

# THE GRANITE NEWS



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



26th May 2024 | Volume 18 Issue 18

## Welcome, Wumindjika & G'day

It appears that 2024 is a year for celebration as the Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative celebrates 30 years of successful environmental action. Definitely an amazing achievement!! Formed in 1994 the Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative (HCCC) evolved from various Rabbit Action Groups and Landcare groups which started in the 1980s.

The HCCC is a Landcare Network combining the Highlands, Whiteheads Creek, Upper Hughes Creek and Hughes Creek Landcare groups. It is based in the southern Strathbogie Ranges, Central Victorian Upland Slopes, covering the localities of Ruffy, Terip, Caveat, Highlands, Dropmore, Tarcombe, Kobyboyn and Whiteheads Creek.

Landcare enables people to do something practical about protecting and restoring Australia's unique environment. Landcare members have control in setting the activities and the focus that HCCC wishes to pursue. These activities must be in line with the Landcare Ethic - 'A caring attitude and a wish to pass our planet onto the next generation in a healthier state than we find it today.'

**HCCC strives to provide a supportive environment which provides the local community with the opportunity to come together, share knowledge and experiences and to do something practical to improve the long-term conservation and health of our land, water, waterways and biodiversity.**

HCCC is based in a farming community. It promotes the sustainable production of high-quality food and fibre and supports the maintenance of a farm's productive capacity through the implementation of environmental best practice farming techniques and the apt adoption of sustainable farming technologies.

It also aims to support smaller, new and absentee landholders with alternative lifestyle aspirations in the management of their land for better environmental outcomes.

This Landcare network's activities include pest plant and animal control, biodiversity conservation, waterway management, revegetation, soil health management, protection of endangered species plus community welfare & education. **Happy 30th HCCC!**

Please read on for another interesting issue, Pauline  
And Kenny? Was checking out Ray's caravan that is still for sale.

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

"Different roads often lead to beautiful destinations."

Anon



## VALE

**John Hammond (1952-2024)**

The HCCC Committee would like to acknowledge the valuable contribution that John made to our local communities by undertaking essential Landcare work.

Condolences to Ari Britney, Troy and Stacey.

Funeral arrangements are

**Friday 31st May @ 2pm**  
Le Pine Funerals Eltham Chapel  
848 Main Road, Eltham

Variable Dates & Events Set Dates & Times

What's On - May & June 2024		
	<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>Details? See p.8</b>	<b>Fri. 31st May 6.30 for 7pm</b>	<b>LONGWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL presents 'COMEDY for a CAUSE'</b> in Euroa
	<b>Sat. 1st &amp; Sun. 2nd June 10-4</b>	<b>DARREN GILBERT'S OPEN STUDIO</b> @ 5 Gifford St, Yea Open the first weekend each month - come and discover some stunning artwork.
	<b>Fri. 7th June from 6pm</b>	<b>FIRST FRIDAY of the MONTH</b> @ Tablelands Community Centre It's time to put the fun back into Friday nights! Enquiries? 0427 690970 or tccruffy@gmail.com
	<b>Fri 7th - Sun 9th June</b>	<b>MUDBASH @ MAFEKING - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CFA FUNDRAISER</b> Various timeslots of a couple of hours to choose from. Offers of assistance 0427 529551
	<b>Tues. 11th June @ 7pm</b>	<b>TABLELANDS COMMUNITY CENTRE - AGM</b> @ Tablelands Community Centre All welcome to attend. Enquiries? 0427 690970 or tccruffy@gmail.com
	<b>Fri. 14th June @ 6.30pm</b>	<b>DRINKS on the DECK</b> @ Highlands Community Hall Bring food to share and catch up with friends old and new. All welcome, especially new faces. Gold coin donation to cover power. Contact Paula 0419 551882
	<b>Thurs 20th June @ 7pm</b>	<b>HCCC MONTHLY MEETING</b> @ Terip Rec Reserve (TBC) Everyone is welcome, put the date in your diary now. Enquiries? Justus 0427 524473
	<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 29th May and 12th & 26th June.
	<b>Every Monday @ 7pm</b>	<b>TABLE TENNIS MONDAYS</b> <b>Not happening in winter - too cold!</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 4th & 18th June 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

## Soil health and sustainable farming workshop

Recently HCCC ran a workshop at the Seymour Racecourse on all matters relating to soil.

It was well attended with around 70 people and 5 very good speakers, unfortunately one had to pull out as he got Covid the previous day.

The response was very good, and I believe all those who attended went home wiser on issues relating to soil, we also received \$120 in donations.

10 lucky attendees also received a signed book from our keynote speaker Matthew Evans.



Feedback is always so important with such events and the comments received were incredibly positive and indicate that the day was very successful in enlightening and educating all who attended on the chosen topics.

In response to the question "Did the event meet your expectation?" 91% of respondents replied YES.  
In response to the question "Would you recommend this event?" 97% of respondents replied YES.  
And finally, "Will you change anything because of this event?" 84% of respondents replied YES.

### Chemical handling course

Over past few years I have been asked numerous times on what chemicals to use. This a very complex question and we are not encouraged to give specific advice, it is best to ask your rural supply company or directly to the supply companies.

The decision on what to use is complex there is always a "that depends" aspect -

- Land use around the weeds
- Water courses
- Age of the weed and degree of infestation
- Risks of drift
- Neighbours land use and risks of drift
- Type of weed
- Spraying methods



The list is long and needs expert advice, every situation is different, in many cases the professionals use a combination of chemicals to suit the problem and logically are generally unwilling to share the chemical mix they use.

To help HCCC members I have spoken to the Learning Centre in Seymour, and they are **willing to run their training course on chemical use and handling for free if we get at least 10 people to participate!**

Are **YOU** interested in finding out more?? If so, see attached .pdf and/or email - [neil@hccclandcare.net.au](mailto:neil@hccclandcare.net.au)

### Carbon market information from Lawyers Hall & Wilcox

Finally, there seems to lot of talk about carbon credits so to clarify some issues I have asked a lawyer for some advice on this matter. NB: There is a .pdf attached to this week's TGN email for further information on this topic.

<https://hallandwilcox.com.au/thinking/what-do-landowners-and-business-operators-need-to-know-about-carbon-credit-projects/>

Neil van Buuren - HCCC Facilitator

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## FORGET MAGIC MUSHROOMS THIS WAS MUSHROOM MAGIC!

Growing your own edible mushroom species was the workshop topic of the Ruffy Vege Growers' May meeting.

We joined the Strathbogie Seed Savers' Group and learned heaps about cultivating our own fungi patches under fruit trees from Dana's brother Ryan.

We took home our own kits and hopefully some colourful and tasty mushrooms should be popping up in Ruffy in the near future.

### Janet Hagen - HCCC Facilitator

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One of the joys of connecting with gardeners and food growers is their generosity in sharing their knowledge and skills.

Through connecting with the Strathbogie Community Food Finders Group (SCOFF), The Ruffy Veggie Growers were introduced to Ryan a visiting Professional Mushroom Cultivator, who was happy to run a hands on workshop on how to grow edible mushrooms in our gardens.

The session was well attended by both SCOFF and Ruffy Veggie Grower members. Ryan took us through the process of developing our mushroom spawn-into larger quantities, how to make a growing medium and lastly how to establish a suitable growing space in our gardens.

It was a terrific session with all attendees leaving with a mushroom growing starter kit and instructions of steps covered in the session. From the enthusiasm evident after the session a variety of delicious edible mushrooms will be popping up in Ruffy gardens in the near future. A big thank you to Ryan for running the session and Dana for sharing her home and garden for the session.

The next Ruffy Veggie Growers' gathering will be on Saturday 29th June at 1:30pm at Sue and Craig's garden in Maclean's Lane, Ruffy. New members welcome. Please note the earlier starting time to accommodate the shortening days. All enquires to Janet on **0458 904268**

### Cheryl Kearney - Ruffy Vege Growers



# Highlands - Caveat RFB still needs **YOU!**



With only 11 more days to go until another Mudbash weekend and the annual fundraiser for the Highlands-Caveat Brigade volunteers (CFA brigade members and local community) are needed for the following...

**On the weekend (Fri. 7th, Sat. 8th & Sun. 9th June) - volunteers are needed to sell firewood and to collect donations at the gate. Please advise Pauline of your availability - [0427 529551](tel:0427529551)**

A HUGE Thank you to those volunteers who turned up to split, chop and stack wood last Saturday in preparation for this fundraising event. Many hands made light work and an impressive pile of firewood is now waiting to be sold.

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## **\*\* SAVE the DATE \*\***

Terip's Tantalizingly Terrific  
**TRIVIA NIGHT**

**Saturday 29th June 7 for 7.30 start**

Adults \$15 Children \$5

Supper provided BYO Drinks & nibbles

More information next issue.....

## **Annual General Meeting**

**Tablelands Community Centre**

will be held at the TCC, Ruffy on

**Tuesday 11th June at 7.00pm.**

Enquiries? please contact Fiona  
**0427 690970**

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## **SPONSORSHIP and/or BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY**

From time to time a back page ad space becomes available and readers are offered the opportunity to financially support this great weekly community newsletter.

One such space is currently available and for an extremely reasonable \$250 you could either promote your business, or altruistically support our iconic local wildlife. **Interested? email the editor - [editor@tgn.org.au](mailto:editor@tgn.org.au)**

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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.





## Landscape Legacies: Expression of Interest

The Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority Landscape Legacies Project is seeking Expressions of Interest from eligible landholders who wish to protect and enhance Grey Box Grassy Woodland habitat in Yorta Yorta and Taungurung Country of the Goulburn Broken catchment.

### Minimum eligibility requirements

- Site/s located in the Goulburn Broken catchment project area (white area on map);
- Contain components of existing Grey Box Grassy Woodland habitat such as trees, shrubs and/or native grassy ground layer;
- Minimum of five hectares. Corridors 40 metres or wider;
- Agree to implement a 10-year Management Plan specific for your site (e.g. pest plant and animal control, fencing, revegetation).

### Potential funding

Financial assistance and support may be provided for the following on-ground works, depending on site requirements:

- Revegetation (preferably direct seeding) and/or;
- Fencing to manage stock access.



### Environmental benefits

Protecting Grey Box Grassy Woodland habitat provides multiple benefits for the environment:

- Shelter, a food resource and landscape connectivity for native fauna;
- Habitat for native pollinating insects;
- Improved ecosystem health.

Landholders, complete the Landscape Legacies Project Expression of Interest form by 7 June 2024. Click this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/zU0JNE3BsC>

*NB. This is an initial Expression of Interest and further discussion/site visit/ approval and signed landholder agreement is required prior to any funding approval or commencement of works.*

[gbcma.vic.gov.au](http://gbcma.vic.gov.au)

**Monday 10th June  
is the second  
King's Birthday holiday**

**and on the same weekend**

**Mudbash is celebrating its  
52nd year!**

As usual the Highlands-Caveat RFB will be selling firewood and rattling donation buckets on the front gate as its annual fundraiser.

**Can you assist with this?**

Working on the many hands make light work principle, all HCRFB members, as well as local community from Highlands - Caveat are invited to help out.

If that's you please ring  
**0427 529551**



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- Low-Stress Handling Demonstrations: Witness safe handling practices for enhanced yard safety.
- Practical Sessions: Gain special techniques for drenching, vaccination, and ear tagging.
- Biosecurity Insights: Explore vital biosecurity practices and the importance of quarantine.

Don't miss this FREE opportunity to boost your stock handling skills and ensure healthier, happier livestock. Reserve your spot now via QR code below. Lunch will be provided.

For further inquiries, please contact Stock Sense on [stocksense@vff.org.au](mailto:stocksense@vff.org.au)

FRI 21 JUNE 2024  
9:30AM-12:30PM  
BARNAWARTHA



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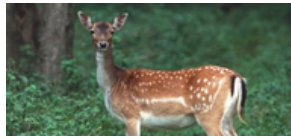
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Call Ray - 0428 137361

# Deer Management Information Session

**When: Saturday 15th June**  
**Time: 10am - 2pm**  
**Where: Taggerty Hall**  
**5 Taggerty-Thornton Rd,**  
**Taggerty**



## Are deer a problem on your land?

Do they eat your pasture, fruit trees, vineyards, and native vegetation as well as damage your fencing?

Do you want to know what you can do to control them on your property?

Come along to our deer management information session with professional deer hunter Paul Boag where you will learn how to tackle the problem of deer from a deer management professional.

### Topics discussed:

- Deer signs and identification
- A basic understanding of deer and their behaviours
- Control methods
- Deer management plans & how best to implement them
- Processing or utilising deer after harvesting them
- Understand the legal status of deer and implications for hunters and landowners

Presentation by Mt Sugarloaf Hunt Club about a free service they provide to landowners to manage pest animals.

**RSVP to UGLN Landcare Facilitator Chris Cobern on 0413 855 490 or [ugln.projects@ugln.net](mailto:ugln.projects@ugln.net)**

Light lunch provided.

COVID Safe Rules: Please do not attend this event if you have cold or flu symptoms, you are unwell, or if you have been in contact with anyone in the last seven days where there is a risk you may have been exposed to COVID-19.

Funded by the Victorian State Government Landcare Grants.

**NB: This is a bit of cross-pollination between Landcare groups in order to inform landholders about this ongoing, feral problem. Deer have no knowledge of or respect for borders drawn on maps. Ed.**



**Longwood Primary School**

**presents**

**Fundraiser**

## 'Comedy for a Cause'

A showcase of some of the best comedians from the Sydney and Melbourne International Comedy Festival

in support of

**Longwood Primary School Room for More Fun!**

**Date: Friday 31/05/2024**

Doors: 6.30pm

Showtime: 7pm

Runtime: 2 hours (approx)

**General Admission: \$40**

Tickets are not allocated – so first in, best dressed.

PLEASE NOTE:  
THIS IS AN 15+ EVENT AND  
MAY CONTAIN SOME LOW-  
LEVEL COARSE LANGUAGE.

**Venue: Euroa Memorial Oval Function Centre**

2 Dunn Street, Euroa VIC 3666

Contact Details:

**Mat Wakefield:**  
**[mat@comedyforacause.net](mailto:mat@comedyforacause.net)**  
**0421 244 288**



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**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.



**Longwood Primary school fund raiser 'Comedy For A Cause' presents a showcase of some of the best comedians from the Sydney and Melbourne International Comedy Festival in support of Longwood Primary School: Room for More Fun!**

**Date: Friday 31/05/2024  
Doors: 6.30pm  
Showtime: 7pm  
Runtime: 2 hours (approx)**

**General Admission: \$40  
Tickets are not allocated – so first in, best dressed.  
PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS AN 15+ EVENT AND MAY CONTAIN SOME LOW-LEVEL COARSE LANGUAGE.**

**Venue: Euroa Memorial Oval Function Centre – 2 Dunn Street, Euroa VIC 3666**

**Contact Details:**

**Mat Wakefield: [mat@comedyforacause.net](mailto:mat@comedyforacause.net) / 0421 244 288**