATs are no longer free or available from Council locations. Please visit your local supermarket or pharmacy to purchase tests.

For more information on COVID-19, visit betterhealth.vic.gov.au and search 'COVID-19'.

SHAPE THE FUTURE OF STATE FORESTS

Help the Victorian Government understand the Central Highlands State Forests by completing an online feedback form or dropping a pin on their map.

For more information and to participate, visit engage.vic.gov.au/central-highlands-forests

THE MOBILE LIBRARY IS 'ON THE ROAD'

Join us for an evening, real people talking about real books, eBooks, magazines, films and other great works.

- Eildon, 24 April, 6.00 pm
- Glenburn, 21 June, 7.00 pm
- Highlands, 13 September, 6.00 pm
- Flowerdale, 18 September, 7.00 pm
- Buxton, 25 September, 7.00 pm
- Taggerty, 16 October, 7.00 pm
- Toolangi, 23 October, 7.00 pm

Please RSVP by calling 5772 0333.

ATDW - IS YOUR BUSINESS LISTED?

Business listings and events on most official tourism websites come from the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse (ATDW). This includes discoverdindi.com.au

For an annual fee of \$295 your business will be listed on tourism websites all over the country. For more information, visit our website, we can even help get you started! murrindindi.vic.gov.au/atdw

AFRICAN DRUMMING WORKSHOPS

Council is hosting two African Drumming Workshops, taking participants on a memorable journey into West African Music.

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

Both sessions will be followed by a meal.

There are limited spots available for each session – so get in quick! Please register at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/africandrumming

ANNE FRANK EXHIBITION

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 you're invited to a special opening event on 27 April. To find out more and to register for the event, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/annefrank

GET IN TOUCH

customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au
murrindindi.vic.gov.au/request
5772 0333

Lost Reserves Walk Monea South Bushland Reserve



Time & Date: 9:30am-1:30pm, Sunday the 12th of May
Start/End Location: [599 Oak Valley Rd, Upton Hill VIC 3664](#)
Difficulty: Moderate to Hard
Length: 4km
Cost: Free as always
Bring: Water, a camera/camera phone, a hat, sturdy shoes, lunch and snacks

The lost reserves of the Strathbogie Ranges reliably produce shiny, untouched gems of nature for keen walkers to explore. The Monea South Bushland Reserve will prove no different. Landlocked by farmland in Upton Hill, this walk will start and end on private property (no car shuffle required), with rather steep and rocky sections to navigate.

Contact Justus Hagen 0427 524 473 if you would like to join this walk .

Draft Economic Development Strategy open for consultation

Murrindindi Shire Council is inviting community and business to provide feedback on our draft Economic Development Strategy, to help guide the future of our local economy.

From October to November 2023, we engaged the community to better understand how Council can support industry and employment growth in Murrindindi Shire through a five-year economic development strategy.

Community feedback supported the identified priorities and outcomes for the Strategy. There were 34 ideas shared and over 100 participants at the pop-ups held across the Shire. This valuable feedback helped us shape the draft Economic Development Strategy.

The draft Strategy outlines the key priorities, outcomes, and initiatives to be undertaken, drawing upon local strengths, and addressing specific challenges. Council will develop a two-year rolling Action Plan to deliver the Priority Outcomes.

Council is now calling on residents, business owners and visitors to review the draft Strategy and provide feedback. Visit our online engagement platform, **The Loop**, at theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/economicstrategy and complete an online survey.

Feedback closes on Sunday 12 May 2024.

Join in the City Nature Challenge in Mitchell Shire

Mitchell Shire Council is encouraging community members to explore local parks, reserves and bushland as part of City Nature Challenge 2024 from 26 to 29 April.

The Challenge is an international event for people to find and document plants and wildlife in cities across the world. It's a bioblitz-style competition where cities are in a friendly contest with each other to see who can make the most observations of nature, who can find the most species, and who can engage the most people.

Participating is easy and it provides a great opportunity to explore and learn about the natural environment of Mitchell that extends from Melbourne's northern fringe into the heart of Victoria's farming country.

It's also a great reason to get out into the outdoors and visit a local park to take photos of local plants and animals. Images can then be uploaded as observations to the **iNaturalist** platform for identification using the app or web page.

Council-managed bushland reserves such as Monument Hill Reserve in Kilmore, Seymour Bushland Park in Seymour and, Colin Officer Flora Reserve in Broadford are just some of the great places to explore in the shire.

How to get involved in the City Nature Challenge:

- Download the iNaturalist app on your phone and create an account.
- Whether it's your backyard, a local park, or reserves within Mitchell Shire, immerse yourself in nature.
- Take photos of plants, animals, and fungi. Each observation contributes to the collective understanding of the natural world.
- Upload your observations to iNaturalist. Include the location to ensure your discoveries support Mitchell Shire and Greater Melbourne's biodiversity tally.

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 Up to date Open Studio days & times on
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- Pasture/Crop Protection
- Fencing & Livestock Handling

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Little Antechinus living in a
 hollow near you



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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.