

# THE GRANITE NEWS



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



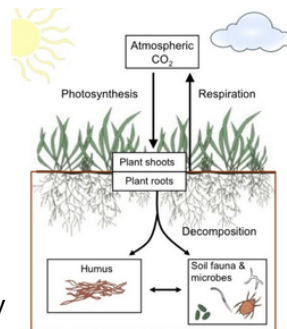
5th May 2024 | Volume 18 Issue 15

## Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

Last Thursday the HCCC presented an excellent and informative workshop all about SOIL and its importance for not only food production but also for carbon sequestration. An audience of about 80 participants learnt a lot about this essential medium from a panel of scientists and ecologists and can now appreciate even more why the HCCC has been focusing on this precious resource for the last couple of years.

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the entire day however the sessions that I did attend were most illuminating and I now have some basic knowledge with which to attack that previously mentioned garden with its dense clay base. I found these random details interesting and hope that TGN readers do too.

- SOIL = 95% rocks, silt, clay. Only 5% is organic matter and less than 1% of that 5% is living (biological) matter of soil
- Healthy soil is a living, breathing organism
- 10 billion living things can be found in ONE teaspoon of soil
- 56% of species on Earth live in soil
- It wasn't until the end of the last ice-age, after the ice melted and mountains were crushed to dust that the first plants appeared
- The only way humans can 'fix' soil is through its biology and vital for that biology are air and water to ensure 'living soil'
- Soil breathes - the top 30cm of soil has air exchanged every hour
- 98% of food consumed is due to topsoil, and only 2% of food comes from oceans
- Australia has lost half of its topsoil in the last 200 years.
- Topsoil is magic!
- 70% of plant energy is for self-use and 30% of a plant's energy feeds the biology of the surrounding soil and microbes
- What happens in soil has an impact on what we eat
- Food plants taste better when harvested from living soil
- More organic matter in soil means that water can be stored better and allows 'extra' water to infiltrate further down
- Lyrebirds are an excellent eco-tillage system
- There are some microbes in soil that can eat uranium!



Please read on for another interesting issue, Pauline And Kenny? Was checking out Ruffy's Pitch my Project.

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

"If you eat you should be interested in soil, but you just don't know it yet."

**Matthew Evans**  
Food Writer, Farmer & Chef.











Month	Highlands	Ruffy	Terip
April	67 mm	55.5 mm	TBC mm
2024 Total	279.7 mm	233.5 mm	TBC mm
Rainy Days	12 days	6 days	TBC days

## What's On - May 2024

Variable Dates & Events

Set Dates & Times

	<b>Mon. 13th May @ 11am</b>	<b>HIGHLANDS SPINNERS</b> @ 450 Caveat-Dropmore Rd The Highlands 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. Enquiries? Jan - 5790 4361
	<b>Thurs. 16th May @ 7pm</b>	<b>HCCC MONTHLY MEETING</b> @ Terip Rec Reserve Everyone is welcome, put the date in your diary now. Enquiries? Justus 0427 524473
	<b>Mon. 20th May @ 10am</b>	<b>RUFFY VEGE GROWERS CLUB</b> @ Strathbogie Special Mushroom Growing session, cost \$10 Bookings essential. Cheryl 0409 019763
	<b>Fri. 24th May @ 7pm</b>	<b>TERIP TERIP CFA - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</b> @ Terip Rec Reserve All welcome. Enquiries? Capt. Shannon Roach 0400 842009
Details? See p.3	<b>Sat. 25th &amp; Sun. 26th May</b>	<b>ANNUAL UFO (UnFinished Objects) WEEKEND</b> @ Highlands Hall All crafty (creative) readers are invited to come along and join in the fun.
	<b>Sun, 26th May @ 10am</b>	<b>HIGHLANDS RAMBLERS</b> starting @ Highlands Community Hall Everyone is welcome. Enquiries? Andrew 0437 249038 or Robyn 0409 528235
	<b>Thurs. 30th May @ 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>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? Forthcoming dates are 15th & 29th May and 12th & 26th June.
	<b>Every Monday @ 7pm</b>	<b>TABLE TENNIS MONDAYS</b> @TCC Ruffy Come along & have some fun! Enquiries? 0427 690970 or tccruffy@gmail.com
	<b>Every Tuesday - 6pm</b>	<b>MAT PILATES with ANASTASIA</b> @ Highlands Community Hall BYO own mat and water bottle - Cost \$15 cash Enquiries? 0436 428065
	<b>1st &amp; 3rd Tuesdays 1-3</b>	<b>DIGITAL &amp; ON-LINE LEARNING</b> @ TCC, 27 Nolans Rd, Ruffy 7th and 21st May Enquiries? Bob - 0480 348788
	<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 Enquiries? Ingrid ingstar.7@gmail.com

## The Haunting of Alvin Cohan

Recently a Sunday afternoon saw the premier performance of the masque 'The Haunting of Alvin Cohan' at Dennis Spiteri's magnificent Hillcrest Studio / Gallery.

Seven singers and seven dancers performed the piece accompanied by a pre-recorded orchestral backing. The 90 minute work by Melbourne composer David Adams was indeed a 'haunting' work with Dennis's paintings acting as a backdrop.

After the performance, the 65 local and Melbourne people who attended, gathered on the sun-bathed front decking to take in the glorious western panorama, eat, drink and above all to discuss the performance.



### Terip Terip Fire Brigade Annual General Meeting

will be held at the Terip Terip Rec Reserve on

**Friday 24th May at 7.00pm.**

Enquiries? please contact the Captain Shannon Roach **0400 842 009**

### It's on again - the 18th UFO weekend @ Highlands Hall

For all those crafty - that's creative rather than sneaky - readers who would enjoy a fun day or two commencing, continuing or completing some of their

#### UFOs - UnFinished Objects

the date(s) for your diaries are  
**Saturday 25th May 9-5 and Sunday 26th May 10-4**

Fully catered for a very reasonable \$45 per day, for further details email - [pdphroberts@gmail.com](mailto:pdphroberts@gmail.com)

*Strathbogrie*  
SHIRE COUNCIL

#### Community Grants are now open

Community Strengthening Grants provide grants of up to \$10,000 to support local community groups to bring people together to connect, collaborate, celebrate, upskill, share resources, and put ideas into action.

The new Reducing Emissions Grants provide up to \$20,000 for energy saving initiatives at community managed, Council owned facilities. This may include upgrading to energy efficient appliances or renewable energy sources.

Further details - [info@strathbogrie.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@strathbogrie.vic.gov.au) or phone **1800 065 993**

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 GREAT Caveat Mystery!

G'day Pauline, this is an image of a photo left in the grotto a few weeks ago at the Caveat Church.

The mystery is, no identification was left with it. It now resides inside the church.

Hopefully a TGN reader might be able to put some light on its origin. Regards **John Sporry**

NB: The photo looks like it was taken late 60s or early 70s - Ed.

### Can any TGN reader solve this mystery?

If so please email - [editor@tgn.org.au](mailto:editor@tgn.org.au) Thanks



## Greater Gliders anyone?

BEAM are heading back into the Tallarook Forest looking for the wonderful, nationally endangered, Southern Greater Glider and will be hosting night walks in April, May and June.

Over 150 were found in the forest during our surveys during 2020-2022 which makes Tallarook Forest one of the Greater Glider hotspots of Victoria. This helped to stop native forest logging in the Forest, and we achieved a Special Protection Zone for them from the state government.

But we were only looking in the 600 hectares proposed for logging. We are now heading to the 2,000 hectare southern half of the Forest, to see how far their range extends. We'd love to be able to create a biolink between the Tallarook Forest and the Mt Disappointment Forest, to enable the Greater Gliders to expand southwards to Mt Disappointment forest area, where their numbers are depleted.

Knowing where the Gliders are in the southern part of the forest will help with planning the biolink corridor.

Join BEAM for a Tallarook Forest Night walk and see if you can spot some Gliders too!

Find details via the links, and please RSVP so we can stay in touch about plans:

 [Saturday May 25, 6pm-8.30pm](#)

 [Saturday June 22, 6pm-8.30pm](#)

**NB: If these links don't work ring Peter 0407 935400 to register your interest.**



## Letter to the Editor

Some TGN readers may find the following article from Stock and Land (Chris McLennan 27/4/24) interesting.

**John Curtis**

### Wildlife maps to steer renewables to safe spots

New native animal maps will be made public in July to help guide the roll out of new renewable energy projects across Victoria.

The state government says the state-wide maps will guide project developers to areas for wind and solar farms which have the "least impact on wildlife". The new maps will be included in the "Handbook for the development of renewable energy in Victoria" which aims to bring together guidelines on the planning and construction of renewable projects "which must be followed".

The government says it wants to protect Victoria's unique wildlife while still pursuing its aims of building new projects to meet its target of powering the state with 95 per cent renewable electricity generation by 2035. The current renewable provision is around 40 per cent.

The government this week said it would release maps which identify key habitat areas for native wildlife by July. It also said research would be completed by October to better understand how wind turbines could impact threatened bird and bat species. Part of this research is aiming to find ways to reduce bird and bat collisions with turbines.

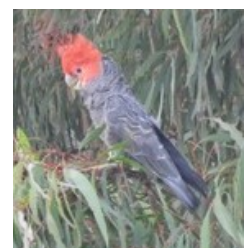
Previous studies on the impact of wind turbines on birds have greatly differed on mortality rates although there are some estimates at least 2000-8000 birds are killed each year across all wind farms in Australia.

The government says its advice will include a list of at-risk wildlife which renewable energy developers will need to consider in their planning and measures they can take to prevent harm to those species.

The handbook "will give industry access to the best scientific and mapping information available so they can factor the protection of our precious wildlife early on in the planning phase - resulting in a more efficient and timely approval process".

The handbook will be finalised following public consultation.

Energy and Resources Minister Lily D'Ambrosio said: "This is about giving communities and industry certainty that native wildlife will be protected while we build the renewable energy required to drive down power bills and cut emissions."



## RUFFY VEGE GROWERS' CLUB

The last Ruffy Vegetable Growers' gathering was a super bonanza with our regular enthusiastic growers joined by 12 members from the Strathbogie Community Of Food Finders(SCOFF) group. It was so great to have the two groups of eager food growers get together to share their love of all things food. We had a very generous afternoon tea and everyone left with an assortment of home grown produce, cuttings and seeds.

We also had Phil and Tim from Violet Town Seedsavers bring seeds to share and told us about their journey to create their community garden in Violet Town called Mary's Garden. The Violet Town Seed Savers is now part of the Violet Town Community House.

The SCOFF Group also has left an assortment of seeds for the Ruffy community to share and propagate. These include - beans, broad beans and tomatoes. Some varieties having been propagated since 1809. If anyone would like to grow any of the donated seeds to facilitate further seed sharing, please let me know. (see below)

The SCOFF group also has also created a very successful "Share Shed" in Strathbogie in which excess produce is shared with the community. An idea our group are keen to replicate in Ruffy. More combined events are planned and these will kick off with a Mushroom growing session on the **20th May at 10am in Strathbogie**. Run by an experienced Mushroom grower, if you are interested or would like more information, please contact **Cheryl on 0409 019763** - bookings are required as numbers are limited. The **cost for the session is \$10.00** to cover costs of materials.

A big thank you to Terry for arranging the SCOFF group to travel down and to Pam for sharing her beautiful garden.




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



**VOTE 1**

Voting closes 5pm  
Friday 24th May 2024



[www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au](http://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](mailto:tccruffy@gmail.com) 0427 690 970

Veranda on the Shelter Shed

Help us make things more comfortable for you

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

# YOUR COMMUNITY YOUR VOICE

STAND FOR COUNCIL 2024

Scan now for candidate information and upcoming sessions



Strathbogie SHIRE COUNCIL

[www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au](http://www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au)



# UPCOMING REGENERATIVE AG COURSES IN JUNE

Join agroecologist, David Hardwick and highly experienced practitioners in their fields to explore our regenerative ag courses.

## **UNDERSTANDING SOILS AS LIVING SYSTEMS**

**JUNE 27 @9 AM - 3.30 PM  
@ BIBBARINGA, BOWNA NSW**

- Explore how soils self organise into an equilibrium deepening on their context
- Explore each soil element
- Cover the key soil properties that emerge in a soil system
- Use the HASH soil monitoring approach to understand soil system



## **MAKING COMPOST ON FARM**

**ONLINE JUNE 26 - JULY 23  
@7.30 PM - 9 PM**

- We explore how to make compost using a minimum to no turn approach called fermentative composting as well as making aerated compost with a turner.
- We look at the range of ingredients for making compost tips.



## **REBOOT MY SOIL**

**ONLINE JUNE 24 - JULY 29  
@7.30 PM - 9 PM**

- Looking to change the way you farming?
- Learn how to regenerate your soil's health.
- Develop a soil action plan based on 21st century soil knowledge



*I really enjoyed the course + I'd like to thank David for his time.*

### **MORE INFORMATION**

<https://bit.ly/courses-HCCC> or





### **KERBSIDE SERVICES ARE CHANGING!**

From July 2025, Council will be introducing a four-bin service, which includes:

- General waste – red bin, collected fortnightly
- Mixed recycling – yellow bin, collected fortnightly
- Food and garden organics (FOGO) – green bin, collected weekly
- Glass recycling – purple bin, collected monthly

We're now seeking input from the community on the finer details of the service, which is outlined in our draft Kerbside Waste and Recycling Services Policy. The draft Policy comes into effect in line with the introduction of the four-bin services in 2025, and outlines:

- changes to the collection route across the Shire to include additional roads
- mandatory zones for the four-bin service, and zones where the FOGO service will be optional
- opt in options for commercial and industrial properties for glass and FOGO services
- how and where the Waste Management Charge and collection services charges will be applied

Have your say on the draft Policy by visiting [theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/kerbside](https://theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/kerbside) or give us a call on 5772 0333 to get involved.

**Feedback closes on Sunday 19 May.**

### **STAND FOR COUNCIL INFO SESSIONS**

Do you want to make a difference in our community? Council has partnered with the Municipal Association of Victoria to deliver the 2024 Stand for Council: Community and Candidate Information Sessions. Visit [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/standforcouncil](https://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/standforcouncil) to find out more and register for a session in June.

### **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 is free! To find out more, visit [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/annefrank](https://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/annefrank)

### **DRAFT ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY**

Council is pleased to present its draft Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan and is calling on residents, and road users to review.

In 2023 Council engaged the community to help develop this strategy. This feedback helped identify themes such as improving safety for cyclists and pedestrians, improving visibility, reducing speed limits in high-risk areas, and the overall maintenance and improvement of our roads.

To get involved and provide your feedback, visit [theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/roadsafety](https://theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/roadsafety) and complete an online survey, or contact Council by calling 5772 0333 or emailing [customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au](mailto:customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au)

**Feedback closes on Sunday 19 May.**

### **DRAFT ANNUAL BUDGET 2024/25**

Its that time of year again, Council has prepared its draft Annual Budget for 2024/25!

Our Annual Budget outlines the broad range of services we provide to our community and the funding required to deliver these services.

We're inviting you to read our draft Budget, at [theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/budget](https://theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/budget) or in person at Council's Library and Customer Service Centres, and provide your feedback.

**Feedback closes on Friday 24 May.**

### **SUPPORT FOR PARENTS**

Are you navigating the challenging journey of sleep routines with your little one? We can help!

Our Maternal and Child Health nurses can provide flexible support options including phone consultations and in home visits.

Support includes routine assistance, overnight wakeups, bedtime or nap refusal, cot to bed transition, catnapping solutions, and more!

For more information or to book a session, call our nurses on 0437 884 811.

### **GET IN TOUCH**

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



Yea River Catchment Landcare presents:



# Carbon Calculator for Beef and Sheep

## with Cam Nicholson

This workshop will explain how carbon and farm emissions accounting could impact your future business. You will also use an online carbon calculator to determine your on-farm emissions.

**When:** Thursday 9th May, 2024, 9.30am-3pm

**Where:** Council Chambers, The Semi-Circle, Yea

**Cost:** FREE, morning tea and lunch provided

**Bring:** laptop/tablet

**Registration required:**

<https://forms.office.com/r/qeUayMem8w>

More info Rhiannon 0429 964 609

[rhiannons@gbcma.vic.gov.au](mailto:rhiannons@gbcma.vic.gov.au)

*This event is supported by the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority through funding from Landcare Victoria*



**HABBIES HOWE BEEF**  
 MATURE, WELL HUNG &  
 AVAILABLE  
 IGA SEYMOUR  
 GARY'S MEATS, PRAHRAN  
 MARKET  
 L&L MEATS, BENTLEIGH  
 SCOTCH AND FILLET  
 ST HELENA, MENTONE &  
 MERNDA

Donated by supporters of the  
 endangered Hairy Hop bush



**Chris Sharman**  
 Energy Efficiency & Solar Energy  
 Specialist  
**Acme – Air Conditioning |**  
**Electrical | Solar**  
 M: 0418 551 301  
 T: Office - 9785 7339  
 E: [chris@acmeair.com.au](mailto:chris@acmeair.com.au)



**Darren Gilbert**  
 open studio  
 @ 5 Giffard Street Yea  
 Open every first weekend of the month  
 Up to date Open Studio days & times on  
[www.monkeytaildesign.com](http://www.monkeytaildesign.com)

**The Pond Professor**  
 Peter Graf

DESIGNS, CREATES & MAINTAINS  
 BEAUTIFUL PONDS

- Pond cleaning
- Filtration systems
- Fountains and waterfalls
- Native fish and plants
- Algae control
- Water testing
- Design and construction
- Consulting services

Phone: 0429 969 243  
 Email: [info@pondprofessor.com.au](mailto:info@pondprofessor.com.au)  
<http://www.pondprofessor.com.au>

SEYMOUR EQUINE & RURAL


Supplying everything you need

Products & Expertise in

- Animal Production
- Pasture/Crop Protection
- Fencing & Livestock Handling

PH: (03) 5792 1088  
 HELPING YOU GROW

Little Antechinus living in a  
 hollow near you



**BenCo**  
 PLUMBING SERVICES  
**Ben Laycock**  
 0438 512299  
 Licence no. 105134  
[ben@bencoplumbingservices.com.au](mailto:ben@bencoplumbingservices.com.au)  
[bencoplumbingservices.com](http://bencoplumbingservices.com)



Online & by appointment  
 Avenel, M: 0428 308 793  
[www.nomadart.com.au](http://www.nomadart.com.au)  
 Limited edition prints from  
 regional and remote Australia

**KOPANICA PASTORAL  
 EXCAVATIONS & CARTAGE**



DAMS  
 EARTHWORKS  
 STOCK+WATER CARTAGE  
 & MORE  
 0429 804 235  
 MICHAEL.KOPANICA@GMAIL.COM

*Highlands Haulen*  
 AND RECOVERY  
 Local and Statewide  
 Transport

- Hay / Silage
- Farm Equipment
- Machinery / Excavators
- Building Supplies
- Sheds / Cabins
- Trucks / 4X4s
- 24/7 Breakdowns

Steve  
 0419 860 484  
[haulen.com.au](http://haulen.com.au)



**Cr John Walsh**  
 Koriella Ward  
 Murrindindi Shire Council  
[jwalsh@murrindindi.vic.gov.au](mailto:jwalsh@murrindindi.vic.gov.au)  
 0437 835 586

**Tablelands Community Centre**  
 Upgraded facilities &  
 playground  
 Ideal for Private or Community  
 gatherings  
 Meetings, Workshops  
 Very reasonable rates  
 Hosts 1<sup>st</sup> Friday BBQs  
 Contact [tccruffy@gmail.com](mailto:tccruffy@gmail.com)  
 Ph 0404 833 388



For All your Aerial Spraying or  
 Spreading Needs. Specialising in  
 Blackberries, Broadleaf, Thistles,  
 Spreading lime/fertilizer & More

Call 0484108854  
 48 Magills Lane  
 Mairdample 3723

Donated by supporters of our  
 local koala population



Donation from  
 supporters of our local  
 Gang Gangs



**HIGHLANDS GROVE**  
 Australian, locally produced  
 premium extra virgin olive oil.  
 Farm gate pick up or delivery  
 available.  
 0417 018 070  
[enquiries@highlandsgrove.com.au](mailto:enquiries@highlandsgrove.com.au)  
[highlandsgrove.com.au](http://highlandsgrove.com.au)



**HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY HALL**  
 Meeting Room and/or Hall  
 available for hire

MEETINGS  
 FUNCTIONS  
 WORKSHOPS  
 PARTIES  
 WEDDINGS

Reasonable Rates  
 Contact Paula Lade  
 0419 551 882

Donated by friends of the  
 Long Leafed Box Trees



**Echidnas**  
 take care of their habitat



**Granite Hills Community  
 Nursery**



[www.granitehillsnursery.com.au](http://www.granitehillsnursery.com.au)

Need a website?  
[bluetopbiz.com.au](http://bluetopbiz.com.au)  
 Affordable web design &  
 maintenance. Presentations,  
 marketing copy,  
 Grant applications,  
 project management.  
 Call  
 Sue 0411 010 379  
 Neil 0417 503 472  
 Email: [sue@bluetopbiz.com.au](mailto:sue@bluetopbiz.com.au)



**Strathbogie Granite  
 Project**  
[neil.phillips@bigpond.com](mailto:neil.phillips@bigpond.com)



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.